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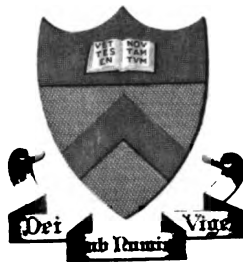
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# **COMMERCE REPORTS**

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**Nos. 154-230**

**VOLUME 3**

**NINETEENTH YEAR**

**JULY, AUGUST, AND SEPTEMBER**

**1916**



**WASHINGTON  
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## JAPAN'S EXPORTS OF TEA FOR PAST YEAR.

The Yokohama and Tokyo Foreign Board of Trade has prepared statistics of the export of tea from Japan to the United States and Canada for the season of 1915-16, including dates of shipments, names of vessels, quantities from Yokohama and Shimidzu, and those from Kobe, the quantities delivered at four destinations (New York and the East; Chicago and the West; San Francisco and the Pacific coast, and Canada) and the total exports from Japan in each cargo, and for the entire period.

The total for the period from May 1, 1915, to April 30, 1916, was 39,311,195 pounds, compared with 33,783,990 pounds in the period from May 1, 1914, to April 30, 1915, an increase of 5,527,205 pounds. The total for the past year includes, besides those mentioned, shipments from Yokkaichi to the United States amounting to 2,075,686 pounds, and to Canada amounting to 263,755 pounds.

The report has been forwarded from Yokohama by Consul General George H. Scidmore.

## MANCHURIAN BEAN MILLS TO CLOSE.

[Vice Consul E. R. Dickover, Dairen, Japanese Leased Territory, May 31.]

According to the Manshu Nichi-nichi Shimbun, the violent fluctuations of the silver exchange market are causing considerable losses to bean-mill operators. The price of bean cake, as quoted in Dairen on May 3, was 1.15 silver yen per piece, or about 1.23 gold yen. The price at the Fukagawa market, in Tokyo, was 1.43 gold yen per piece, and exporters found that when the freight charges to Tokyo (about 35 sen, gold, per piece) were added to the Dairen market price they would be losing several sen on every cake shipped to Tokyo. Consequently, the bean-cake manufacturers were obliged to await a more favorable market, and in the meantime the cakes were accumulating in the warehouses. On May 5 the Manchurian Daily News reported that several minor Chinese mills had shut down and the big Japanese mills were reducing their output, because of the unfavorable conditions.

The Ryoto Shimpō stated on May 31 that whereas in ordinary years the Dairen bean mills do not usually stop operations until late

in June or July, this year they will close down for the summer on June 5. This is because of the unprecedented dullness in the bean-cake trade, and although the mills have cut down their output almost half, the cakes are still being produced faster than the market demands them. In contrast to the Dairen mills, the bean mills of Mukden, Harbin, and Vladivostok, either because of better freight rates or because of the Russian Government subsidy, are enjoying rather better conditions.

However, in spite of the dullness of the season, the annual balance sheet of the Nisshin Bean Mills (one of the largest bean-oil and bean-cake concerns in Dairen) shows a favorable outcome of the season's business, as the company was able to declare a 10 per cent dividend, give bonuses amounting to \$7,500 to officers, set aside \$10,000 for further dividends, and carry \$12,900 forward to next term.

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### **KEEPING IMPLEMENTS IN STOCK FOR ARGENTINA.**

[Special Agent Frank H. Von Motz.]

Argentina is an agricultural and pastoral country and its prosperity is measured by the abundance of its harvests. Importing houses in Buenos Aires have to place initial orders for large numbers of implements many months before they are actually required. They are therefore very conservative in their estimates as to the number they will need, and place initial orders on the basis of what they will require in case of a poor harvest.

If early reports indicate a good harvest they are anxious to profit by it and consequently send in new orders, which must be filled at once or the goods will arrive too late for the season and have to be carried over for a full year.

The American manufacturer who has entered the market of Argentina has been successful in proportion to his promptness in executing orders. It is particularly advisable at this time that he carry at least 25 per cent of his yearly sales on hand at all times, either in goods already made up or in material that can be made up on short notice. Several manufacturers are beginning to do this, and if the others do not adopt this policy all the trade will go to the manufacturer who is never without goods.

It is unwise to substitute goods sold on the Argentine market with others, even though the difference is hardly noticeable, in order to fill orders more promptly. Farmers become suspicious if after orders are placed substitutes are offered, and generally cancel their orders. If the importer substitutes without previous advice, the implement is returned in nearly every case. A happy solution of the problem and one that will probably bring good results is for the manufacturer to ship initial orders promptly and be prepared to ship from 25 to 50 per cent more within a week or 10 days after receipt of order. Several factories can without doubt increase their volume of business in the Argentine 50 per cent annually without any additional expense, if they will adopt this policy.

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Vice Consul E. R. Dickover reports that the Solite Manufacturing Co. (a concern that makes a waterproof and fireproof paint) plans to manufacture barium chloride, barium sulphate, and caustic soda in its plant at Dairen, Manchuria.



**FOREIGN MARKETS FOR MATTRESS FILLING.****ARGENTINA.**

[Consul William Dawson, Jr., Rosario, May 16.]

**Animal Hair and Its Substitutes.**

The consumption of animal hair for filler is not large at Rosario. It is usually replaced by wool, vegetable hair, dried flax fiber, and various kinds of waste. The important Argentine live-stock industry offers an abundant supply of raw hair. Exports of hair (cerda) from Argentina averaged 5,388,666 pounds from 1909 to 1913 and amounted to 4,246,557 pounds in 1914 and 5,928,000 pounds in 1915.

Considerable quantities of cleaned and prepared hair for filler were formerly imported. During recent years the industry has become fairly important in Argentina, and at present no imported hair is used in this vicinity, so far as can be ascertained. It does not appear at all likely that, with present high freights and lack of shipping, imported hair could compete with the native product.

Hair is prepared by small concerns for purely local consumption at a number of points in this district. As a rule, little or no effort is made in such cases to properly classify the hair, as the producer generally consumes it himself in making harness and saddlery. There are, however, a few important concerns which turn out a good grade of hair considered by consumers very little inferior to that prepared abroad. Buenos Aires is the principal producing and distributing center. One large producer in this district has a factory at Cordoba and a sales office in Buenos Aires.

**Prices Paid by Consumers of Animal Hair.**

Animal hair prepared for filler is sold by the 10 kilos (22 pounds) and ranges in price from 12 to 35 paper pesos (\$5.10 to \$14.86), which is at the rate of 23 to 67 cents per pound, according to grades. These are the prices paid by local consumers. The average price paid for grades used by furniture makers is about 38 cents per pound.

The consumption of so-called vegetable hair is considerably larger at Rosario than that of animal hair. This product is understood here to be a variety of seaweed collected on the coast of Africa.

Vegetable hair heretofore has been imported chiefly from France, where Marseille is the principal market. Total imports into Argentina averaged about 310,000 pounds from 1909 to 1913. Imports in 1914 were about 156,000 pounds, and in 1915 about 170,000 pounds. It cost consumers before the war about 25 paper centavos per kilo, which is equivalent to 4.8 cents per pound. The present price is 40 paper centavos per kilo (7.7 cents per pound), and the recent increases in freight rates from Marseille are considered almost prohibitive. The American consul is informed that this product will soon be imported from Bahia, Brazil, a 20,000-pound order having been placed recently at 90 gold centavos per 10 kilos (3.9 cents per pound) c. i. f. Rosario.

**Abundant Supplies of Articles Used for Filler.**

Other articles used for filler are all produced locally, and supplies are so abundant and cheap as to make competition practically out of the question for similar foreign products.

Argentina is one of the principal flax-growing countries. Dried flax fiber can be obtained by consumers at 10 paper centavos per kilo (1.9 cents per pound).

A good grade of wool, of which Argentina possesses an unlimited supply, costs ordinarily 1.40 paper pesos per kilo (27 cents per pound), although the present price is 2.30 paper pesos per kilo (44 cents per pound). This refers to grades suitable for filler.

Hair and its substitutes for filler are consumed at Rosario by manufacturers of upholstered furniture, vehicles, mattresses, and harness and saddlery.

Manufacturers of upholstered furniture use dried flax fiber to give the form, and either animal or vegetable hair for a filler. At present manufacturers buy their supplies either locally or in Buenos Aires.

#### **Total Consumption of Animal Hair.**

The quantity of animal hair used is not large and would not warrant direct importation. The leading Rosario manufacturer of upholstered furniture estimates his annual consumption of animal hair at 1,100 pounds. He states that he formerly used imported hair, but that for some years past he has used only the native product which he purchases in Buenos Aires. This he considers only slightly inferior to hair prepared abroad.

Hair is used to a very slight extent for mattresses. For good and medium grade mattresses wool is almost universally used, while cheap mattresses are made of burlap and other waste. There are many small shops at Rosario which make mattresses to order.

Manufacturers of vehicles, as well as harness and saddlery makers, use some animal hair, although vegetable hair is preferred on account of its cheapness. They purchase locally or in Buenos Aires the small supplies of both products required.

[Lists of manufacturers of upholstered furniture, manufacturers of mattresses, manufacturers of vehicles, manufacturers of harness and saddlery, and the names of a manufacturer of animal hair for filler and an importer of vegetable hair at Rosario may be obtained from the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce or its district offices. Refer to file No. 77356. Correspondence should be in Spanish.]

#### **CUBA.**

[Consul P. Merrill Griffith, Santiago de Cuba, June 6.]

#### **Classes of Material Used.**

There is little demand in Santiago de Cuba or vicinity for shoddy such as is used in the United States in the manufacture of mattresses. Practically all of the mattresses and pillows of various kinds here are made of lana de ceiba, macio, or guajaca.

Lana de ceiba resembles cotton and comes from a tree known in the United States as the cottonwood. It grows extensively through this section of the island and retails in the market at about 25 cents a pound.

Macio is the blossom of a plant resembling cane and is found along the banks of rivers. It retails at about 15 cents a pound.

Guajaca is a flaxenlike growth which hangs from trees and is found in abundance throughout tropical countries. After undergoing a special process of washing and drying, it resembles horsehair. It is used extensively among the lower classes, inasmuch as a large bag can be purchased for about 50 cents.

The first two plants mentioned are indigenous to Cuba, and the dried products referred to give greater satisfaction than any kind of cotton or woolen material imported, inasmuch as they are cooler, lighter, quite durable, and less expensive.

**Some Mattresses Imported from United States.**

There are two or three establishments here in which mattresses are made exclusively by hand. They are much thinner than American mattresses and ordinarily retail from \$2 to \$4 each. Some of the best qualities of native manufacture are received from Habana and some are imported from the United States, but on account of their composition, freight, and cost, the demand is limited.

[A list of names of dealers in mattresses at Santiago de Cuba, Cuba, may be obtained from the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce or its district offices. Refer to file No. 77374.]

**ENGLAND.**

[Consul R. E. Holaday, Manchester, Apr. 19.]

**Imports from the United States.**

The manufacture of hair and cotton-flock mattresses is an important industry in the Manchester consular district. Fillers for mattresses are largely imported from the United States. Before the outbreak of the present war, materials were supplied from the Continent of Europe. Large quantities of curled hair are used by the local makers of mattresses, and the general practice seems to be for them to make their purchases in 10-hundredweight lots (1 hundredweight=112 pounds), through agents in London.

Imports of hair into Manchester from the United States during 1915 were: Cow, \$11,173; goat's (other than mohair), \$63,848; horse, \$3,479; total imports of hair, \$78,500.

The figures given do not show the full magnitude of the trade here, for large importations from the United States are received here through the ports of London and Liverpool.

[Lists of mattress manufacturers and of curled-hair manufacturers at Manchester may be obtained from the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce or its district offices. Refer to file No. 75971.]

**SWITZERLAND.**

[Consul Walter H. Schulz, Berne, May 27.]

**Switzerland Imports Horsehair in Large Quantities.**

In Switzerland horsehair is the chief material used in the manufacture of mattresses and upholstered furniture. The use of sea grass is largely limited to children's mattresses.

Horsehair is imported by Switzerland in large quantities, generally in a raw condition from Argentina and Siberia. About a dozen mills buy the article, of which one is in this consular district. In normal times Switzerland also bought so-called prepared horsehair from France and Italy, but these sources of supply are now closed.

The raw hair is prepared at Swiss horsehair-spinning mills and sold to dealers. Sales are also sometimes made directly to big consumers. The terms are 30 days, with 3 to 5 per cent, according to

the business done. It is packed in bales of about 100 to 200 pounds. The prices vary from \$0.50 to \$3, with about 20 qualities on the market. Prices are from 30 to 50 per cent higher than before the war.

**Sea Grass Received from Africa.**

Sea grass is imported by dealers from Africa. It is packed in bundles from 150 to 200 pounds. Its price varies from \$4 to \$6 per 220 pounds. Prices have gone up but 10 per cent since the war started.

A local firm, which is perhaps the largest dealer in Switzerland in horsehair, sea grass and similar articles for bedding, upholstered furniture, etc., states that the country is by no means able to cover its own needs at present, and that the outlook for the American article in this line seems promising, if freight and insurance charges are not too high. This concern is already an importer of various articles from the United States. It has arranged to pay for the goods upon arrival. It desires similar arrangements in the prospective curled-hair trade. Shipments of from 10,000 to 20,000 pounds are involved.

[Lists of dealers in bedding goods, of furniture manufacturers, of dealers in horsehair, and of horsehair-spinning mills may be obtained from the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce or its district offices. Refer to file No. 77445. The firm whose offer is mentioned in this dispatch heads the list of dealers in horsehair and sea grass.]

### **SALT INDUSTRY OF KWANGTUNG LEASED TERRITORY.**

[Vice Consul E. R. Dickover, Dairen, Manchuria, China, May 31.]

The outlook for the 1916 yield of salt in the Kwangtung Leased Territory is very good, as the Japan Salt Manufacturing Co. expects to harvest about 80,000 tons. The Japan Salt Manufacturing Co. (a subsidized combination of small companies) has not found the demand for its salt in China as large as was expected, and consequently the governmental authorities and the company agents are seeking a market for the surplus. A representative of the Kwangtung government had made a contract with the government of the Dutch Indies for the annual delivery of 5,000 tons of salt, but the scarcity of ships since the outbreak of war has forced an abandonment of this scheme. The authorities are now trying to find a market for salt in the South Seas.

Another scheme is to manufacture soda from the surplus salt. There are now about 70,000 tons of salt annually available for this purpose. This quantity could easily be increased to over 100,000 tons. From this amount of salt 50,000 tons of soda could be produced.

Promoters are now securing subscriptions for stock of a company which will manufacture soda from salt by the electrolytic process.

An examination of the quicksilver deposits of the Mazatzal Range, Ariz., has been made by the United States Geological Survey, and the report published as Bulletin 620-F. A copy of the report may be obtained free on application addressed to the survey at Washington, D. C.

**CERTIFICATED LIFEBOAT MEN ON FOREIGN VESSELS.**

The United States Bureau of Navigation and Steamboat-Inspection Service have jointly issued a department circular No. 271 entitled "Certificated lifeboat men on foreign vessels," dated June 12, 1916, providing for the number of certificated lifeboat men to be carried on foreign vessels under the provisions of section 14 of the seamen's act and the method of obtaining certificates of efficiency for lifeboat men for such vessels.

It is provided that there shall be for each boat or raft a number of lifeboat men at least equal to that specified as follows: If the boat or raft carries 25 persons or less the minimum number of certificated lifeboat men shall be 1; if the boat or raft carries 26 persons and less than 41 persons the minimum number of certificated lifeboat men shall be 2; if the boat or raft carries 41 persons and less than 61 persons the minimum number of certificated lifeboat men shall be 3; if the boat or raft carries from 61 to 85 persons the minimum number of certificated lifeboat men shall be 4; if the boat or raft carries from 86 to 110 persons the minimum number of certificated lifeboat men shall be 5; if the boat or raft carries from 111 to 160 persons the minimum number of certificated lifeboat men shall be 6; if the boat or raft carries from 161 to 210 persons the minimum number of certificated lifeboat men shall be 7; and, thereafter, one additional certificated lifeboat man for each additional 50 persons: Provided \* \* \* that one-half the number of rafts carried shall have a capacity exceeding 15 persons.

**Status of Certificated Lifeboat Man.**

By "certificated lifeboat man" is meant any member of the crew who holds a certificate of efficiency issued under the authority of the Secretary of Commerce, who is directed to provide for the issue of such certificates. In order to obtain the special lifeboat man's certificate the applicant must prove to the satisfaction of an officer designated by the Secretary of Commerce that he has been trained in all the operations connected with launching lifeboats and the use of oars; that he is acquainted with the practical handling of the boats themselves; and, further, that he is capable of understanding and answering the orders relative to lifeboat service.

In accordance with the law the Secretary of Commerce has designated the following officers to examine applicants for certificates as lifeboat men: Any commissioned or warrant officer of the United States Navy who may be detailed for such duty by the commandant of any navy yard or the commanding officer of any vessel of the United States Navy; commissioned officers of the line and warrant officers of the rank of boatswain or keeper in the United States Coast Guard; deck officers of the vessels of the Lighthouse Service, Coast and Geodetic Survey, and the Fisheries Service; local and assistant inspectors of hulls in the Steamboat-Inspection Service.

Certificate of efficiency for lifeboat men on foreign vessels issued by competent authorities of the countries to which such foreign vessels belong will be accepted as evidence that lifeboat men so certificated comply with the requirements of section 14 of the seamen's act. Such foreign certificates should certify that the lifeboat man has been examined in accordance with the provisions of the seamen's act and found competent.

**AUSTRALIA AS A MARKET FOR FILING CABINETS.**

[Commercial Attaché Philip B. Kennedy, Melbourne, May 29.]

The present situation in reference to marketing filing cabinets of American manufacture in Australia appears to me after a partial canvass of the trade to be unsatisfactory. It is unsatisfactory not because filing cabinets are not in general use but because proper effort does not seem to have been made to introduce the high-grade American article.

Firms here carry stocks of wood filing cabinets of local manufacture side by side with wood and steel American cabinets. The locally made wood filing cabinets have by far the larger sale; this is partly due to the fact that these can be sold at a lower price. American filing cabinets, both wood and steel, must pay a duty of 45 per cent ad valorem. (On British goods the duty is 35 per cent; there is evidently little British competition, however.) Freight also figures rather high on filing cabinets because they are bulky. The expenses of laying down American cabinets in Australia makes it necessary to charge prices much higher than is customary in the United States, especially for the cheaper grades, which are at times 150 per cent above the usual United States quotations. On better grades an advance of at least 75 per cent is found.

Dealers also have an incentive to push cabinets of local manufacture because Government departments always purchase supplies of Australian manufacture where possible. Prominent local dealers started making their own cabinets to supply the Government and now push their own make to the general buyer to keep their shops running.

**Quality of American Goods Must Be Emphasized.**

If American cabinets are to be more widely sold they must be featured on a quality basis. Since it costs about as much to bring in wood cabinets as steel ones, local dealers think that steel cabinets may be handled to better advantage. Local cabinets are not of very good quality; the wood from which they are made is seldom properly seasoned, and warping is common. Smooth operation is also lacking because of inferior mechanical equipment. The superiority of first-class American filing cabinets is so patent that the higher price could be secured if their merits were properly demonstrated.

Since no serious effort has been made to promote the sale of filing cabinets the buyer generally passes them by. Usually local dealers who have noted advertisements in America trade journals have indented a small order through an American export commission house, sometimes securing a local agency at the same time. The activity of the American company has ended with filling the order. The local dealer has sometimes had these filing cabinets in his showroom for a long time.

There is a palpable lack of enthusiasm among the local agents. In one store on the principal business street of Melbourne I discovered two steel filing cases of American manufacture. The shopkeeper said he doubted their being any more fireproof than wooden cases, and that he personally recommended buying the wood cabinets made in his own factory. Another merchant said that he did sell some wood and some steel American cabinets, and that he thought they were

superior to his own manufacture; "but," he added, "most of our patrons don't see these points of superiority." Another dealer, who is an active agent for a leading make of American typewriters, a few years ago stocked some American filing cabinets. He made no effort to sell them and was rather surprised that occasionally a purchaser saw their qualities and purchased them.

#### **An Efficiency Expert's Views.**

If high-priced steel filing cabinets are to be effectively put on this market, they must have a selling campaign behind them. A sales representative should visit Australia and personally select the local agents, and instruct them in retail sales methods along lines followed in the United States. Provision should be made for local advertising, and possibly for salesmen to personally canvass business men. At intervals a representative of the home office should tour the territory and keep alive enthusiasm among the local agents. The best local agents in Australia could be secured if a serious effort of this sort were attempted.

In this connection the views of Mr. Arthur Burnett, an American efficiency expert who has his headquarters in Melbourne, should be of special interest. Mr. Burnett wrote me, under date of May 23:

What is needed in Australia to develop the sale of vertical files is the education of the buying public, which will not, under present conditions, be done by the average stationery firm or printer, who, in the main, are the dealers in this class of goods at present.

Assuming that an American manufacturer of filing cabinets with large productive facilities is desirous of opening up the Australian trade, it would be essential for him to select a competent general representative in Australia, or, better yet, send out from the factory a general representative on a "missionary" campaign involving, say, 12 months, for Australia and New Zealand.

This representative would have to be thoroughly versed in his own goods, including processes of manufacture, sales talks, and reasons why his particular line of goods at his particular high price should be purchased; and, of big importance, with positive information as to the methods of forwarding and packing, net price at factory, approximate delivery cost, etc., at his fingers' tips, and with some assurance of approximate dates of delivery from time orders are received at the factory.

This general representative to select an exclusive selling representative in each large center, such representative to be required to place an order for a sufficiently large number of files to insure his pushing them. No goods to be sent on consignment and no agencies to be placed with merely sample stock.

The general representative to devote part of his time to a personal selling campaign in the main center where each sales agency is located. Thus, for instance, he might to advantage spend two months in Sydney, two months in Melbourne, one each in Adelaide, Perth, and Brisbane, and two or three months in New Zealand.

#### **Local Representation Best—Advertising.**

There is no single firm in Australia with facilities to properly represent a large line of vertical files in every center. Some that might be very good for Sydney would either have no branch in Melbourne, or the branch there would be one which would not do justice to the line. Therefore, the local agent in each instance would have to be personally selected, and this would involve some shrewd negotiations, inasmuch as the leading stationers and printers are already specializing on either local or American made goods, and sometimes on both.

Advertising conditions in Australia for goods of this class are very different from those in the United States, for there are no generally read or widely distributed monthly magazines. A weekly publication of value for publicity of this kind is the Bulletin in Sydney, New South Wales; this has a large circulation throughout all of Australia, and its rates compare favorably.

with those in the United States. Such advertising should be supplemented by good booklets, pamphlets, folders, etc., for direct mailing or other distribution to the ultimate consumer.

With the high rate of duty placed on advertising matter, it is usually found cheaper, for an extensive advertising campaign, to have cuts sent to Australia and the actual printing done here. For a newspaper advertising campaign, most articles of merchandise would be well taken care of by the use of two morning dailies in Melbourne, two in Sydney, and one each in Adelaide, Brisbane, and Perth. The average rate charged by these would be about \$70 per issue for a 12-inch double-column advertisement.

Supplying local dealers with catalogues and price lists and writing them an occasional sales letter may gain an occasional order. This will not go very far, however, because it is the buying public that must be converted before substantial business can be done.

[A list of firms in Melbourne, Sydney, Adelaide, Brisbane, and Perth that might take agencies for American filing cabinets will be furnished, upon application, by the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce or its district offices.]

### INCREASED SOAP PRICES IN GERMANY.

[Consul Harry G. Seltzer, Breslau, May 20.]

The average price of ordinary laundry soap in Germany before the war was \$0.07 to \$0.08 per pound. The present price ranges from \$0.47 to \$0.83. Ordinary soft soap, which was sold at 1.9 cents a pound before the war is now difficult to get at 30 cents. The retail price of domestic toilet soap was 2.4 cents to 11.9 cents per piece before the war. The present prices range from 9.5 cents to 23.8 cents per piece. Imported toilet soaps have almost disappeared from the market, and such supplies as still remain in stock are sold at an increase of 150 to 250 per cent.

The present scarcity of soap is fully realized by the authorities who have adopted regulations governing its use.

German soap manufacturers have succeeded in producing limited quantities of raw materials during the war, but there is an increasing dearth of such materials for the manufacture of soap. These materials include especially tallow, fats, vegetable oils, and rosin. Statistics of German imports show that 26,824 tons of beef and sheep tallow were imported in 1913, with a total value of \$4,341,120, and that imports for the first half of 1914 amounted to 10,960 tons, valued at \$1,773,814.

These imports came principally from Australia, Argentina, the United States, Great Britain, France, China, and Austria-Hungary, with small quantities from other countries.

#### Import Duties, Etc.

The import duty ranges from \$0.476 to \$0.595 per 220.4 pounds.

Imports of bone fat and other scraps amounted to 4,322 tons, valued at \$534,786, in 1913, and 1,912 tons, valued at \$236,572, in the first half of 1914. These supplies came principally from the Netherlands, Belgium, the United States, Great Britain, and France, in the order named.

The import duty is \$0.476 per 220.4 pounds.

The principal imports before the war came from France, Great Britain, and Belgium, while the export trade included the Netherlands and colonies, Great Britain and British possessions, Austria-Hungary, Switzerland, the United States, Belgium, France, Russia, Italy, Turkey, China, Japan, and the German colonies.



**DEVELOPMENT OF INSURANCE ABROAD.****JAPAN.**

[Vice Consul Henry B. Hitchcock, Yokohama, May 24.]

**Progress Made by Japanese Companies.**

In the laws governing insurance in Japan, precise regulations are laid down covering each step from the formation of the contract to the settlement of the claim. Despite the fact that the legal system of Japan is modeled on the systems of continental Europe, the insurance regulations were carefully drawn up to embody the practices and usages of England, and English precedents are followed in the insurance decisions rendered by the courts.

No insurance business has been undertaken by the state, but in October, 1916, the Government is to inaugurate a system of cheap insurance for the laboring classes. No systematic Government aid has been given to insurance in Japan. Since a grant was provided for the first company formed, grants have been made in a few instances to important companies in order to tide them over grave crises.

**Formation of First Insurance Company.**

The first insurance company in Japan was formed in 1879 with capital accumulated by 25 Japanese of noble rank, for the purpose of purchasing from the Government the railway line between Tokyo and Yokohama. The refusal of the Government to sell caused the promoters to seek some other way of investing their money, and it was finally decided to form a marine insurance company to be called the Tokyo Kaijo Hoken Kabushiki Kaisha (Tokyo Marine Insurance Stock Co.). It was capitalized at \$299,100, fully paid up, and was granted a subsidy of \$199,400 from the Government, to be paid at irregular intervals during the subsequent 25 years.

With Government aid and the influential connections of its stockholders, the concern met with such success as to encourage the formation of numerous other companies—life, fire, and accident, as well as marine. Many of these companies were insufficiently capitalized or managed by men without the necessary technical knowledge, and were obliged to dissolve or divert their capital to other business enterprises. This naturally enabled the numerous foreign companies maintaining branches in Japan to carry on a fairly lucrative business.

It was not until the period immediately preceding and following the Russo-Japanese war that the domestic insurance business began to assume noteworthy proportions. The position of the home companies was much strengthened in 1903 by the requirement of a deposit of \$50,000 from each of the 73 foreign companies then doing business in Japan. This, together with the enforcement of other regulations, caused more than half of the foreign companies to withdraw from the field. A new law was put in force in 1913, requiring foreign insurance companies doing business in Japan to deposit with the Government a sum equal to 12 per cent of the liability reserve fund in the case of life insurance companies, and in the case of fire and marine insurance companies a sum equal to one-half of the premiums received during the year. This increased

the deposits about tenfold for many of the companies, and other withdrawals followed.

#### Rate Agreements Among Home Companies.

Competition among the home companies has in some cases been avoided by rate agreements. The five leading fire insurance companies, for instance, formed in 1911 an agreement raising the rates much above those previously in force, in order to compensate for severe losses sustained in the preceding three years from two very disastrous fires. In general the tendency has been to get the business conducted by the home companies on a sound basis, with sufficient resources to meet the needs of the country, and it may now be said to have approached close to the limits of its development. The gain in the number of policies in force is slow, on account of the large number of policies permitted to lapse. In some years the new policies written do little more than compensate for those lost in this way.

Statements regarding the various classes of insurance in Japan up to the end of 1914 have been prepared. Among them the life, marine, and fire insurance companies, both foreign and domestic, are represented as follows:

Classes of insurance.	1914	Classes of insurance.	1914
<b>LIFE (DOMESTIC).</b>		<b>MARINE (FOREIGN).</b>	
Number of companies.....	41	Number of companies.....	12
Premiums received.....	\$21,404,060	Premiums received.....	\$568,234
Claims paid.....	\$5,315,790	Losses paid.....	\$198,922
Policies in force.....	1,882,369	Policies in force.....	8,704
Insurance in force.....	\$540,891,615	Insurance in force.....	\$9,669,734
Current reserves.....	\$89,003	Liability reserves.....	\$410,500
Liability reserves.....	\$61,091,046	Required deposits.....	\$8113827
Authorized capital.....	\$11,644,870		
Paid-up capital.....	\$4,052,182		
<b>LIFE (FOREIGN).</b>		<b>FIRE (DOMESTIC).</b>	
Number of companies.....	4	Number of companies.....	20
Premiums received.....	\$1,526,748	Premiums received.....	\$2,907,896
Losses paid.....	\$375,605	Losses paid.....	\$1,428,411
Policies in force.....	24,138	Policies in force.....	908,841
Insurance in force.....	\$25,864,791	Insurance in force.....	\$713,315,098
Current reserves.....	\$35,227	Current reserves.....	\$41,327
Liability reserves.....	\$6,221,206	Liability reserves.....	\$4,875,276
Required deposits.....	\$3,781,349	Authorized capital.....	\$28,913,000
		Paid-up capital.....	\$7,567,230
<b>MARINE (DOMESTIC).</b>		<b>FIRE (FOREIGN).</b>	
Number of companies.....	11	Number of companies.....	23
Premiums received.....	\$3,724,686	Premiums received.....	\$1,287,444
Losses paid.....	\$1,362,226	Losses paid.....	\$618,541
Policies in force.....	39,599	Policies in force.....	109,830
Insurance in force.....	\$56,490,106	Insurance in force.....	\$390,419,166
Current reserves.....	\$1,124,629	Liability reserves.....	\$722,977
Liability reserves.....	\$5,869,106	Required deposits.....	\$1,407,858
Authorized capital.....	\$20,438,500		
Paid-up capital.....	\$5,299,055		

[An article on proposed postal insurance in Japan was published in COMMERCE REPORTS for Apr. 5, 1916. Other statements regarding the progress of the business appeared in the issues for Apr. 10, May 15, and Aug. 3, 1915.]

#### DENMARK.

[Consul General E. D. Winslow, Copenhagen, May 15.]

#### Cooperative Agricultural Insurance.

The number of mutual cooperative agricultural insurance societies in Denmark is very large in proportion to the size of the Kingdom. As the country is primarily agricultural, it is natural that insurance

against fire, windstorm, hail, or death of live stock should have made great progress, especially the cooperative system, as the farmers are strong advocates of this method of doing business. Conditions have been made favorable by reason of the enormous development of Danish agriculture since the 80's of the last century.

The mutual farmer insurance clubs operate as a rule in the immediate neighborhood of the homes of the members. The subscribers are protected against many forms of pecuniary loss—the gardener from the devastation of the hailstorm; the cattle dealer from damage by rail or flood; the farmer from the inroads of disease among his animals. These voluntary companies are not incorporated. The State does not investigate their affairs. They transact business just as any merchant does, charging such rates for insurance as will yield a bonus sufficient to make reimbursement certain in case of loss. The State has never limited the work of the cooperative insurance clubs by laws and regulations, but at the same time has never offered them any protection. Special laws and regulations exist only for the life and chartered fire-insurance institutions in Denmark, and the number of the latter is therefore more limited.

#### Various Classes of Insurance and Amounts.

Eight fire-insurance institutions for farm buildings are operating on the mutual plan. The total risks of these institutions at the close of the financial year 1914-15 amounted to \$1,013,847,484. There are 89 mutual fire-insurance companies for personal property, with a total amount insured of \$951,956,368, and 1,050 mutual cattle and horse insurance companies, with a total amount insured of \$39,396,000 for horses and of \$12,998,000 for cattle. The number of horses insured at the time of the last reports was 312,000; cattle, 258,000; hogs, 20,000; and sheep, 2,000.

The mutual hail-insurance clubs number 15, with a total membership of 80,673 and with a total amount insured of \$53,158,068. The mutual windstorm-insurance clubs number 7, with a total membership of 86,235 and a total amount insured of \$151,778,400. There are 8 mutual accident-insurance clubs, with a total membership of 213,600.

It is difficult to deal with the comparative merits of this mutual or cooperative system of insurance as against insurance in chartered companies. The composition of the membership of the mutual company is the main point. Undoubtedly mutual companies in which the assured participate in a part or the whole of the profits have for some years enjoyed the largest share of public support. Although the lines of fire insurance, windstorm insurance, etc., are not founded upon such exact data as are available for life insurance, considerable progress has been made by the mutual agricultural-insurance combines toward a correct classification of the risks they run, and the rates of premium have been very carefully adjusted. The Government levies no tax on the risks of these mutual companies.

The coal production of Iowa in 1915, according to figures made public by the United States Geological Survey and the geological survey of Iowa, amounted to 7,614,143 short tons, valued at \$13,577,608, an increase of 163,121 tons, and \$213,538 in value. It was exceeded in only two previous years, 1909 and 1910.

**PROPOSALS FOR GOVERNMENT SUPPLIES AND CONSTRUCTION.**

[Correspondence should be direct with the offices named, and specifications can usually be obtained at the points where the goods are to be delivered or the work is to be performed. In cases where the time limit is too short to permit firms to submit tenders, they should ask to be placed on the mailing lists of such offices to receive notices calling for future supplies or work of a similar nature.]

*Navy Department supplies*, No. 3418.—Sealed proposals will be received at the Bureau of Supplies and Accounts, Navy Department, Washington, D. C., to which bureau firms desiring to submit proposals should apply, giving schedule numbers, for the supply of the following: Schedule 9815, complete exhaust fan; schedule 9816, expansion ammonia coils, brass pipe, and galvanized-iron ice cans; schedule 9817, water meters and watt hour meters; schedule 9818, composition pipe fittings, screw-stem stop or globe valves, and for reworking nonferrous material; schedule 9819, metal cabinets for silver service, and 3½-foot sections ships' ranges; schedule 9820, electric deck winches; schedule 9821, hydraulic joggling press; schedule 9822, pipe cutting and threading machine, and air compressors; schedule 9823, wheat flour in export bags, and green coffee; schedule 9824, main circulating pumps; schedule 9825, independent lathe chucks; schedule 9826, alcohol in barrels; schedule 9827, periscopes; schedule 9828, combined power and foot-power lathe; schedule 9829, 5-kilowatt radio transmitting set; schedule 9830, navigational sounding machines; schedule 9831, pure sperm oil; schedule 9832, lighting and power wire, telephone wire, and weatherproof wire; schedule 9833, electrically operated ice cream freezers; schedule 9834, air hose, rubber lined cotton fire hose, unlined fire hose, rubber garden hose, canvas laid rubber suction hose, and rubber wash deck hose; schedule 9835, coaling trucks, worm geared chain blocks, steel bolts and nuts, galvanized boat chains, gauge glass cutters, pipe cutters, portable blacksmiths' forges, cut copper boat nails, scrapers for removing paint and scale, and flat head copper tacks; schedule 9836, complete diving apparatus, crockery for state and bath rooms, diving dresses, tarred sheathing felt 32 by 40 inches, rawhide lacing leather, oak tanned light rigging leather, oak tanned medium rigging leather, plate-glass mirrors, template paper, bronze wire, sheathing soft sheet copper, carbide calcium, metallic brown in oil, tallow, crash toweling, cotton twine, and galvanized-steel pipe; schedule 9837, packing for condenser tubes, and sulphuric acid in carboys; schedule 9838, rubber water supply hose, rubber steam hose, canvas laid rubber fire hose, and rubber engineer department hose; schedule 9839, W. T. annunciators, interior communication cable, transmitting (jars) condensers, rod fiber, material for switchboard panels, tape for electrical purposes, and single conductor wire; schedule 9840, rolled naval bar brass, hard drawn bar copper, and hot and cold rolled sheet copper; schedule 9841, safety matches, portable platform scales, and liquid soap; schedule 9842, pure sperm oil; schedule 9843, alcohol in barrels, beeswax, carbide calcium, North Carolina pine pitch, dry Venetian red, sal ammoniac, and tallow; schedule 9844, air hose and rubber garden hose; schedule 9845, coal baskets, oak tanned pump leather, oak tanned light rigging leather, upholstery leather, ingot aluminum, spelter solder, 40-inch wide burlap, roving cotton, 36-inch wide bleached muslin, 45-inch wide unbleached sheeting, 32-inch cotton mattress ticking, and galvanized-iron or steel pipe; schedule 9846, plow steel wire flexible rope, copper wire, galvanized boat anchors, worm geared chain blocks, galvanized-iron or steel buckets, calipers, 1-pint brass squirt cans, bronze hasps and staples, bronze loose pin butt hinges, and rim locks for wood doors; schedule 9847, rolled naval bar brass, commercial sheet brass, and hard drawn bar copper; schedule 9848, 30 by 30 inch medium sheet rubber, D handle scoop shovels, castor oil, canvas laid rubber fire hose, and globe valves; schedule 9849, azimuth circles; schedule 9850, 1-horsepower electrically driven blower and 22-volt 6-horsepower motor; schedule 9851, 110-volt electric ranges; schedule 9852, enlisted men's cap leathers, 24-inch wide dress canvas, 1½-inch wide black silk ribbon, and 3½-inch wide black Silesia; schedule 9853, reed, etc., barber chairs; schedule 9854, glasses for air ports, deck lights, etc; schedule 9855, asphaltum varnish, damar varnish, interior varnish, boot-topping mixing varnish, and spar varnish; schedule 9856, chemical thermometers, thermometers for storage batteries, mechanical thermometers, mercurial thermometers, mercury thermometers, and water thermometers; schedule 9857,

building red brick, fire clay, broken limestone, molding Albany sand, carborundum sand, molding and fire Jersey sand, molding Lumberton sand, and white beach sand; schedule 9858, 7½-inch flashlight batteries and flashlights without batteries; schedule 9859, fire pump; schedule 9860, centrifugal pump; schedule 9861, complete hydraulic accumulator; schedule 9862, furnishing and installing oil burning forge furnace; schedule 9863, temperature-indicating system; schedule 9864, 4-inch hub connection hydrants and cast-iron pipe and fittings; schedule 9865, pine charcoal, pea anthracite coal, Cumberland coking coal, anthracite Lehigh coal, and gas coke; and schedule 9866, steam pressure gauges.

### AMERICAN CONSULAR OFFICERS ON LEAVE OF ABSENCE.

The following American consular officers are on leave of absence in the United States and will be glad to confer with business men and commercial organizations relative to conditions in their respective jurisdictions. The consul's time is available primarily for personal interviews. He has limited facilities for correspondence, and except in urgent cases letters should be directed to the consulate.

Name.	Post.	Expiration of venue.	Address.
Wakefield, E. A. ....	Port Elizabeth, South Africa.	July 8	Department of State, Washington, D.C.
West, George N. ....	Kobe, Japan.	Aug. 15	Do.
Van Struve, H. C. ....	Curaçao, Dutch West Indies.	July 7	4200 Avenue B, Austin, Tex.
Winship, North. ....	Petrograd, Russia.	do.	271 Hardeman Avenue, Macon, Ga.
Rasmussen, B. M. ....	Goteborg, Sweden.	July 14	Roland, Iowa.
Cooke, A. B. ....	Patras, Greece.	Aug. 10	121 West Charlotte Street, Norfolk, Va.
Culver, Henry S. ....	St. John, New Brunswick.	July 4	Vineland, N. J.
Hale, F. D. ....	Huddersfield, England.	.....	Lunenburg, Vt.
Finck, Fred D. ....	Tientsin, China.	Aug. 5	Albany, Ore.
Masterson, William W. ....	Durban, Natal, South Africa.	Sept. 1	Carrollton, Ky.
Beltzer, Harry G. ....	Breslau, Germany.	.....	Gibraltar, Pa.

### AUTOMOBILES IN NEW BRUNSWICK.

[Vice Consul Alfred D. Bailey, jr., St. John, New Brunswick, Canada, June 22.]

Thus far this year nearly 2,000 automobiles have been registered in New Brunswick, which is far in excess of the number for any corresponding period in the history of the Province. Up to June 10 569 new machines had been registered, as compared with 331 to the like date in 1915.

Naturally, the receipts from licenses have also risen markedly, and upward of \$24,000 has been collected, against \$15,000 last year. In all probability this influx of new machines is attributable to the improvement work that is being done on the New Brunswick roads.

### District Offices of the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce.

New York, Room 409 United States Customhouse; Boston, eighteenth floor United States Customhouse; Chicago, 504 Federal Building; St. Louis, 402 Third National Bank Building; Atlanta, 521 Post Office Building; New Orleans, 1020 Hibernia Bank Building; San Francisco, 306 United States Customhouse; Seattle, 948 Henry Building. Cooperative district offices: Cleveland, Chamber of Commerce; Cincinnati, Chamber of Commerce; Asst. Gen'l Frt. Agt., C. M. O. & T. P. Ry. Co., Cincinnati; Los Angeles, Chamber of Commerce; Detroit, Board of Commerce; Philadelphia, Chamber of Commerce; South American Agent, Southern Ry. Co., Chattanooga, Tenn.

## FOREIGN TRADE OPPORTUNITIES.

Reserved addresses may be obtained from the Bureau and its district offices. Request for each opportunity should be on a separate sheet and state opportunity number. The Bureau does not furnish credit ratings or assume responsibility as to the standing of foreign inquirers; the usual precautions should be taken in all cases.

*Paper and machinery*, No. 21686.—An American consular officer in Central America writes that descriptive catalogues of machinery for the manufacture of paper bags, commonly used by grocers and retail dealers, are desired by a firm in his district. Catalogues in Spanish are preferred.

- Terms, cash against documents. Export quotations on large lots of paper suitable for the manufacture of paper bags are also desired.

*Leather cloth*, No. 21687.—A firm of importers in the Far East advises an American consular officer of its desire to be placed in communication with American exporters of leather cloth.

*Printing material and supplies*, No. 21688.—An American consular officer in West Africa reports that a printing and bookbinding establishment in his district wishes to receive catalogues and price lists, etc., of printing materials and supplies; also specimen books of type manufactured in the United States. Correspondence should be in Portuguese or Spanish.

*Wool, hides, pearls, etc.*, No. 21689.—A commercial agent of the Bureau transmits the name of a man in Russia who is interested in establishing commercial relations with American importers interested in the purchase of pearls, celluloid, deer horns, hides, wool, and horse manes and tails.

*Grain elevators*, No. 21690.—An American consular officer in a foreign colonial possession writes that a firm in his district wishes to be placed in communication with contractors of grain elevators. The local government, it is stated, proposes to construct a 3,000,000-bushel grain elevator, also 100 smaller elevators having a capacity of 30,000 bushels. The elevators are to be of concrete.

*Japanese goods*, No. 21691.—A commercial organization in the United States forwards to the Bureau the name and address of a Japanese firm of exporters which is desirous of entering into commercial relations with American importers interested in the purchase of Japanese curios, silk goods, cotton goods, hosiery, toys of all kinds, screens and embroideries, porcelains, bronze and brass ware, stationery, brushes, buttons, basket ware, and other Japanese articles.

*Glass bottles*, No. 21692.—An American consular officer in Canada reports that a firm in his district wishes to receive quotations on  $\frac{1}{4}$ -ounce round gram long panel bottles and  $\frac{1}{4}$ -ounce panel bottles, to be used for medicinal purposes. A large number of bottles are desired.

*Track automobiles and printing machinery*, No. 21693.—A commercial attaché of the Department of Commerce in a Latin American country reports that a railway company has called for bids on eight track automobiles and on printing machinery. Further information may be obtained from the Bureau or its district offices.

*Rubber tubes and gasoline motors*, No. 21694.—An American consular officer in Switzerland reports that an engineer in his district is in the market for rubber tubes for vacuum cleaners. The man is also interested in light gasoline motors. Further information may be obtained from the Bureau or its district offices.

*Pencil holders*, No. 21695.—The commercial attaché of the Department of Commerce in France reports that a firm in that country is in the market for metallic pencil holders, or so-called "push pencils."

*Stained glass imitations*, No. 21696.—An American consular officer in the United Kingdom writes that a firm of manufacturers of wall papers desires to get into communication with American manufacturers of stained glass imitations, a sample of which may be inspected at the Bureau or its district offices. (Refer to file No. 77486.)

*Water pipes*, No. 21697.—An American consular officer in Norway reports that bids have been called for water pipes, with an average diameter of 1.7 meter (5.5774 feet), for a power plant to furnish electricity for a municipality. A blue print giving exact measurements and further information may be obtained from the Bureau or its district offices. (Refer to file No. 77322.)

# COMMERCE REPORTS

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No. 155

Washington, D. C., Monday, July 3

1916

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## PROGRESS OF COOPERATIVE MOVEMENT IN ENGLAND.

[Consul Ross E. Holaday, Manchester, June 13.]

The Cooperative Congress now in session at Lancaster in the Manchester consular district is being attended by 1,500 delegates representing the movement throughout Great Britain. In his address to the delegates the president reported that during 1915 the membership increased by 122,584 and now stood at 3,310,724; and that the trade done increased by \$129,259,933, and now reached the enormous total of \$806,058,800. The productive side of the cooperative movement also revealed an increased trade. The productions of the wholesale societies, federations, and copartnership societies amounted to \$99,538,354, or an increase of 30 per cent over 1914.

## GERMAN PRIZES FOR BEET-HARVESTING IMPROVEMENTS.

[Consul Talbot J. Albert, Brunswick, June 6.]

The Association of German Sugar Manufacturers has again offered prizes for improvements in the harvesting and unloading of sugar beets, one of them—for 10,000 marks (\$2,380)—being for the best process and apparatus for drying the leaves and tops of sugar beets.

Another prize is for the solution of the problem of a beet lifter and top cutter. The association has already in the last 15 years awarded prizes of considerable amounts for the solution of this question. Every new competition has produced technical improvements in the existing implements used for these purposes, simplifying the tools and reducing the costs of manufacture. For the year 1918 a new competition with a prize of 10,000 marks will be instituted.

For the same year (1918) a prize of 15,000 marks (\$3,570) will be offered for the best mechanical contrivance for unloading sugar beets in small or large businesses. Prizes have been offered for this improvement in former years.

An American electrical-supply firm has notified Vice Consul Carl C. Hansen that, as the result of information supplied by him, a Bangkok company has placed an order with it for 22 meters, accompanied by an inquiry for 400 additional meters.

## AN IMPORTANT ARGENTINE MANUFACTORY.

[Commercial Attaché Albert Hale, Buenos Aires, May 16.]

Argentina is essentially an agricultural and pastoral country. The geographical situation lends itself most favorably to the raising of cattle and the production of grain, which hitherto have been its sources of wealth, and will undoubtedly continue to be for years to come. The great factor that retards industrial development is the lack of metals and coal, which must be imported. Nevertheless it is an error to assume that no manufacturing is carried on within the country, because certain industries have been quite well developed—for example, the manufacture of hides into leather and of leather into shoes and saddlery, and, naturally, one great opportunity for manufacturing is found in the production of anything and everything that goes to equip a farm.

That this latter opportunity has not been neglected is well proven by the large manufactory of Eugenio C. Noe & Co., in Avellaneda, which lies across the Riachuelo south of Buenos Aires. The plant covers about 19 acres, fronting on the river, and logs from up-country and other raw materials are brought direct to the private docks. A railway spur entering the yards makes possible the direct loading of the finished wares for any part of the Republic.

### **Turns Out Nearly Everything for the Farm.**

The products of the factory include nearly everything for the farm except agricultural implements, which the company imports and distributes. Wagons are made from native woods, everything therefor being manufactured in the shops, even to the metal tires and springs. High-grade machinery is employed for finishing the wood and iron. Sprinkling carts are also turned out. As showing the variety of the farm needs which the factory meets there can be mentioned sheep runs, dog houses, lawn furniture, park benches, and lawn swings.

Another important branch is the manufacture of corrugated zinc sheets, which are used extensively in Argentina for simple buildings and particularly for storage warehouses. This is the only factory in South America that makes such sheets. Old zinc is purchased and worked over into ingots. The plain metal sheets are imported.

The factories are well built and modern, and there is an abundance of light and air. A small emergency hospital renders first aid when needed. In fact, the whole plant has a real American up-to-dateness about it.

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## NEW RECORD IN COAL AND COKE INDUSTRY.

The output of bituminous coal in the United States during the first six months of 1916 was the greatest ever recorded in any half-year period. Estimates by the United States Geological Survey, based on returns from more than 100 railroads originating coal and coke shipments, indicate that the production during this period was 261,000,000 tons, an increase of 35 per cent over the first six months of 1915 and of 5 per cent over the last six months of the same year, and greater by several million tons than the record established in the last half of 1913. Compared with the first half of 1915, the exports to Canada have nearly doubled.



**DENTAL SUPPLIES AND DENTISTRY IN SIAM**

[Vice Consul in Charge Carl C. Hansen, Bangkok, May 17.]

Statistics as to the amount of dental supplies and apparatus imported into Siam are not available for the reason that these goods are listed by the customs under the heads of instruments, medicines, or cosmetics. There are, however, good reasons for believing that considerable quantities of dental supplies and instruments are called for, as the care of the teeth is receiving more and more attention each year from the native and Chinese population. It appears that in the past dental apparatus has been supplied mainly through the United Kingdom, although a large part of it was of American manufacture; but dental preparations, such as tooth pastes and powders and mouth washes, are being largely imported from the United States. At present there seems to be no business house in Bangkok that keeps a supply of dental instruments and apparatus in stock, so that whatever is needed in these lines has generally to be ordered from abroad by the dentist himself.

The dental profession in Siam is represented by two European practitioners and about 40 Chinese dentists, some of whom have been educated in the United States. There is no American dentist in active practice in this country just now, but dental work is done occasionally by a dentist who is now engaged in other business, and a practitioner located in Japan usually makes yearly visits of two or more months' duration. It would seem that Bangkok, with its European population of 1,600 persons, should prove a profitable place of permanent residence for an American dentist. There is no law regulating dental practice in Siam.

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**NEW BRUNSWICK MAY HAVE RECORD LOBSTER CATCH.**

[Vice Consul Alfred D. Bailey, Jr., St. John, New Brunswick, Canada, June 8.]

New Brunswick's lobster catch thus far this season has been abnormally heavy, especially along the coast of Northumberland and Kent Counties. In Miramichi waters so great has been the number of lobsters that boats have been filled in one haul and some could take only part of their catch. A load of 4,000 lobsters to a single boat is quite ordinary, and a few days ago a record of 4,575 lobsters for one boat was established. If this rush keeps up the season may well be a record, but one of the things to be feared is a violent storm. Last year a big season was spoiled in this way.

At the present time England is admitting canned lobsters; and while France has ceased to import since May 15, an effort is being made to allow the contracts now made to go through, and this will greatly relieve the situation. The prices said to be prevailing at the shore are 75 cents per 100 lobsters. The catch in other parts of the Maritime Provinces has been very good thus far.

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So satisfactory were the portable boat motors supplied by an American concern to a Bangkok firm with which it got in touch through the "Trade Opportunity" service of the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce that the Siamese company has ordered 36 additional motors.

**CHINESE TYPEWRITER OF UNIQUE DESIGN.**

[Consul General Thomas Sammons, Shanghai, May 24.]

Mr. Hou Kun Chow, a graduate of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, who was one of the original Chinese indemnity students to be educated in the United States, formerly aeronautical engineer for an American aeroplane company, and now mechanical engineer for the Commercial Press (Ltd.), of North Honan Road, Shanghai, China, is the inventor of a typewriter which utilizes 4,000 Chinese characters.

The ordinary Chinese printing office uses about 6,000 characters, while a complete Chinese dictionary may contain as many as 50,000. For all practical purposes, however, the 6,000 characters commonly used in a Chinese printing office are found to be quite sufficient.

**Machine is Simple in Design and Portable.**

Mr. Chow's invention has been exhibited by him at the American consulate general at Shanghai, and was found to be simple in design and portable. It should be comparatively inexpensive. Obviously, however, no great speed will be possible in operating the machine as now constructed. The 4,000 characters are distributed over an ordinary metal matrix drawn about a cylinder which is approximately 6 inches in diameter and has the appearance of being about 16 to 18 inches in length. The characters represented on the cylinder are printed on a flat table surface attached to the front of the machine, and by means of a rod attachment to the cylinder it is possible to locate any character by placing the pointer at the end of the rod above the character on the flat surface. When this is done the character on the cylinder is in exact position for securing an impression by the dropping of a hammer on the plunger. In this way several carbon copies may be secured.

Mr. Chow first thought of the practicability of a Chinese typewriter while inspecting American typewriters in the Mechanics Building, at Boston, as a student at the Institute of Technology. He has met with great obstacles in perfecting the mechanical part of his invention because of a lack of technical assistance at Shanghai.

**Improvements May Reduce Weight of Machine.**

Inasmuch as it would be utterly impossible to construct a typewriter having keys corresponding to the multitudinous Chinese characters, Mr. Chow resorted to the device of having the revolving-cylinder attachment. The first model of the machine, now exhibited, weighs about 40 pounds. By improvements which are under way the weight will probably be reduced to 30 pounds. The following statements are taken from Mr. Chow's description of his invention:

My machine has an indicator, upon which are written 4,000 characters, each occupying predetermined positions, or, in other words, each has coordinates. Now, suppose we roll up the flat surface to the cylinder; the relative positions of the characters will not be changed. And if we connect this cylindrical surface and the flat surface by mechanical means, as I have done, we should be able to locate anything on the cylinder whilst we are locating its counterpart on the flat surface. This is the whole secret of the invention, so far as its mechanical development is concerned. This done, the rest is easy.

The indicator, upon which are written or printed 4,000 characters, has an arrangement like the Kang Hsi Dictionary, i. e., first according to radicals, and among the radicals according to number of strokes. Anyone who has had some experience with that dictionary or its equivalent should be able to find a desired character.

The zinc types on the surface of the cylinder offer an exact reproduction of the characters on the indicator in reversed positions. The rotation of this cylinder gives one motion; the carriage which carries a paper holder, and which is arranged to move transversely to that of the cylinder, gives the other coordinate motion. The long rack, which is the most essential part of the whole machine, turns the cylinder and at the same time moves the carriage. The rack slides in a direction transverse to the motion of the carriage and engages a pinion with a square hole, which is rigidly attached to the carriage. The pulling in and out of the rack rotates the cylinder, while its pushing back and forth moves the carriage. The striking mechanism consists of a long square rod on the back of the rack and a hammer connected by a link and a plunger. As soon as a character is found a mere push with the thumb operates the hammer, which first presses down the plunger with this spring and then strikes. The spacing mechanism is operated by the same force that moves the hammer.

The inventor of the Chinese typewriter is of the opinion that his machine will be extensively required in Chinese offices where several copies of documents must be made. Moreover, he believes that it will be popular among the Chinese in foreign countries where it is difficult or impossible to secure the services of a skilled Chinese writer who is familiar with Chinese characters.

### GLASGOW STREET CAR REPORT.

[Consul John N. McCunn, Glasgow, Scotland, June 3.]

The annual report of the Glasgow Corporation Tramways for the fiscal year ending May 31, 1916, shows a marked increase in traffic and receipts compared with the preceding year. Since July 1, 1894, when the city took over the system, business has steadily grown; the rolling stock has improved, the cars being large and comfortable, and the facilities are such as to constitute a service second to none in the world. This, at all events, seems to be the verdict of foreigners who visit the city. The report for 1915-16 gives the following interesting data:

Average track mileage open during year (single) .....	196½
Car mileage .....	24, 963, 309
Increase .....	748, 849
Traffic receipts .....	\$5, 592, 895
Increase .....	\$382, 361
Traffic receipts per car mile .....	23 cents.
Passengers carried .....	362, 371, 464
Increase .....	26, 110, 706
Passengers carried per car mile .....	14, 516

The passengers carried at each fare numbered:

Fare.	1914-15	1915-16
10.01 .....	213, 165, 819	232, 871, 360
.02 .....	89, 890, 042	93, 768, 671
.03 .....	21, 384, 306	22, 712, 943
.04 .....	6, 410, 027	6, 913, 560
.05 .....	2, 834, 795	3, 075, 567
.06 .....	1, 285, 605	1, 453, 771
.07 .....	1, 136, 896	1, 382, 636
.08 .....	153, 270	192, 956
Total .....	336, 260, 758	362, 371, 464

During the fiscal year just ended the copper coins received in fares weighed 735½ tons; the silver coins, 93½ tons. Since July 1, 1894, the passengers carried numbered 4,417,319,065; the miles run 361,006,250; and the car traffic revenue totaled \$78,158,343.

**MARKETS FOR BEER IN BERMUDA AND JAMAICA.**

[Consul Carl R. Loop, Hamilton, June 11.]

**Tourist Season Augments Bermuda's Demand.**

In proportion to its population, Bermuda furnishes a fair market for the sale of beer, particularly of the light variety. The consumption, however, is greatest during the tourist season, which extends from December to May of each year, when its temporary population averages from 1,000 to 2,000. Bermuda has approximately 20,000 residents, including about 12,000 colored people.

The quantities and values of malt liquor imported during the years 1913 and 1914 were: 4,992 hogsheads and 14,202 dozen, of a total value of \$69,114, in 1913; 4,327 hogsheads and 10,520 dozen, valued at \$60,296, in 1914. The principal countries of origin and their amounts were: United States, \$8,842; United Kingdom, \$51,454. **Get Bottled Beer Chiefly From United States.**

By far the greater proportion of the bottled beer consumed in the islands is imported from the United States, whereas that imported in hogsheads, especially ale, comes from the United Kingdom. The duty upon malt liquor is at the rate of \$0.24 per dozen or \$4.86 per hogshead, and the tariff provides that in every case in which a specific duty is imposed according to a specific quantity, the duty is deemed to apply in the same proportion to any quantity. It is to be observed, therefore, that no particular manner of packing may be employed in order to obtain more favorable rates of duty.

Various grades of American beer are imported, mostly in barrels containing 10 dozen pints. The prices vary from \$5.50 to \$7.50 and \$9 per dozen pints, f. o. b. New York. Hogsheads of ale (54 gallons each) imported from the United Kingdom now cost about \$19.20 landed in Bermuda, without discount. Cases of ale (6 dozen per case) imported from the United Kingdom cost now, f. o. b. English port, pints, \$1.08; quarts, \$1.64; nips, \$0.76; with 5 per cent discount. Some draft beer is imported from Canada, and there is a probability of importation of Canadian bottled beer at from \$6.50 to \$7 per barrel of 10 dozen.

**Connections of Local Dealers Long Established.**

The local dealers are few in number and their connections have been long established. Interviews with two of the leading firms disclosed the sentiment on their part that they did not care to form new connections. No beers are sold at present through commission merchants, though in times past beer has been sold in this manner on a basis of 10 per cent. Advertising is more or less extensive and consists of the display of cards, calendars, and other similar matter supplied by the manufacturers, and of newspaper notices inserted by the local merchants.

Bottled beers are packed mostly in barrels of 10 dozen each, and also in cases of 4 to 7 dozen. Very little pilfering occurs in shipments from the United States, so that neither manufacturers nor importers take out insurance against theft. The bottles in each case are wrapped in corrugated paper. No particular style or color is especially desirable for labels, except that such labels should be in good taste.

Bermuda is so small that one agent or representative can easily cover the entire district. There is but one route at present from the United States to Bermuda—that is, via New York.

**No Credit Asked by Local Importers.**

It is the custom of local importers to remit upon the receipt of invoices. No credit is asked, nor is any discount extended, except in the case of some shipments from the United Kingdom.

Duty upon display cards and other advertising material is at the rate of 10 per cent ad valorem and 10 per cent upon the normal rate of duty, which in effect makes the present duty 11 per cent.

Information as to the financial responsibility of importers may doubtless be obtained through American commercial agencies, but if inquiry is made locally it should be directed either to the Bank of N. T. Butterfield & Son (Ltd.) or to the Bank of Bermuda (Ltd.).

As an aid to the introduction of a new brand of beers, it is suggested that samples and advertising matter and quotations be sent to local firms. It is important that firms seeking new business in Bermuda should be particularly careful to prepay fully all postal charges on matter sent by mail.

[A list of wine merchants and commission merchants in Hamilton, Bermuda, may be obtained from the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce or its district offices. Refer to file No. 77705.]

[Consul Ross Hazeltine, Port Antonio, Jamaica, June 9.]

**Light Beer Popular in Jamaica.**

Light beer in half bottles is preferred by the trade in this section of Jamaica. It is packed in barrels containing 10 dozen. There are direct transportation facilities from New York and other American ports. As a rule, Kingston agents cover the whole island, for that city is the center of trade in practically all lines.

Satisfactory credit terms could undoubtedly be arranged through either of the two local banks—Bank of Nova Scotia and Colonial Bank—but, as a matter of fact, cash transactions with discount are preferred.

The logical place for a general agency covering the whole island is at Kingston, but in case direct sales are preferred there are several local importers.

There is little or no pilfering. No particular style or color of label is demanded. The trade here should be addressed, of course, in the English language.

Advertising matter is quoted under No. 11 on the free list.

**Imports of Ale, Beer, and Porter.**

During the calendar year 1915, ale, beer, and porter were imported to the amount of 243,737 gallons, valued at \$210,067. These importations originated as follows: From the United Kingdom, \$131,657; from the United States, \$74,629; from Denmark, \$3,538; from the Netherlands, \$243; total, \$210,067. In former years there were considerable imports from Germany.

This class of goods is subject to a specific import duty amounting to \$0.18 per gallon (schedule I, item No. 1, rated) and a surcharge of \$0.06 (33½ per cent) on the duty collected. (This surcharge is a temporary war revenue measure.) American beer is sold at \$1.34 per dozen pints; that is, about double the retail cost in the United States.

In this district direct sales are the rule, but in Kingston, the trade center, agencies have been established covering the whole island.

There is little or no advertising except that of English beer in the Kingston newspapers (the Gleaner and the Chronicle). In the case of American beer, the agent's name appears on the label.

[A list of importers of beer at Port Antonio and Port Maria, Jamaica, with their New York addresses, may be obtained from the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce or its district offices. Refer to file No. 77614.]

### **FRENCH TRADE IN WELSH COAL.**

[Consul M. K. Moorhead, Swansea.]

Previous to the war France was the fourth largest producer of coal in Europe. In 1913 the production of coal in the principal European countries was as follows: United Kingdom, 287,410,000 tons; Germany, 273,650,000 tons; Austria-Hungary, 51,580,000 tons; France, 40,190,000 tons; and Belgium, 22,500,000 tons.

Except on the seaboard, France depended largely on its own mines and those of Belgium for its coal supplies. After the outbreak of war, that country turned to the United Kingdom to make up its shortage of domestic supplies. According to the Cardiff and South Wales Journal of Commerce, the normal pre-war exports of coal from the United Kingdom to France were between 9,000,000 and 10,000,000 tons annually. During the quarter ended March 31, 1916, 4,031,446 tons of coal were exported from the United Kingdom to France, compared with 3,919,763 tons for the same period in 1915, and 1,080,040 tons were shipped to the French colonies, against 323,598 tons for the first three months in 1915.

#### **Exports from Bristol Channel Ports.**

Of the total exports to France during the first quarter of 1916, 2,202,026 tons were from Bristol Channel ports—Cardiff, Swansea, Newport, Port Talbot, Ilanelly, Gloucester, and Bristol—compared with 2,159,318 tons in the 1915 period.

The total exports of coal from Bristol Channel ports during the years 1911 to 1916 follow: 1911, 25,199,786 tons; 1912, 26,125,744 tons; 1913, 29,875,916 tons; 1914, 24,475,551 tons; 1915, 18,602,107 tons; 1916 (four months), 5,576,416 tons; and 1916 (estimated for year), 16,700,000 tons. The figures for 1915 and 1916 do not include coal shipped in requisitioned tonnage under Government control.

#### **Output of Coal in South Wales—Government Regulation of Prices.**

The output of the South Wales coal field during the past three years was as follows: 1913, 56,830,072 tons; 1914, 53,880,000 tons; and 1915, 50,367,000 tons. The production in 1916 will probably show further decreases, due to shortage of labor. With a decreased output, and increasing demands from France and shortage of ships, the trade with neutral countries has had to be sacrificed. Prices have increased to unprecedented figures, and freight rates have reached almost prohibitive figures. For these reasons the British Government has proposed to coal owners and shipping firms that the price of coal shipped to France be controlled by the Government, and that freight rates also be fixed by regulations.

The Government has proposed that the maximum price of coal shipped to France after June 1, 1916, shall be that prevailing on March 8, 1916, less 20 per cent. The following table shows the price per ton of principal coals in the Swansea market on March 8, 1916,

the proposed Government price to take effect June 1, 1916, and the market price in Swansea on May 16:

Kind of coal.	Market price on—		Proposed Government price.	Kind of coal.	Market price on—		Proposed Government price.
	March 8.	May 16.			March 8.	May 16.	
Anthracite:	<i>Per ton.</i>	<i>Per ton.</i>	<i>Per ton.</i>	Steam:	<i>Per ton.</i>	<i>Per ton.</i>	<i>Per ton.</i>
Best malting, large..	\$5.84	\$8.76	\$4.67	Best large.....	\$8.76	\$11.80	\$7.00
Second malting, large..	5.11	7.90	4.09	Seconds.....	7.78	9.36	6.24
Swansea Valley big vein, large..	4.26	8.39	3.40	Small steams.....	3.89	6.33	3.11
Red vein, large..	4.38	6.57	3.80	Bituminous:			
Machine-made cobbles.....	7.66	8.76	6.13	No. 3 Rhondda, large.....	8.63	12.16	6.90
Paris nuts.....	7.66	8.63	6.13	Through and through.....	6.35	9.36	5.08
French nuts.....	7.66	8.76	5.84	Small.....	5.35	8.63	4.28
Store nuts.....	7.30	8.63	.....				

It is reported in the Cardiff and South Wales Journal of Commerce that the colliery owners and exporters have come to an agreement with the Board of Trade as to the maximum coal prices in respect to coal sold in the United Kingdom for export to France, the scheme to go into effect on June 1, 1916.

Prices on the Swansea Market—Freight Rates.

The maximum prices to be charged on and after June 1 and current prices on May 27 of coals in the Swansea market are given in the following table:

Kind of coal.	May 27, 1916.	Maximum Government controlled price.	Kind of coal.	May 27, 1916.	Maximum Government controlled price.
	<i>Per ton.</i>	<i>Per ton.</i>		<i>Per ton.</i>	<i>Per ton.</i>
Large coal, steam.....	\$11.79	\$7.29	Small coal.....	\$6.32	\$4.89
Washed nuts.....	9.36	7.29	Anthracite, large.....	8.75	7.29
Washed beans.....	9.12	6.92			

The fixing of a maximum freight rate under Government control was more difficult even than the regulations of the price of coal, for the reason that about 80 per cent of the cargoes are shipped in foreign bottoms. During the three months ended March 31, 1916, out of a total of 649 cargoes of coal shipped from Swansea, 567 cargoes were shipped in neutral vessels.

The average freight rates from Swansea to representative French ports in March, 1914, the rate on May 17, 1916, and the proposed Government maximum rate on and after June 1, 1916, are given in the following table:

Swansea to—	Average rate in March, 1914.	Rate on May 17, 1916.	Proposed Government rate.	Swansea to—	Average rate in March, 1914.	Rate on May 17, 1916.	Proposed Government rate.
	<i>Per ton.</i>	<i>Per ton.</i>	<i>Per ton.</i>		<i>Per ton.</i>	<i>Per ton.</i>	<i>Per ton.</i>
Rouen.....	\$1.10	\$6.78	\$3.96	St. Nazaire.....	\$0.97	\$11.77	\$7.05
Havre.....	.91	9.25	5.47	Bordeaux.....	1.06	12.55	8.27
St. Malo.....	.91	8.96	5.35	Marseille.....	1.59	23.18	15.08

On May 16, 1916, a French purchaser in Marseille would have had to pay \$8.76 for a ton of anthracite and \$23.16 for freight, or \$31.92 for the coal delivered in that port. If the Government-controlled rates were in force, the coal delivered in Marseille would be \$19.75.

## THE BUTTON TRADE OF ANDALUSIA.

[Consul Wilbur T. Gracey, Seville, Spain, May 22.]

An investigation of the butter situation recently made by the Seville consulate disclosed that during 1915 555,850 pounds of butter were imported here. Of this amount 418,750 pounds came from other Spanish ports and 137,100 pounds from foreign countries. In 1914 the imports totaled 501,460 pounds (368,868 from Spanish ports and 132,592 from abroad).

These figures, however, do not show the entire amount of butter imported from foreign countries, as some butter reaches Seville overland by rail and does not appear in the customs statistics, and some of that appearing as from other Spanish ports actually originates abroad. It is probable that nearly half of the butter consumed in Seville originates in foreign countries.

### Foreign Sources of Supply.

Seville's chief sources of supply of foreign butter are the Netherlands, Denmark, Switzerland, and France. Prior to the outbreak of the European war much of the best grade of butter was secured from France, but the increased cost of French butter and the higher freights demanded for the Dutch and Danish product have resulted in the more general use of Spanish butter.

The principal reasons given for the purchase of dairy products from Denmark and the other countries named are the better shipping facilities, the quicker delivery, and the more liberal credits allowed than those obtainable from American manufacturers. Butter is received from Denmark about one month after the date of ordering by mail, which, with the present difficulties of securing cargo space, would not be possible from the United States. There is no local prejudice against American butter; it is simply unknown to the trade.

### Packing, Prices, and Terms.

The butter from abroad comes in tins and in barrels; the tins containing  $\frac{1}{4}$  kilo,  $\frac{1}{2}$  kilo, 2 kilos, 5 kilos, and 10 kilos (equivalent, respectively, to  $\frac{1}{2}$  pound, 1 pound, 4.4, 11, and 22 pounds), packed 25 tins to the case. The barrels hold 10 to 25 kilos (22 to 55 pounds). The most popular size is the  $\frac{1}{2}$ -pound tin, and the variety most in demand is that coming from Denmark, though the Spanish butter is cheaper.

The cost at wholesale for the  $\frac{1}{2}$ -pound tins from abroad ranges from 1 peseta to 1.25 (from \$0.19 to \$0.24); for the 1-pound tins, 1.90 to 2.40 pesetas (\$0.37 to \$0.46); for the 2-kilo tins, 6.50 pesetas (\$1.25); for the 5-kilo tins, 14.50 to 15 pesetas (\$2.80 to \$2.90); for the 10-kilo tins, from 26 to 27 pesetas (\$5 to \$5.20). The barrels of 10 kilos cost 24 pesetas (\$4.63), and those of 25 kilos 55 pesetas (\$10.60).

Quotations on butter should be made, if possible, f. o. b. Seville, but as this is difficult at present some business might be done with prices f. o. b. American Atlantic port, especially, if the prices are such as to compensate for the higher freight rates charged on goods from the United States. Quotations should be made in francs or



pesetas; first, because these currencies are known to the local trade; and, second, because the prices can then be more easily compared with those received from other countries. Dealers usually receive discounts of 8 to 10 per cent on the regular catalogue prices. Commission merchants are allowed 3 to 5 per cent additional when shipments are made through them, or when they obtain the orders.

#### **Importing Methods and Charges.**

The importation of butter here is mainly in the hands of two firms that carry large stocks. These firms act as agents for the foreign sellers and are granted credits of 3 to 6 months. This gives them an opportunity to receive the butter, place it in stock, and frequently to sell it before payment is made. Payment, when made, is usually by draft through one of the local banks.

Local grocers customarily purchase direct from one of the two importing firms mentioned, though one of the firms also has its own retail clientele. Seville is the central distributing point for butter throughout the region known as western Andalusia and Estremadura, embracing the Provinces of Cadiz, Huelva, Caceres, Badajoz, Cordoba, Seville, and Jaen. The two importing firms have their agents or representatives in most of the larger cities and towns of this district.

The only documents necessary for importation here are certificates of origin. The import duties are fixed according to the weight of container and contents. The duty on butter (known here as cow's butter to distinguish it from that made from goat's milk) is 40 pesetas per 100 kilos (\$3.50 per 100 pounds), and the other charges (wharfage, brokerage, landing fees, delivery to warehouse, etc.) approximate 2.75 to 3 per cent of the value of the invoice.

#### **No Cold-Storage Facilities—Exclusive Agencies Best.**

The price of butter in Seville has increased considerably since the outbreak of the war. Butter of a quality that retailed at 33 cents a pound in 1914 now sells at 80 cents, an increase of 142 per cent; fresh butter, which before the war cost 50 cents per pound, now costs 95 cents, an increase of 90 per cent. As a general rule the imported butter in Seville is inferior in quality to the American product, and that received from the north of Spain and known as "fresh butter" does not compare in quality with fresh American butter. This Asturian butter has a peculiar flavor and smell, which probably limits the sale somewhat. When the French butter is obtainable it has the preference, but at the present time this can not be secured.

Foreign butter that is packed in hermetically sealed tins seems to keep well. There are no cold-storage facilities in this part of Spain, so that butter must be packed to withstand the excessively hot summers. The air is dry, but the temperature often goes as high as 120° in the shade. Fresh butter from the north of Spain can be brought to Seville only in the winter months.

American exporters who contemplate entering the butter market at Seville should arrange for exclusive agencies and grant credits of 60 to 90 days; this would probably be a sufficient concession to secure trade. It would also be advisable to allow the agents certain funds or a certain percentage of the sales for advertising purposes in

order that the butter may be brought to the attention of the buying public. The usual methods of advertising are in vogue there, such as posters, billboards, cinematograph screens, theater curtains, magazines, and daily papers.

#### **Freight Difficulties.**

The present freight situation is making it difficult to secure butter from Denmark, Holland, and other customary sources, and it is possible that this situation may be intensified, and that Seville will have to look to America for its supply in the near future. Freight shipments from Denmark now have to be made through London or other British ports, with considerable delay and at high prices, the present rate being 40 pesetas per 100 kilos (\$3.50 per 100 pounds) from Danish ports to Seville. Freight rates from America are so changeable that it is impossible to secure quotations at Seville for goods from the United States, and shippers will have to arrange this matter in New York or other Atlantic shipping points.

While the quality of the butter is, of course, taken into consideration, the Spanish people are not such large users of butter as are Americans, and are therefore not so particular about quality, looking more to price and terms. The creamery or fresh butters are sold only to the highest-class trade, and the quantities imported are insignificant as compared with the cheaper grades.

[A list of Seville butter importers and dealers may be obtained from the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce or its district offices. Ask for file No. 77281.]

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#### **LIGHTHOUSE EMPLOYEES COMMENDED.**

Several employees of the United States Bureau of Lighthouses were commended during the past month by the Secretary of Commerce or the Acting Secretary, for assistance rendered under difficult conditions in the saving of lives or property. The persons commended were:

Lambert R. Willard, assistant keeper, Oakland Harbor Light Station, etc., California, for assistance rendered in rescuing a man from drowning in the vicinity of the light station.

William S. Denning, keeper, and Samuel B. Morris, assistant keeper, of Robinson Point Light Station, Washington, for assistance rendered by them on May 28, 1916, to four persons whose launch became disabled off Robinson Point Light Station.

William J. Tate, keeper of North Landing River, etc., Lights, North Carolina, for assisting in floating the gasoline freighter *Gratitude*, which had gone ashore near North Landing River Lights, and for saving from stranding a raft of timber which had broken from its moorings during a heavy squall.

Emil F. Redell, second officer, commanding the lighthouse tender *Snowdrop*, for the valuable assistance rendered by him in the moving of the keeper's dwelling at Georgetown Light Station, South Carolina, from South Island across Winyah Bay to North Island.

Walter H. Warnock, master, and Olaf Peterson, assistant engineer, on Boston Light Vessel, Massachusetts, for the rescue on May 17, 1916, of a seaman who either fell or jumped overboard from Boston Light Vessel, Massachusetts.

John K. Olsen, master of the lighthouse tender *Hyacinth*, for assistance rendered the steamship *German*, which was ashore on a shoal in the vicinity of Rowley Bay, Wis.

**CENSUS REPORT ON THE SOAP INDUSTRY.**

The total value of the products of the soap industry in the United States increased from \$115,455,172 in 1909 to \$135,340,499 in 1914, while the number of establishments decreased from 526 to 513. Substantial increases in the five-year period were reported for hard soaps, according to a statement issued by the United States Bureau of the Census. The quantity of soft soap manufactured decreased 5.1 per cent, but its value increased 33.7 per cent. The quantity of glycerin decreased 3.2 per cent, but its value increased 11.8 per cent.

Of the 513 establishments in 1914, the principal business of 371 was the manufacture of soap and 142 were engaged primarily in other industries, such as slaughtering and meat packing and the manufacture of food products, cottonseed products, and patent medicines and compounds, and produced soap as a subsidiary product. Of the 526 establishments in 1909, the principal business of 420 was the manufacture of soap and 106 produced soap as a subsidiary product.

The total production of glycerin by all establishments in 1914, so far as it can be ascertained, not including that made and consumed in the same establishment, was 75,218,292 pounds, valued at \$13,052,240, as compared with 81,905,915 pounds in 1909, valued at \$11,752,562.

The hard-soap output increased from 1,794,249,000 pounds, valued at \$91,054,466, in 1909, to 2,064,228,000 pounds, valued at \$104,500,542, in 1914. The 1914 product comprises 938,447,000 pounds of tallow soap, 42,524,000 pounds of olein soap, 111,063,000 pounds of foots soap, 169,926,000 pounds of toilet soap, 367,744,000 pounds of powdered soap, 97,746,000 pounds of soap chips, and 336,778,000 pounds of other kinds of hard soap. The production of soft soap as reported in 1914 was 57,002,000 pounds, valued at \$1,697,424, and in 1909, 60,037,000 pounds, valued at \$1,269,187. In addition, there were reported special soap articles, such as soaps for technical purposes and liquid soap, to the value of \$832,654 in 1914, and \$706,177 in 1909.

Of the 513 establishments reported for 1914, 93 were located in New York, 58 in Pennsylvania, 44 in Massachusetts, 42 in Ohio, 33 in Illinois, 31 in California, 28 in New Jersey, 20 in Missouri, 18 in Rhode Island, 16 in Michigan, 14 in Wisconsin, 13 in Indiana, 12 in Connecticut, 11 in Minnesota, 9 in Iowa, 7 in Tennessee, 7 in Texas, 6 in Louisiana, 5 in Kansas, 5 in Washington, 4 in Georgia, 4 in Kentucky, 4 in Maine, 4 in Maryland, 4 in Oregon, 3 in Colorado, 3 in Oklahoma, 2 in Nebraska, 2 in New Hampshire, 2 in Utah, and 1 each in Alabama, Arizona, District of Columbia, Florida, Idaho, Mississippi, Montana, Nevada, and Vermont.

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**District Offices of the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce.**

New York, Room 409 United States Customhouse; Boston, eighteenth floor United States Customhouse; Chicago, 504 Federal Building; St. Louis, 402 Third National Bank Building; Atlanta, 521 Post Office Building; New Orleans, 1039 Hibernia Bank Building; San Francisco, 306 United States Customhouse; Seattle, 348 Henry Building. Cooperative district offices: Cleveland, Chamber of Commerce; Cincinnati, Chamber of Commerce; Asst. Gen'l Frt. Agt., C. N. O. & T. P. Ry. Co., Cincinnati; Los Angeles, Chamber of Commerce; Detroit, Board of Commerce; Philadelphia, Chamber of Commerce; South American Agent, Southern Ry. Co., Chattanooga, Tenn.

### FEWER LIFE BUOYS REQUIRED ON VESSELS.

The United States Steamboat-Inspection Service has issued a circular letter, dated June 22, 1916, quoting an act of Congress approved June 12, 1916, which reduces the number of life buoys required to be carried on certain vessels under the provisions of section 14 of the seamen's act. The act of June 12, 1916, fixes the minimum number of life buoys with which vessels are to be provided, as follows:

Vessels under 100 feet in length, minimum number of buoys, 2; vessels 100 feet and less than 200 feet in length, minimum number of buoys, 4, of which 2 shall be luminous; vessels 200 feet and less than 300 feet in length, minimum number of buoys, 6, of which 2 shall be luminous; vessels 300 feet and less than 400 feet in length, minimum number of buoys, 12, of which 4 shall be luminous; vessels 400 feet and less than 600 feet in length, minimum number of buoys, 18, of which 9 shall be luminous; vessels 600 feet and less than 800 feet in length, minimum number of buoys, 24, of which 12 shall be luminous; vessels 800 feet and over in length, minimum number of buoys, 30, of which 15 shall be luminous.

All the buoys shall be fitted with beackets securely seized. Where two buoys only are carried, one shall be fitted with a life line at least 15 fathoms in length, and where more than two buoys are carried, at least one buoy on each side shall be fitted with a life line of at least 15 fathoms in length. The lights shall be efficient self-igniting lights which can not be extinguished in water, and they shall be kept near the buoys to which they belong, with the necessary means of attachment.

### AMERICAN CONSULAR OFFICERS ON LEAVE OF ABSENCE.

The following American consular officers are on leave of absence in the United States and will be glad to confer with business men and commercial organizations relative to conditions in their respective jurisdictions. The consul's time is available primarily for personal interviews. He has limited facilities for correspondence, and except in urgent cases letters should be directed to the consulate.

Name	Post.	Expira- tion of venue.	Address.
Wakefield, E. A.....	Port Elizabeth, South Africa.	July 8	Department of State, Washington, D.C.
West, George N.....	Kobé, Japan.....	Aug. 15	Do.
Von Struve, H. C.....	Curacao, Dutch West Indies.	July 7	4200 Avenue B, Austin, Tex.
Winship, North.....	Petrograd, Russia.....	do.....	271 Hardeman Avenue, Macon, Ga.
Rasmusen, B. M.....	Goteborg, Sweden.....	July 14	Roland, Iowa.
Cook, A. B.....	Patras, Greece.....	Aug. 10	121 West Charlotte Street, Norfolk, Va.
Culver, Henry S.....	St. John, New Brunswick.	July 4	Vineland, N. J.
Hale, F. D.....	Huddersfield, England		Lunenburg, Vt.
Fisher, Fred D.....	Tientsin, China.....	Aug. 5	Albany, Oreg.
Masterson, William W.....	Durban, Natal, South Africa.	Sept. 1	Carrollton, Ky.
Fe'tzer, Harry G.....	Breslau, Germany.....		Gibraltar, Pa.

### JAPAN'S GOLD SPECIE.

[Extract from Japan Chronicle, forwarded by Consul General George H. Scidmore, Yokohama, May 24.]

It is reported that on the 22d instant Japan's gold specie amounted to 540,000,000 yen (\$269,190,000), of which 170,000,000 yen (\$84,745,000) was held at home, 90,000,000 yen (\$44,865,000) in the United States, and 28,000,000 yen (\$13,958,000) in Europe.

**NEW SOUTH WALES ROYAL AGRICULTURAL SHOW.**

[Consul General J. I. Brittain, Sydney, New South Wales, Australia.]

The New South Wales Royal Agricultural Show, which is held at Sydney annually, had a most successful week this year. The recent heavy rains throughout the State, together with abnormal prices received by wool growers for their season's clip, particularly encouraged exhibitors.

In the horse section the exhibits of trotters, coachers, Clydesdales, saddle ponies, English hackneys, and cobs were very creditable. The exhibit of cattle in the Shorthorns, Herefords, Ayrshires, Jerseys, Guernseys, Holstein-Friesians, and Illawarra classes was one of the best ever seen in Sydney. The exportation of butter, cheese, and meat encourages the Australian cattle raisers to obtain the most productive breeds. The prizes offered for the best milk producers were also a great stimulus to exhibitors. A Guernsey cow exhibited gave 1,400 pounds of milk in 47½ weeks, which produced 727 pounds of butter. A Jersey cow shown gave 10,701 pounds of milk in 273 days, with a butter yield of 629 pounds.

The sheep exhibited were British breeds, such as Romneys, Leicesters, Shropshires, Southdowns, and crossbreeds. The Romneys attracted special attention. Through the expansion in the frozen mutton and lamb trade, British breeds are attracting more attention than in former years. There were about 210 exhibits of pigs, being 50 more than at the last show, comprising chiefly Yorkshire, Berkshire, and Poland China, the last-named class being especially well filled.

**Government Participation—Machinery Display.**

The Department of Agriculture had a good exhibit from the experiment farms showing how the production of wheat can be increased with the use of manures. Unmanured, one tract showed 22½ bushels, and with an addition of 28 pounds of superphosphate the yield was 29½ bushels, while with 56 pounds of superphosphate the yield was 33½ bushels per acre. There were good exhibits of various grains, fruits, and grasses. A special effort was also made to demonstrate the advantages of irrigation, as upon the conservation of the rainfall in Australia's wet season must largely depend its substantial development of the interior of the country.

The display of various kinds of machinery was a feature of the show, the exhibits comprising road-grading machinery, plows, lighting plants for country houses, water carts to fight grass fires, windmills, harvesting machinery, pumping engines, automatic bath heaters, motor traction engines, and motor cars, the last named principally from the United States. The market for motor cars in the interior of New South Wales is rapidly increasing, as they are used on large sheep stations beyond the railroad lines. There were good exhibits of numerous lines of machinery from the United States.

The attendance during the show was 256,600, and at the races during the same week 142,000. Notwithstanding the heavy financial and physical drain upon the country in consequence of the war, business in Australia remains good, and the people are hopeful of further future development.

## FOREIGN TRADE OPPORTUNITIES.

Reserved addresses may be obtained from the Bureau and its district offices. Request for each opportunity should be on a separate sheet and state opportunity number. The Bureau does not furnish credit ratings or assume responsibility as to the standing of foreign inquirers; the usual precautions should be taken in all cases.

*Cotton machinery, etc.*, No. 21698.—The commercial attaché of the Department of Commerce of Russia informs the Bureau that a banking institution desires to receive catalogues and price lists of cotton-ginning machinery, linters, oil presses, and cotton-tillage machinery. The bank is also in the market for American-grown cotton seed. The name of the bank, together with printed blanks giving the address in Russian, may be obtained from the Bureau or its district offices.

*Buttons and brushes*, No. 21699.—A commercial organization in the United States has transmitted to the Bureau the name and address of a brush and button manufacturing company in Japan which is desirous of communicating with importers and others interested in the purchase of shell buttons and brushes of all kinds.

*Window glass*, No. 21700.—An American consular officer in the Far East reports that a man in his district wishes to receive quotations on window glass. Full particulars, together with specifications, etc., are desired, to the end that immediate connections may be made.

*Candles*, No. 21701.—A manufacturer of candles in Canada writes the Bureau for the names and addresses of candle manufacturers in the United States.

*Canvas fire hose*, No. 21702.—The commercial attaché of the Department of Commerce in Chile reports that the agent in that country of a large American steel company wishes to represent an American manufacturer of fire hose. An order can be placed immediately, it is stated, for from 5,000 to 8,000 meters of hose (from 16,404.15 feet to 26,246.64 feet), a sample of which may be inspected at the Bureau or its district offices. As the demand for this hose is urgent, quotations are desired by cable, giving the price on board at Valparaiso per meter, the conditions of payment, and the approximate date of shipment. (Refer to file No. 1522.)

*Concrete-block machines*, No. 21703.—A commercial organization in the United States has forwarded to the Bureau the name and address of a firm in Norway which desires to receive catalogues, illustrations, and prices of concrete-block machines.

*Wool*, No. 21704.—A commission agent in Spain, who buys and sells Spanish wool, washed and unwashed, informs an American consular officer that he would like to establish business connections with wool merchants in the United States. Correspondence may be in English. References are given.

*Ammunition and naval stores*, No. 21705.—An American consular officer in a neutral country of the Far East reports that the Navy Department of that country has requested him to place it in touch with American manufacturers of ammunition and naval stores. Further information may be obtained from the Bureau or its district officers.

*Leather goods, novelties, etc.*, No. 21706.—The commercial attaché of the Department of Commerce in Chile reports that a firm of jewelers in that country desires to represent American manufacturers of silver articles, novelties, etc. The firm also desires to develop in connection with its present business a line of leather articles, pocketbooks, traveling bags and suit cases, and novelties, etc. References are given. Correspondence should be preferably in French or Spanish.

*Hoops for milk cans*, No. 21707.—Supplementing the report contained in Confidential Circular No. 911, issued under date of May 19, 1916, an American consular officer in Canada writes that the firm wishes to receive quotations on top and bottom hoops for dairy milk cans. An illustration showing the hoops desired, together with dimension of cans, etc., may be inspected at the Bureau or its district offices. (Refer to file No. 76715.)

*Fish nets*, No. 21708.—An American consular officer in Norway reports that seine nets and ordinary nets for large Icelandic herring are desired by a merchant in his district. Definite offers are wanted at once in English. Reference is given.

# COMMERCE REPORTS



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## AMERICAN CONTRACTORS START PARAGUAY PORT WORKS.

[Consul Samuel Hamilton Wiley, Asuncion, May 29.]

The formal inauguration of the first section of the new port works for Asuncion, to be built by a New York company, took place on May 27, 1916. The ceremony consisted of the driving of the first pile of the new works, the machine being started by the President of the Republic of Paraguay, who received a gold plate in commemoration of the event.

This is the first construction work in Paraguay by an American company.

[A previous article in relation to the granting of a concession for this work to American contractors was published in COMMERCE REPORTS for January 17, 1916.]

## WAR MARINE INSURANCE FIGURES FOR JAPAN.

[Extract from Japan Chronicle, forwarded by Consul General George H. Scidmore, Yokohama, May 24.]

According to a statement issued by the Department of Agriculture and Commerce, contracts made under the war marine insurance compensation law amounted to 87,720,000 yen (\$43,728,420) at the end of April, showing a decrease of 22,470,000 yen (\$11,201,295), or 20 per cent, from the figures for the preceding month. New contracts made during April, excluding those on reinsurance, amounted to 71,080,000 yen (\$35,433,380), or about 50 per cent of the month's total foreign trade, which was put at 140,840,000 yen (\$70,208,740). Of this amount, claims made totalled 5,679,497 yen (\$2,831,229), of which the Government is responsible for 4,543,595 yen (\$2,264,982), and has so far paid 3,784,548 yen (\$1,886,597).

## Conferences on Russian Trade.

Mr. North Winship, American consul at Petrograd, will be at the Hotel Prince, Arverne, Long Island, until July 14. Appointments for conferences with Mr. Winship may be made direct or through the New York District Office of the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce.

**CANADIAN TRADE PROGRESS OF PRESENT YEAR.**

[Consul José de Oliveira, Hamilton, Ontario, June 15.]

**Canada Has Increased Foreign Trade.**

During the four months ended April 30, 1916, the value of imports into Canada from foreign countries amounted to \$228,830,856, representing a gain of \$91,868,764 over the corresponding period in 1915. The total import trade of the Dominion for the 12 months ended April 30, exclusive of coin and bullion, amounted to \$529,539,551, an increase of \$82,714,253 over the preceding 12 months' period. Exports of merchandise to foreign countries during the same months aggregated \$803,924,592, representing an increase of \$329,620,770.

**Heavy Manufacturing Output.**

Activities on the part of manufactories generally throughout Canada are declared to be greater at present than at any previous period in the Dominion's history. The output in many cases has been 50 per cent greater and prices upward of 50 per cent higher than during any former year. The enormous increase in Canadian manufactures is illustrated by the fact that the value of the current year's production is estimated at \$2,000,000,000, whereas the census of 1910 showed a value of \$1,164,000,000, representing an increase of \$836,000,000 within six years.

Among the industries that are being operated as extensively as the available supplies of labor and raw materials will permit are manufactories of textiles and shoes, iron and steel plants, and packing establishments.

**Gains Made by Railway Companies and Banks.**

The gross earnings of the three Canadian railway systems operating in the Dominion, for 5 months ended May 31, 1916, were \$85,515,138, compared with \$59,192,138 for the corresponding period in 1915. The latter figures did not represent the normal earning capacity of the Canadian railways, as is indicated by the fact that during the corresponding interval in 1914 the gross earnings amounted to \$72,575,131.

A general statement which covers banking throughout the Dominion shows that on April 30, 1916, the total bank assets amounted to \$1,825,381,458 and liabilities to \$1,809,870,338, representing increases of \$119,544,743 in assets and \$121,206,591 in liabilities, over the figures given at the end of March, and corresponding increases of \$261,277,905 in assets and \$260,924,176 in liabilities over the returns set forth in a similar statement to April 30, 1915. Bank clearings for the week ended May 25, 1916, amounted to \$178,043,817, representing 64.5 per cent increase over the corresponding period last year, while the total clearings for the year ended on the same date amounted to \$3,672,462,983, an increase of 34.6 per cent over the preceding year.

[Consul Fred C. Slater, Sarnia, Ontario, June 28.]

**Trade for First Two Months of Fiscal Year.**

Canada's total trade for the first two months of the present fiscal year, April and May, was \$284,555,958, and for the corresponding months of 1915 it amounted to \$145,244,352. The total for May was \$176,873,466, while for May, 1915, it was \$80,023,321.



The exports of agricultural products for May were \$47,433,750, an increase of \$34,687,623. The exports of manufactured articles for April and May were \$49,307,555, compared with \$29,342,807 for the corresponding months of last year. Dutiable imports in May amounted to \$39,740,167, as against \$19,851,612 for May last year, while imports of free goods rose from \$14,539,196 in May last year, to \$29,857,645 for May of this year.

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### RICE-MILLING MACHINERY FOR SIAM.

[Vice Consul Carl C. Hansen, Bangkok, May 9.]

Practically all of the rice-milling machinery imported into Siam in the two fiscal years ended March 31, 1914 and 1915, came from Germany, the value of the total imports being \$89,788 and \$47,288, respectively. For the preceding six years the values were: \$88,016 for 1908, \$131,946 for 1909, \$96,561 for 1910, \$114,950 for 1911, \$108,377 for 1912, and \$80,438 for 1913. During these six years about one-third of this machinery came from the United Kingdom, but the chief share of the remainder was supplied by Germany. The United States sent \$2,600 worth in 1909, \$211 worth in 1910, and \$609 worth in 1913.

Owing to the European situation it appears that there is at present a favorable opportunity for United States manufacturers to make another effort to enter the rice-milling machinery market of this country; but in order to establish a successful and permanent trade in such machinery a resident American rice-mill engineer should be located in Bangkok, and a full stock of machinery and spare parts should always be kept on hand. There are 53 rice mills in Bangkok and 5 in neighboring cities, and with the exception of 2 or 3 mills all are owned and operated by Chinese firms. These mills, besides milling rice for home consumption, also supply yearly more than 1,000,000 tons of milled rice for export to foreign countries; and paddy husk, the by-product of the rice milling, is furnished in sufficient quantities to provide fuel for all the local industries of Bangkok.

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### LIGHTHOUSE TENDER "PALMETTO" LAUNCHED.

The twin-screw, gasoline-propelled lighthouse tender *Palmetto*, under construction for the Lighthouse Service by the Merrill-Stevens Co., Jacksonville, Fla., was successfully launched on June 30, 1916. This vessel, when completed, will be assigned to duty in the Sixth Lighthouse District embracing part of the coast of North Carolina and the coasts of South Carolina, Georgia, and part of Florida.

The hull is of the flat-bottomed type, constructed of steel, and has a length of 90 feet over all, a molded beam of 22 feet, and a depth of hold of 8 feet 6½ inches. Its displacement at 4 feet draft is approximately 170 tons. The propelling machinery will be two internal-combustion engines, using gasoline as fuel. The principal auxiliaries consist of one 2-cylinder gasoline engine driving an air compressor, a bilge and fire pump, and a fresh and salt water sanitary system.

The buoy deck forward is fitted with a three-drum gasoline hoister, a derrick mast and boom having a lifting capacity of 3 tons. The living quarters of the vessel are to be steam heated.

**LIBYA'S TRADE IN HOSIERY.**

[Consul W. Roderick Dorsey, Tripoli, May 19.]

The number of native Arabs wearing hose is negligible. Demand for such footwear arises, therefore, almost entirely from European residents and troops. The latter are Italians, as are most of the civilians, who number about 15,000. Imports are estimated at \$40,000 a year.

The principal sale—probably two-thirds of the whole—is of men's cheap cream-colored cotton half-hose that retail for 3 to 4 lire (\$0.58 to \$0.77) a dozen pairs. Better qualities bring 8 to 20 lire (\$1.54 to \$3.86) a dozen pairs and range through wool, thread, and silk. Plain blacks are most sought in these grades, but clocked, striped, and fancy embroidered also receive attention.

Sizes run from 9½ to 11½. For women, plain black thread stockings at prices up to 15 lire (\$2.90) a dozen pairs are most frequently called for. Some of the fancy open-work type are worn in both silk and thread, but purchases of these more expensive styles are not important. The sizes usually stocked for women are 8 to 9½.

**Import Duty—Quotations—Shipping Routes.**

Hosiery pays duty according to material from which knitted. Under gubernatorial decree of December 10, 1911, silk hosiery from all countries is taxed 11 per cent ad valorem. That manufactured from cotton or wool is taxed under royal decree of November 1, 1914. The former, when imported from Italy, pays 8 per cent ad valorem; from all other countries, a specific tax of 40 lire a quintal (\$3.50 per 100 pounds) is imposed in addition to the 8 per cent ad valorem. The tariff on woolen hose from Italy is the same as on the cotton article, but those from foreign lands pay 45 lire a quintal (\$3.94 per 100 pounds) in addition to the 8 per cent ad valorem. For both cotton and woolen hosiery the duty is assessed on gross weight of package with tare allowance of 8 per cent, which is conceded only on goods arriving in wooden or metal containers.

C. i. f. prices have been customary here. The difficulty of making such quotations from America at present is recognized. They should, however, be f. o. b. vessel New York, and a noncommittal note added indicating the rates of freight and insurance that could have been effected, at the time of writing, on a given quantity to, say, Genoa or Naples, Italy. Without such tentative information prospective Tripoli buyers will not be in a position to form even a reasonably approximate idea of what the laid-down cost will be.

New York and Genoa or Naples are fixed upon as points between which freight and insurance particulars are to be given, as they mark the termini of the most frequented route between the United States and Italy, and because regular freight service from Italian cities to Tripoli make them the best transshipment points for American merchandise. For moderate-sized orders, European exporters made use of the international parcel post, which afforded an expeditious and economical means of transportation.

**Methods of Doing Business.**

Local merchants have been accustomed to the liberal credits of European exporters, and even now houses in Italy grant cash against documents, Tripoli; but, other things equal, it is believed less generous terms would be readily accepted in present circumstances.

Sales were effected through visits of travelers or by free distribution of samples. Several stores, branches of larger institutions in Italy, receive supplies from their central establishments.

Correspondence should be in Italian, if possible, or in French, as should advertising matter to attract full interest.

[A list of hosiery importers in Tripoli may be had from the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce or its district offices upon referring to file No. 77696.]

### EXPORTS OF BREADSTUFFS, COTTON, OILS, ETC.

Figures showing the exports of domestic breadstuffs, cottonseed oil, food animals, meat and dairy products, cotton, and mineral oils from the principal customs districts of the United States for May have been completed by the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce. They show exports as follows:

Items.	May—		11 months ending May—	
	1916	1915	1916	1915
<b>EXPORTS BY GROUPS.</b>				
Breadstuffs.....dollars...	39,991,361	45,992,968	389,728,922	520,839,903
Cottonseed oil.....pounds...	15,951,742	32,309,820	252,754,186	291,735,729
.....dollars...	1,770,983	2,362,272	21,243,172	19,903,909
Cattle, hogs, and sheep.....do.....	53,469	31,929	2,528,279	428,240
Meat and dairy products.....do.....	27,380,375	18,502,132	231,364,828	173,464,598
.....bales.....	465,756	615,290	5,361,530	8,103,097
Cotton.....pounds.....	239,181,139	319,933,953	2,776,872,675	4,235,791,929
.....dollars.....	30,665,497	29,875,716	333,488,882	360,370,125
Mineral oils.....gallons.....	228,478,753	225,951,608	2,192,599,915	1,967,039,031
.....dollars.....	17,914,240	12,997,458	141,819,701	118,690,990
Total.....do.....	117,775,925	109,762,475	1,123,173,844	1,202,697,765
<b>EXPORTS BY PRINCIPAL ARTICLES.</b>				
Corn.....bushels.....	4,939,262	3,638,044	31,471,079	43,718,136
.....dollars.....	4,095,558	3,104,910	25,268,665	34,542,492
Oats.....bushels.....	12,459,857	13,028,168	89,751,423	80,433,656
.....dollars.....	6,372,621	8,096,084	43,494,720	51,669,895
Wheat.....bushels.....	14,569,699	14,182,447	166,819,831	249,576,455
.....dollars.....	18,659,286	22,980,078	207,357,954	319,951,546
Flour.....barrels.....	1,318,483	1,340,498	13,853,451	15,077,390
.....dollars.....	7,562,325	9,781,697	77,962,678	87,651,616
Beef, canned.....pounds.....	12,180,080	6,656,758	47,270,795	65,359,539
.....dollars.....	2,491,648	1,235,171	8,457,386	10,708,547
Beef, fresh.....pounds.....	14,517,970	19,543,015	191,109,380	121,487,671
.....dollars.....	1,867,332	2,500,716	23,707,388	15,363,220
Beef, pickled, etc.....pounds.....	2,420,784	6,662,432	36,272,910	28,622,635
.....dollars.....	248,478	694,649	3,771,312	3,004,271
Olco oil.....pounds.....	5,209,938	5,378,626	95,091,670	71,691,311
.....dollars.....	705,242	645,599	11,560,717	8,389,725
Bacon.....pounds.....	57,092,373	35,429,453	534,044,758	304,229,561
.....dollars.....	8,017,792	4,580,025	72,860,543	41,294,730
Hams and shoulders.....pounds.....	31,215,921	23,498,800	262,321,156	162,233,167
.....dollars.....	4,774,647	3,109,493	37,853,049	23,435,029
Lard.....pounds.....	47,784,072	22,124,954	379,761,518	441,702,106
.....dollars.....	6,025,749	2,330,585	41,386,876	48,917,033
Neutral lard.....pounds.....	1,280,916	1,263,397	30,403,433	24,652,042
.....dollars.....	163,163	136,658	3,457,872	2,856,682
Pork, pickled, etc.....pounds.....	7,267,074	7,390,034	113,515,928	43,925,398
.....dollars.....	965,636	711,640	12,698,951	4,758,701
Lard compounds.....pounds.....	4,901,563	5,219,231	44,984,676	60,613,817
.....dollars.....	576,739	437,975	4,440,751	5,230,270
Crude oil.....gallons.....	13,102,514	11,781,546	145,937,102	127,904,186
.....dollars.....	568,777	313,989	4,957,001	4,173,932
Illuminating oil.....gallons.....	73,921,428	92,632,047	746,425,780	802,361,014
.....dollars.....	5,005,868	5,636,891	46,774,274	48,407,043
Lubricating oil.....gallons.....	25,551,375	22,343,382	221,621,488	190,213,845
.....dollars.....	4,223,828	2,787,204	32,441,410	25,067,512
Gasoline, naphtha, etc.....gallons.....	29,734,761	24,555,459	252,567,955	213,218,088
.....dollars.....	5,731,443	2,645,607	37,780,574	24,001,098
Residuum, fuel oil, etc.....gallons.....	86,158,675	74,639,264	826,017,590	633,361,898
.....dollars.....	2,384,324	1,013,767	22,666,499	17,041,405

**JAPANESE CAPITAL INVESTMENTS.**

[Consul General George H. Seidmore, Yokohama, June 3.]

According to the monthly report of the Bank of Japan, on promotion of new enterprises during May, 11,950,000 yen (\$5,957,075) was subscribed for that purpose. The Japan Times states that the figure is a falling off by 9,650,000 yen (\$4,810,525 compared with the preceding month. The extension of old enterprises, however, was carried out more briskly, with the investment of 29,555,000 yen (\$14,733,168) for that purpose. It is considered notable that the extension of old enterprises has been effected mostly by the payment of stock capital rather than by floating loans, in spite of the fact that money has been cheap throughout the month. Of this amount 28,415,000 yen (\$14,164,878) was for the payment of stock capital, and only 1,140,000 yen (\$568,290) for loans. The total figure shows a marked increase by 17,355,000 yen (\$8,651,467) over the preceding month.

The result of promotion for May thus comes up to 41,505,000 yen (\$20,690,243) of which 40,365,060 yen (\$20,121,953) goes for stock capital and 1,140,000 yen (\$568,290) for loans. The aggregate is 7,705,000 yen (\$3,840,943) more than during the preceding month. The various classes were:

Classification.	New enterprises.	Old enterprises.	Total.
Banking .....		\$505, 078	\$505, 078
Spinning .....		5, 957, 075	5, 957, 075
Electricity .....	\$568, 500	249, 250	\$47, 750
Mining .....		498, 500	498, 500
Fisheries .....			
Rails and trams .....		219, 340	219, 340
Manufacturing .....	2, 367, 875	7, 303, 025	9, 670, 900
Shipping .....			
Insurance .....	498, 500		498, 500
Commercial and sundry .....	2, 582, 200		2, 582, 200
	6, 047, 075	14, 733, 168	20, 780, 243

Among the new companies organized during the month are the Nippon Electric Power Co., in Osaka, the Asiatic Flour Mill Co., the Nippon Explosives Manufacturing Co., the Kyushu Brick Tea Co., the Osaka Marine Insurance Co., the Chemulpo Dock Yard Co., and others, while among the concerns extended are the Sakai Cotton Spinning Co., the Toyo Spinning Co., the Kyushu Tanko Kisen Kaisha, the Dai Nippon Sugar Refining Co., the Osaka Iron Works, and several other concerns.

**Position of Japan's Cotton Industry.**

The managing director of the Kanegafuchi Cotton Spinning Co., who is one of the most influential leaders in Japan's cotton trade, spoke on the position of Japan's cotton industry in the world market. He is quoted by the Japan Times as saying that Japanese cotton men always claim that they play a most important part in industrial circles, but that they must not forget their claim is good only as compared with other lines of industry in Japan. It was true, he said, that they worked 2,800,000 spindles in their mills, and consumed 2,500,000 piculs of raw cotton (333,250,000 pounds), valued at 280,000,000 yen (\$114,655,000); that their exports of cotton yarn and the manufactures thereof to China, India, and other countries were

valued at considerably more than 100,000,000 yen (\$49,850,000). But the aggregate represented only 2 per cent of the total number of spindles. Even Russia, which was usually regarded as a junior in the trade, ran 9,000,000 spindles, about three times the aggregate owned by Japan. British India owned twice Japan's number of spindles. Discussing the matter further, he said:

An examination of the over-sea trade reveals similar conditions. The imports of raw cotton represent one-third of the country's whole import trade, and the exports of cotton yarn and the manufactures thereof amount to one-sixth of Japan's entire export trade. Therefore it may safely be said that the line is one of the most important in this country. But in China, which is one of the best buyers of Japanese cotton goods, Japan holds only a small part of the vast trade. Of the whole trade, worth 250,000,000 yen (\$124,625,000), the British hold 100,000,000 yen (\$49,850,000) worth, while the Japanese cotton men secure only 80,000,000 yen (\$39,880,000) worth. In the Indian market, where 400,000,000 yen (\$199,400,000) worth is consumed every year, Japan's share of trade is only 3 per cent of the whole, the best being monopolized by English cotton men. When all these facts are well considered, it is clear that Japan's cotton industry is still in its initial stage, and much more development is possible.

#### **Must Seek Market in China and India.**

If, however, Japanese cotton men are desirous of attaining this development, they must seek their market in China and India. In the latter country Japanese cotton goods are steadily gaining ground, because English goods have been coming in less owing to the war, but it wholly depends on whether Great Britain adopts a protective tariff after the war.

In China it is possible that the trade now built up through the withdrawal of Manchester goods will be retained after the restoration of peace, the only precaution necessary being that the Manchester standard of excellence should be maintained by Japanese manufacturers.

The possible raising of China's import duties is one of the most vital questions to Japanese cotton men who wish to extend their trade in that country. If, however, China is to be induced to adopt a liberal policy instead of increasing import duties, an example must be set by Japan. It is self-contradictory on the part of Japan if this country asks China to abandon its protectionist policy while Japan itself still adheres to protection.

It may be argued that if China increases its duties this may be countered to advantage by Japanese cotton men; they can shift their mills to China, and thus escape the increased burden. But the argument is unsound, as it does not take into account all the advantages derived from skilled labor and other circumstances.

#### **Exports of Machinery to Figure Prominently.**

Officials of the Mitsui Bussan Kaisha are quoted in the Japan Times as saying that the exports of machinery are going to figure very prominently in Japan's trade returns, partly because Japan's machine-making industry has lately achieved a striking development, and partly on account of the influence of the war on Europe's trade activities in the east.

Equipments for underwear factories, which have so far been supplied either by Germany or America, it says, are now being supplied by Japan. Spindles and linters are also sent by Japan to cotton mills in Shanghai and elsewhere. Cotton spindles and looms are exported to South China, British India, and the South Sea Islands. Australasia also is sending inquiries to Japanese machine shops. Accordingly, the market for Japanese machines is wide enough even at present, but the production can not keep pace with the increasing demand.

The Times says that electric apparatus made in Japan is of excellent quality and every country which has bought this line acknowl-

edges its superiority. The exports are accordingly increasing. Lately Newchwang and Hankow have taken Japanese telephone apparatus in large numbers, and are quite satisfied with the goods supplied. China, it says, may develop its industries after the war and then must turn to Japan above all other countries for the supply of necessary machinery.

#### **Sugar Company to Increase Its Capital.**

The Japan Daily Mail says that the Dai Nippon Sugar Refining Co. has decided to increase its capital by 6,000,000 yen (\$2,991,000) to 18,000,000 yen (\$13,478,000) for the purpose of raising the funds required for the realization of a scheme drawn up by its president on the strength of his investigations during a recent tour in China. New shares representing 6,000,000 yen (\$2,991,000) are to be issued to the original shareholders of the company at the rate of one new share to every two old shares, and during the present business term a fourth of the increase in capital stock is to be called up.

It is reported that a big mill for refining either Japanese or Java centrifugal is to be established in China for the purpose of consolidating the company's position in China's sugar market.

#### **MEN OF MILITARY AGE IN UNITED STATES.**

The United States Bureau of the Census has estimated that there are about 21,000,000 men of military age in the United States. It is not possible to make any statement as to the proportion who are able-bodied, but the figures given are based upon an estimate of the total number of male citizens and prospective citizens (foreign-born persons who have declared their intention to become citizens) 18 to 45 years of age, inclusive.

This is based on the assumption that there has been an increase of approximately 10 per cent in the population of the country since the census of 1910. When that census was taken the total number of male citizens and prospective citizens 18 years of age and over but under 46 was 19,183,000. Of this number, 14,224,000 were native whites; 2,857,000 were foreign-born whites who had become naturalized or had declared their intention of doing so, 2,052,000 were negroes, and 50,000 were Indians. The number of foreign-born citizens is partially an estimate, since the census enumerators were able to obtain information as to citizenship from only about seven-eighths of the total number of foreign-born males. Native whites thus represent about 74 per cent of the total, foreign-born whites nearly 15 per cent, negroes nearly 11 per cent, and Indians about three-tenths of 1 per cent.

During the Civil War, when the population of the country, exclusive of the seceding States, was less than one-fourth as great as the present population of the entire United States, the total number of men serving the Federal armies at one time and another was approximately 2,500,000 (due allowance being made for duplicate enlistments; that is, cases in which men enlisted more than once).

The following table gives, by States, the total number of males 18 to 45 years of age enumerated at the census of 1910. The figures include approximately 1,796,000 alien whites and 92,000 Chinese, Japanese, and others, together representing about 9 per cent of the total, who would be ineligible for military service. The Census

Bureau has not compiled the number of these classes of the population, within the given age limits, who were living in each State in 1910. Taking the country as a whole, however, the probable increase in population between 1910 and 1916 will approximately counterbalance the number of alien whites, Chinese, Japanese, etc., included in the figures for 1910, so that these figures may be accepted as roughly representative of the number of male citizens and prospective citizens 18 to 45 years of age, inclusive, in each State and in the United States in 1916.

State.	Number.	State.	Number.	State.	Number.
Maine.....	156,449	Kansas.....	379,730	Texas.....	828,756
New Hampshire.....	93,321				
Vermont.....	76,017	Total for North..	13,094,615	Total for South..	6,006,139
Massachusetts.....	785,581				
Rhode Island.....	129,131	Delaware.....	46,139	Montana.....	126,862
Connecticut.....	266,697	Maryland.....	179,818	Idaho.....	88,839
New York.....	2,223,638	District of Columbia..	80,858	Wyoming.....	55,886
New Jersey.....	617,013	Virginia.....	410,422	Colorado.....	210,637
Pennsylvania.....	1,842,266	West Virginia.....	281,179	New Mexico.....	75,371
Ohio.....	1,107,888	North Carolina.....	401,917	Arizona.....	60,915
Indiana.....	596,682	South Carolina.....	283,490	Utah.....	86,590
Illinois.....	1,369,910	Georgia.....	507,688	Nevada.....	30,489
Michigan.....	634,518	Florida.....	177,152	Washington.....	350,746
Wisconsin.....	512,261	Kentucky.....	469,711	Oregon.....	196,165
Minnesota.....	505,187	Tennessee.....	434,641	California.....	687,822
Iowa.....	489,829	Alabama.....	414,454		
Missouri.....	741,180	Mississippi.....	354,133	Total for West..	1,970,322
North Dakota.....	148,920	Arkansas.....	321,924		
South Dakota.....	143,895	Louisiana.....	347,518	Aggregate for	
Nebraska.....	274,507	Oklahoma.....	366,339	United States..	21,071,076

## PRODUCTION OF COFFEE AND SUGAR IN NETHERLANDS INDIA.

[Consul B. S. Ralrden, Batavia, Java, Apr. 29.]

The production of coffee in Netherlands India in 1915 amounted to 99,903,696 pounds, or 7,182,432 pounds more than in the preceding year, the increases being in the Java and robusta grades.

The following table shows the total production and the yields of private and Government plantations in 1914 and 1915:

Grade	Private.		Government.		Total.	
	1914	1915	1914	1915	1914	1915
	<i>Pounds.</i>	<i>Pounds.</i>	<i>Pounds.</i>	<i>Pounds.</i>	<i>Pounds.</i>	<i>Pounds.</i>
Java.....	13,076,984	30,190,232	5,704,656	1,475,600	23,781,640	31,665,832
Liboria.....	3,873,416	2,083,176	186,112	.....	4,069,528	2,083,176
Robusta.....	55,088,904	65,709,488	1,837,000	435,200	56,925,904	66,144,688
Total.....	77,049,304	97,992,896	7,727,768	1,910,800	92,721,264	99,903,686

Java produced 1,436,818 short tons of sugar in 1915, as against 1,580,092 tons in 1914, and 1,606,417 tons in 1913.

## District Offices of the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce.

New York, Room 409 United States Customhouse; Boston, eighteenth floor United States Customhouse; Chicago, 504 Federal Building; St. Louis, 402 Third National Bank Building; Atlanta, 521 Post Office Building; New Orleans, 1020 Elbernia Bank Building; San Francisco, 306 United States Customhouse; Seattle, 848 Henry Building. Cooperative district offices: Cleveland, Chamber of Commerce; Cincinnati, Chamber of Commerce; Asst. Gen'l Frt. Agt., C. N. O. & T. P. Ry. Co., Cincinnati; Los Angeles, Chamber of Commerce; Detroit, Board of Commerce; Philadelphia, Chamber of Commerce; South American Agent, Southern Ry. Co., Chattanooga, Tenn.

### AMERICAN CONSULAR OFFICERS ON LEAVE OF ABSENCE.

The following American consular officers are on leave of absence in the United States and will be glad to confer with business men and commercial organizations relative to conditions in their respective jurisdictions. The consul's time is available primarily for personal interviews. He has limited facilities for correspondence, and except in urgent cases letters should be directed to the consulate.

Name.	Post.	Expiration of venue.	Address.
Wakefield, E. A. ....	Port Elizabeth, South Africa.	July 8	Department of State, Washington, D.C.
West, George N. ....	Kobe, Japan .....	Aug. 15	Do.
Von Struve, H. C. ....	Curacao, Dutch West Indies.	July 7	4200 Avenue B, Austin, Tex.
Winship, North .....	Petrograd, Russia.....	July 14	Hotel Prince, Arverne, Long Island.
Rasmusen, B. M. ....	Goteborg, Sweden.....	do	Roland, Iowa.
Cooke, A. B. ....	Patras, Greece .....	Aug. 10	121 West Charlotte Street, Norfolk, Va.
Culver, Henry S. ....	St. John, New Brunswick.	July 7	Vineland, N. J.
Hale, F. D. ....	Huddersfield, England .....		Lunenburg, Vt.
Fisher, Fred D. ....	Tientsin, China.....	Aug. 5	Albany, Oreg.
Masterson, William W. ....	Durban, Natal, South Africa.	Sept. 1	Carrollton, Ky.
Seltzer, Harry G. ....	Breslau, Germany.....		Gibraltar, Pa.

### NEW BUSINESS FOR AMERICA.

The District Office of the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce in New York City is in receipt of a letter from one of the large exporting houses in that city expressing appreciation of the service rendered by the District Office, which has resulted in the firm securing valuable foreign trade. The firm states that it has supplied a merchant in Spain with a trial order of soda, valued at about \$15,000. The foreign buyer advises that this will probably result in permanent business in American manufactured soda. The firm states that it has also placed a sample order of logwood extract amounting to about \$1,500, with the understanding that if this sample is satisfactory, monthly orders will result. The firm explains that the service of the District Office has opened up two new lines of business for it.

### REVENUE OF NORWAY'S TRAMP STEAMERS.

[Consul Charles Forman, Bergen, June 3.]

The yearbook for 1915 of the Commercial Exchange of Bergen, just issued, contains statements regarding the net profits of the tramp steamers of Bergen. The figures include dividends to owners, payments on account of debt and additions to capital. The tramp steamers operated by the Bergenske Dampsskibsselskap are not included.

The summary of net earnings for the past six years includes \$1,206,000 in 1910, \$1,929,600 in 1911, \$3,323,200 in 1912, \$4,020,000 in 1913, \$2,680,000 in 1914, and \$12,783,600 in 1915.



**THE USE OF ELECTRICITY IN FRENCH INDO-CHINA.**

[Consul Lawrence P. Briggs, Saigon, May 8.]

Electricity is not extensively employed in French Indo-China either for lighting purposes or for motive power. Only the important cities of Saigon, Cholon, and Pnompenh in the south and Hanoi and Haiphong in the north are adequately provided with electricity. Here and there a small town is partly lighted by a private corporation or by a manufacturing or mining company operating a near-by plant. Important cities like Hue, the capital of Annam (population about 85,000), Namdinh in Tonkin (population about 60,000), and many others of lesser importance are lighted by petroleum.

A few mines and manufacturing plants employ electricity for motive power, and a couple of small mines have hydroelectric plants that furnish part or all the power needed for their operations.

The lighting of the principal cities of French Indo-China is practically intrusted to one company, La Compagnie des Eaux et Electricité de l'Indochine, a joint-stock company with a capital of 5,700,000 francs (\$1,100,000) with headquarters at 3 Rue de Stockholm, Paris. This company operates under its own name the plants that light the cities of Saigon and Cholon in Cochinchina and Pnompenh in Cambodia; and under the name of La Société Indochinoise d'Electricité it furnishes electric power to the cities of Hanoi and Haiphong in Tonkin.

**Importance of Saigon and Other Centers.**

Cochin China is a rich agricultural region. Its chief port, Saigon, claims a population of nearly 10,000, of whom about 5,000 are Europeans, mainly French. It has a larger European population than any other city of Indo-China. Saigon is the chief port of French Indo-China and the greatest French port outside of France.

The neighboring rice-milling suburb of Cholon, with its more than 150,000 native and Chinese inhabitants, is the most populous city as well as the chief industrial center of French Indo-China. The value of the rice that passes through these mills amounts to over \$20,000,000 annually.

There are many smaller cities in Cochin China—of 2,000 to 20,000 inhabitants—wealthy agricultural centers that will some day install small electric lighting plants. Electricity will probably never be extensively used for motive power in Cochin China.

**Electric Installations in Cochin China.**

There are at present two electric installations in Cochin China—one at Choquan, midway between Saigon and Cholon, for the lighting of these two cities and the suburban towns of Giadinh and Govap; and the other at Mytho.

The motive power of the Choquan plant is furnished by four group turbines, with a total of 5,000 horsepower, as follows:

One group of Brown-Boveri-Parsons turbine engines of 2,000 horsepower at 3,000 revolutions; one group of vertical, triple-expansion, four-cylinder Boulte-Larbodiere turbine engines of 2,000 horsepower at 3,000 revolutions; and two groups of vertical Boulte-Larbodiere two-cylinder compound engines of 500 horsepower each at

330 revolutions. Another turbo-alternator group similar to the first has been ordered from France, but will probably not be shipped until the close of the war.

Electricity for lighting and ventilation is sold to private parties at a price not to exceed 0.65 franc (12.55 cents) per kilowatt hour. The Governments of Indo-China and of Cochin China have obtained special rates of 0.50 franc, except for lighting the palace of the governor general, for which 0.58 franc is paid. Electrical energy is sold to factories and other industries at the following rates per kilowatt hour: 0.44 franc up to 300,000 kilowatt hours per year, 0.43 franc for the next 50,000 kilowatt hours, 0.42 franc for more than 350,000 kilowatt hours.

#### **The Mytho Installation—Other Concessions in Cochin China.**

The electric-light plant at Mytho consists of two groups of gas motors, Charron system, each operating two dynamos. The power of each group is 25 kilowatts, and the plant produces a continuous current of 110 volts. One of these groups operates during the day and furnishes the necessary motive force for the electric fans of the city and for a small ice factory near the station. The two groups work together at night, and the installation of a similar third group is projected.

The price for public lighting, as well as for lighting and ventilating the administrative buildings, is fixed at 0.55 franc per kilowatt hour; but the city guarantees a minimum annual consumption of current amounting to 25,000 francs. The price for private lighting and ventilation can not exceed 0.70 franc per kilowatt hour; that for motive power exclusively is 0.30 franc per kilowatt hour.

Concessions similar to that of Mytho have been granted to J. Labbe for the lighting of Sadee (about 4,000 inhabitants) and of Bentre (about 2,000 inhabitants); but nothing has been done in either case. A similar installation is projected at Vinhlong (about 20,000 inhabitants).

#### **Electric Systems in Pnompenh and Laos Protectorates.**

Cambodia and Laos are commercially tributary to Saigon. The only electric installation of importance in these protectorates is at Pnompenh; although small installations exist at Battambang, Kompong-Cham, and Kratie in Cambodia, and Ventiane in Laos.

Pnompenh has had electric lights since 1898. The present contract is held by La Compagnie des Eaux et Electricité de l'Indochine. The plant consists of four alternators run by Farcot steam motors having a capacity of 50, 50, 100, and 150 kilowatts, respectively, and a 265-kilowatt alternator operated by a petroleum motor. This gives a total motive force of 615 kilowatts, which generates a biphasic current of 4,000 to 4,500 volts with a frequency of 50.

The Battambang plant consists of two groups of dynamos of 42 kilowatts (220 volts) each, one operated by a 120-horsepower Farcot steam engine, the other by a 35-horsepower Faulstich steam engine. The current is distributed by overhead and subterranean wires. The circuit includes over 200 incandescent lamps for lighting public buildings and about 800 private lamps.

The city of Kompong-Cham maintains its own lighting system, but does not sell current.

The Kratie installation consists of a Thomson-Houston dynamo, operated by a steam engine and generating a current of 85 volts (50 amperes), used to light the 80 or 100 incandescent lamps of the Delegation, or government building.

At Vientaine a small installation, located at l'Ecole professionnelle and maintained by the government, furnishes power for light and ventilation to the school, the administrative buildings and the European residences and for the lighting of the principal streets, as well as power to operate the water pumps, a small ice plant, and a few machine tools used by the school. The motive power is furnished by a 150-horsepower wood-burning steam engine, operating two dynamos of 22 and 28 kilowatts, respectively, and one 20-horsepower motor (120 volts each).

#### **Important Centers in Tonkin.**

Tonkin is the mining and manufacturing center of French Indo-China. The most important cities of Tonkin are Hanoi, Haiphong, and Namdinh.

Hanoi, the capital of Tonkin and of the Union of French Indo-China, claims a population of about 125,000, of which about 2,500 are Europeans. Next to Saigon it is the chief center of European population in French Indo-China. Haiphong has about 45,000 inhabitants, including about 1,500 Europeans. It is the seaport of Tonkin and of Yunnan and is also an important industrial center. With the development of the mineral and other resources of the country, this city is sure to play a more important rôle. Namdinh is a native agricultural and industrial center of some 60,000 inhabitants, located in the lower delta district. It is near the center of the rice fields and is the center of cotton and silk manufacture and the distillation of native rice alcohol. Its location in the flooded district will prevent its ever being an important industrial center.

The contracts for lighting Hanoi and Haiphong are held by La Société Indochinoise d'Electricité, practically the same firm as the Compagnie des Eaux et d'Electricité de l'Indochine.

#### **The Hanoi and Haiphong Installations.**

Hanoi has been lighted by electricity since 1896, but the present contract was granted in 1912. The installation consists of a group of Boulte Larbodiére high-pressure, 600 horsepower steam engines, with a capacity of 450 kilowatts per hour, two Farcot steam engines of 400 horsepower each, operating a Nancy dynamo of 500 volts (400 kilowatt hours), and two groups of two Farcot dynamos, with a capacity of 600 kilowatt hours, making a total generating capacity of 1,000 kilowatt hours. There is also a relief battery of 60 volts (500 amperes) per hour.

The current is continuous and is distributed by underground wires. The circuit includes about 21,000 incandescent lamps of all sizes and about 250 horsepower in motors.

Haiphong was the first city in French Indo-China to be lighted by electricity. The first contract for this purpose was granted to Hermenier and Plante in 1892. Since 1903 the contract has been held by the Société Indochinoise d'Electricité.

The motive power of the present plant is furnished by (a) three groups each composed of a monocylindric Farcot steam engine and a

Farcot dynamo and (b) one group consisting of a Corliss monocylindric steam engine and a Thomson dynamo. The total motive force amounts to about 1,200 horsepower, each of the former having a force of 300-400 horsepower and the latter a force of 175 horsepower.

#### **Other Installations in Tonkin.**

Since 1913 Veyrene et Cie. have held contracts for lighting the cities of Dap-Cau and Laokay. The Dap-Cau installation consists of two 50 horsepower engines operating two dynamos of 35 kilowatts each of 1,000 revolutions per minute, producing a triphase alternating current of 100 amperes (200 volts) with a frequency of 50. Plans are under way for enlarging this plant to furnish light and power to the neighboring cities of Bacninh (8,000) and Phu-Lang-Thiong (3,000). The Laokay installation is similar to the one at Dap-Cau.

Although Namdinh is, next to Hanoi, the most populous center of Tonkin and a native industrial, political, and educational center of great importance, it is as yet unprovided with electric lights. At the beginning of the war plans were under way for the installation of an electric lighting plant, but nothing will probably be done before peace is restored.

Nearly all the factories of Tonkin have their own electric plants for lighting their mills and the houses of their principal employees. Some also employ electricity for motive force. The motive power of the factory of the Société des Ciments Portland Artificiels de l'Indochine at Haiphong, as well as the electricity for lighting the homes of its principal operatives and the little suburb in which the factory is located, is furnished by the company's electric plant. This plant consists of two electroturbine groups of 1,000 and 200 amperes, respectively, and two alternators of 100 amperes each, producing a triphase alternating current of 550 volts at 50 alternations per second, which operates 16 motors of a total capacity of 874 horsepower. The Société Française des Charbonnages du Tonkin has a large electric plant at Hongay to furnish motive force for its briquet factory and sorting sheds and for lighting its sheds, factories, offices, docks, residences of European employees, etc. This company practically lights the village and port of Hongay.

Several other mining companies employ electric power in their crushing or refining plants as well as for drilling. Among these may be mentioned the Société Civil de la Mine de Trang-da at Tuyen-Quang and the Société Minière du Tonkin at Lang-Hit, near Thai-Nguyen. The Société des Etains et Wolfram du Tonkin is now installing a 1,000-horsepower hydroelectric plant at its mine at Nguyen-Binh.

#### **Important Centers in Annam.**

Annam has only one city of any considerable size, Hue, the capital, with a population of about 85,000 natives, but only a few hundred Europeans. It is not a seaport and has no important industries. Tourane, the principal port (population 10,000), has considerable commerce, but no industries. Neither of these towns has electric lights. There are several administrative and industrial centers of 2,000 to 25,000 inhabitants, which will soon consider the installation of electric lighting plants.

Vinh, the chief industrial center of northern Annam (population 8,000) is lighted by a small plant belonging to Guichard Frères. This installation consists of two small dynamos, which furnish a continuous current of 115 volts (96½ amperes). A large installation is under consideration. Vinh is the only town of Annam that has electric lights, although its port, Ben-thuy, three or four miles away, is nearly as well served by the private plant of the sawmill which is located there.

#### Future of Electricity in French Indo-China.

The prospect for electrical development in French Indo-China is good. There are some good-sized cities—Hue and Namdinh—and many smaller ones that are certain before long to put in electric lighting plants. With the development of the country the number is sure to increase.

The use of electric power as a motive force in manufacturing will develop. The native population (nearly 20,000,000) is sufficient to afford a good home market for many manufactures. There is an abundance of rich soil for the production of cotton, silk, oil plants, and other raw materials to supply their needs. Fuel is at hand at a reasonable price. Native hand labor, especially in Tonkin, is cheap and sufficiently skillful. Every requisite for successful manufacture is present—an extensive market, an abundance of raw materials, an abundance of cheap and skillful laborers, and a sufficient supply of good fuel.

#### Purchasing Agents—Importation.

The electrical machinery of La Compagnie des Eaux et d'Electricité is purchased mainly by its Paris office. The same is true of some of the larger manufacturing and mining firms that employ electricity. But the machinery of the smaller lighting and manufacturing firms, the smaller equipment of the larger firms, and the incandescent lamps and other apparatus purchased by the consumer are generally furnished by the local dealers.

The following table gives the value of electrical machinery and supplies imported into the port of Saigon for each of the past five years. The figures for the importation at the other ports of Indo-China are not available, but more than half of the imports come through the port of Saigon:

Articles.	1911	1912	1913	1914	1915
Dynamo-electric machinery.....	\$138,068	\$11,761	\$26,472	96,685	\$10,029
Incandescent lamps.....	74,318	43,184	24,686	85,330	20,033
Electrical apparatus.....	224,475	108,490	143,156	104,070	70,623
Induction coils.....	112,810	9,907	227	245	864
Arc lamps (regulators).....	604	220	.....	636	.....
Storage batteries.....	69	.....	21	.....	4
Electric motors.....	15	.....	.....	.....	.....
Total.....	550,819	173,532	194,562	196,766	102,453

Practically all these articles have come to Indo-China from France, although machinery of British origin is not uncommon.

[A list of importers of electrical goods in French Indo-China can be obtained at the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce or its district offices. Refer to file No. 77146.]

## FOREIGN TRADE OPPORTUNITIES.

Reserved addresses may be obtained from the Bureau and its district offices. Request for each opportunity should be on a separate sheet and state opportunity number. The Bureau does not furnish credit ratings or assume responsibility as to the standing of foreign inquirers; the usual precautions should be taken in all cases.

*Leather, dry goods, etc.*, No. 21709.—Supplementing foreign-trade opportunity No. 21117, published in COMMERCE REPORTS of May 9, 1916, a commercial agent of the Bureau reports the arrival in the United States of a business man from Chile who desires to represent, on a commission basis, firms dealing in shoe leather; cotton and woolen dry goods; cotton yarns; hosiery; and underwear. References are furnished.

*Cotton goods*, No. 21710.—A firm in the United States has transmitted the name and address of a manufacturers' agent in Greece who desires to be placed in touch with American manufacturers and exporters of cotton prints similar to a sample which may be inspected at the Bureau or its district offices. (Refer to Miscel. No. 135.) Correspondence should be in French.

*Kapok*, No. 21711.—An American consular officer in Portugal reports that an American firm in his district desires to receive quotations, c. i. f. port of destination, on kapok. Samples should be sent. Kapok should be free from seeds and carded, packed in nattes. Kapok in bales is not desired. Samples of the kapok submitted by the firm may be inspected at the Bureau or its district offices. (Refer to file No. 77673.)

*Agency*, No. 21712.—A man in Canada writes the Bureau requesting it to place him in touch with American manufacturers and exporters who desire a representative in Ontario. No particular line is specified.

*Household requisites*, No. 21713.—A firm in France informs an American consular officer of its desire to represent American manufacturers of household requisites, such as brass and nickel-plated coffee and tea sets, brassware, wire and tinware, small churns, coffee mills, meat choppers, electric irons, and enameled ware, etc. The firm states that it buys goods on its own account for cash and sells through its own agents and travelers. References are given.

*Wire for needles*, No. 21714.—The representative of a needle factory in Russia asks an American consular officer to place him in touch with manufacturers of wire for making needles. Correspondence should be in Russian or French.

*Electrical and plumbers' supplies*, No. 21715.—An American consular officer in Spain reports that a manufacturer of electric materials and sanitary articles is in the market for electrical apparatus, bell fixtures, and plumbers' supplies. References are given. Correspondence may be in English.

*Steam trawler*, No. 21716.—A steam trawler for fishing is wanted as soon as possible by a firm in Norway, according to a recent report from an American consular officer in that country. Agent expects to come to the United States to make purchase, but firm would first like to establish connections. Replies in English are desired as soon as possible. Reference is given.

*Bottles, etc.*, No. 21717.—An American consular officer in Argentina writes that a firm in his district is in the market for bottles of various sizes and styles for beer, liquors, and soft drinks, as well as metal caps and straw covers for same. Correspondence should be in Spanish, and prices should be quoted c. i. f. port of destination, or f. o. b. New York. References are given.

*Dress goods*, No. 21718.—An American consular officer in the Netherlands reports that a commission agent in that country wishes to represent American manufacturers of women's dress goods, such as gabardine, poplin, serge, etc. Correspondence may be in English.

*Machinery*, No. 21719.—A man in China informs an American consular officer that he is in the market for additional cotton-spinning machinery, and that he is particularly interested in cotton-spinning machinery parts. The consular officer further states that the man is also interested in machinery of various kinds.

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No. 157

Washington, D. C., Thursday, July 6

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## EXTENSION OF BRITISH CONTRABAND LIST.

[Telegram received from American Consul General, London, June 29.]

The following articles will be treated as absolute contraband in addition to those named in earlier proclamations: Electric appliances adapted for use in war and their component parts; bitumen, pitch, and tar; sensitized photographic films, plates, and paper; feldspar; goldbeater's skin; talc; bamboo.

[The most recent announcement in regard to contraband appeared in *COMMERCE REPORTS* for Apr. 24, 1916.]

## WINE-CROP PROSPECTS OF THE GIRONDE DISTRICT.

[Vice Consul Frank C. Lee, Bordeaux, France, June 12.]

The wine crop of 1916 in the Gironde district of France promises to greatly exceed that of 1915, notwithstanding abnormal labor conditions. The weather has been favorable and the increase is largely due to this fact. In some districts hail has destroyed parts of vineyards, but so far the loss has been inconsiderable.

Wine which before the war sold for from 425 to 450 francs (\$82 to \$86.85) per tonneau (4 barrels of 225 liters each) is now selling for 750 to 800 francs per tonneau. For the same amount of wine (900 liters, or 237 gallons), not barreled, the former price was 350 francs; the price is now from 625 to 650 francs. These prices are paid for the ordinary wines, of which there is considerable scarcity at present because of the increase in the demand for military purposes.

### Lack of Wine Barrels.

With the prospects of a large wine production has come the serious question of how to dispose of the wine, because of the present lack of wine barrels. It is almost impossible to obtain any barrels, and where formerly those of 225 liters (59 gallons) capacity cost 17 francs each, the present price is from 25 to 30 francs each, depending on the age and condition of the barrels.

Recently an investigation of the matter was carried on by the Consulting Committee on Economic Movements of the Eighteenth

Region, in connection with the Federation of the Wine Commerce of the Gironde, after which the following letter was sent to each of the Ministers of Affairs, Agriculture, Finance, Public Works, and War:

We have the honor to call your attention to the present situation concerning the next wine crop, of as much import to the growers as to the merchants, caused by the lack of barrels. The lack of the barrels is such and the price of new barrels is so high that we are afraid that we will not be able to place even a small amount of the crop. The disaster would be irreparable if the efforts of the wine growers would become futile because of the lack of barrels. If it is not possible to put at our disposition new staves, hoop iron, and an increase of hand labor the tendency would be to deaden our once lively industry.

It seems that many of the barrels are being kept in the war zone or detained in certain other centers of France. Would it not be possible to return them immediately to this center, where they could be sold? Is it urgent that immediate measures should be taken, as it will take a long time to supply the demand because of the present conditions, and the wine crop is something that can not wait.

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### **JAPANESE FIRM BUYS TSINGTAU BREWERY.**

[Consul General George H. Seidmore, Yokohama, June 4.]

The Dai Nippon Brewery Co. has purchased the plant of the Tsingtau Brewery Co. The Japan Advertiser states that by this transaction the former company has eliminated strong competition in the Chinese market. The capacity of the Tsingtau Brewery Co. is between 30,000 and 40,000 koku (1,429,728 and 1,906,304 United States gallons) a year, and hitherto it has offered strong competition with Japanese beer in North China and Chosen. It is reported that since the outbreak of war, the increase in the demand for Japanese beer for export has been remarkable. The Dai Nippon Brewery Co. alone has already exported this year about 80,000 cases to China, 30,000 to Chosen, 20,000 to Rangoon, 25,000 to Calcutta, 60,000 to Bombay, 20,000 to Singapore, and 20,000 to Java, or more than 250,000 cases in all in the five months. The figures this year are treble those in the corresponding period of last year, and are more than eight times larger than the amount in the corresponding period the year before last. It is also remarkable to note that quite recently the Dai Nippon Brewery Co. has received an order from Egypt for 10,000 cases.

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### **CHILEAN-BOLIVIAN OIL SYNDICATE.**

A syndicate known as the "Sindicato Petrolífero del Oriente Boliviano" has been formed by Chilean capitalists to exploit an area of 545,000 hectares (1,345,150 acres) of oil-bearing lands in eastern Bolivia. To carry on the work of exploitation as planned, subscriptions for approximately \$10,000,000 are to be raised, chiefly from the nitrate producers in the north of Chile who are desirous of securing an independent and economical source of fuel. A railway is to be constructed from the oil fields in Cordillera. Department of Santa Cruz, to Potosí, or a pipe line will be laid, to transport the oil for the use of the mining plants and the railways in Bolivia, and for the nitrate plants, the factories, and steamers of Chile. The manager of the new company, Mr. Luis Lavadenz, stated in an interview for the West Coast Leader that a party of engineers would begin work at the Cordillera property on May 30.



## PRICES OF RAGS AND TEXTILE WASTE IN GERMANY.

[Consul Milo A. Jewett, Kehl, May 23.]

In June, 1915, the stocks of rags in Germany were sequestered and they could not be used for textile industries or other manufactures except by permission of the Government. Two societies—called the War Wool Supply Co. (Kriegs-Woll-bedarf-Aktiengesellschaft) and the Company for the Utilization of Textile Waste (Aktiengesellschaft zur Verwertung von Stoffabfällen—were formed under the Government for the purchase and utilization of rags. The Government has fixed the maximum prices that may be paid by these two organizations for rags and textile waste. These prices as published in the Strassburger Correspondence (official) on May 16, 1916, are arranged in 20 classes, with subdivisions, the highest and the lowest price in each class and subdivision being:

Classes and subdivisions.	Price per pound.	Classes and subdivisions.	Price per pound.
A. (a) Old woolen knit rags: White and natural zephyrs and tricots.....	\$0.52	H. (a) Old woolen uniform cloth rags: Field-gray and gray.....	\$0.11
Colored, coarse.....	.18	Black.....	.03
(b) Old part-wool knit rags: White and natural zephyrs and tricots.....	.19	(b) New uniform woolen cloth rags: Field-gray cuttings and waste.....	.26
Colored, vests, sweaters.....	.05	Black and mixed colors.....	.13
(c) New woolen knit woven waste: White zephyrs, worsteds, and tricots.....	.94	J. (a) Old part-wool cloth rags: Separated cloth, worsted and pilot cloth.....	.034
Sweater waste.....	.65	Unseparated cloth rags.....	.02
(d) New part-wool knit and woven waste: Standard colored tricots.....	.38	(b) New part-wool cloth rags: Gray and field-gray cuttings	.11
Sweater waste.....	.16	Cloth and dress goods cuttings and waste.....	.06
B. (a) Old woolen tibet rags: White muslin.....	.54	K. (a) Old part-wool dress goods rags: Sorted white alpaca and sateen.....	.13
Colored, except muslins.....	.18	Unsorted cloth rags.....	.02
(b) New woolen Tibet rags: Muslin cuttings.....	.76	(b) New part wool dress goods rags and waste: White alpaca cuttings.....	.10
Tibet and soft wool seams.....	.04	Colored alpaca, luster, half-tibet.....	.06
C. (a) Old woolen flannel, llama, and soft wool rags: Original white.....	.30	L. All unsorted woolen and part-wool rags.....	.11
Original colored.....	.11	M. Old cotton rags: Old wadding.....	.13
(b) New woolen flannel, llama, and soft wool rags: Original white.....	.54	Calico, blue.....	.02
Original colored.....	.16	N. New cotton rags and cuttings: White bleached cuttings.....	.11
D. (a) Old woolen blanket, frieze, and felt rags: White blanket and frieze.....	.27	Mull and stiffened gauze.....	.025
Old felt hats.....	.008	O. New cotton woven and knitted waste: Coarse-grade knitted cuttings.....	.38
(b) New woolen blanket, frieze, and felt rags: Blanket and frieze cuttings.....	.43	Mixed glove cuttings.....	.03
Coarse felt cuttings and waste.....	.02	P. Cleaning rags: Old white linen.....	.10
(c) Old part-wool blanket, frieze, and felt rags: White.....	.11	Old part-wool.....	.025
Colored.....	.04	Q. Old and new linen rags: New white.....	.10
(d) New part-wool blanket, frieze, and felt rags: White.....	.21	Old, second-quality, gray.....	.023
Colored.....	.06	R. Ramie cuttings: New knitted.....	.13
E. Old, unsorted, all qualities rags containing not more than 5 per cent part-wool.....	.06	New woven.....	.048
F. New, sorted woolen cloth, worsteds and chevots: New worsteds and chevots.....	.28	S. Old and new silk rags: New silk and half-silk knitted waste.....	.13
New woolen cloth without worsted.....	.12	Old silk and half-silk rags.....	.03
G. New woolen cloth rags, sorted: Dress goods and flannel (carded yarns).....	.21	T. Rope, tow, etc.: Old and new sail cloth, rope, twine, etc.....	.24
Colored chevot and pilot cloth.....	.13	Nets.....	.027
		U. Old and new jute rags: New, light, soft cutting.....	.084
		Old jute rags and scrub cloths.....	.015

## TRADE STATISTICS FOR ANTUNG.

[Consul John K. Davis, Antung, Manchuria.]

The following are preliminary statistics of the principal net imports into Antung from foreign countries and Chinese ports through the Maritime Customs during the first three months of 1915 and 1916:

Articles.	Jan.-Mar. 1915.	Jan.-Mar. 1916.	Articles.	Jan.-Mar. 1915.	Jan.-Mar. 1916.
<b>FOREIGN COTTON GOODS.</b>			<b>FOREIGN SUNDRIES.</b>		
Shirts:			Bags of all kinds.....pieces..	1,139,296	820,935
Gray, plain, Japanese.....pieces..	9,000	5,915	Beans and peas.....pounds..	53,066	3,783
White.....do.....	2,611	4,661	Bicho de Mar.....pounds..	30,666	29,333
Sheetings, gray, plain, Japanese.....pieces..	951,731	132,220	Braid, cotton.....value..	\$5,716	\$14,722
Drills, Japanese.....do.....	64,428	30,039	Candles.....pounds..	3,866	2,400
Jeans, Japanese.....do.....	73,110	39,950	Cereals:		
T-cloths, Japanese.....do.....	250	1,506	Maize.....pounds..	329,866	248,133
Cambrics, lawns, and muslins, white, dyed, and printed.....pieces..	230	298	Rice.....do.....	3,380,933	6,715,466
Chintzes and plain cotton prints.....pieces..		274	Charcoal.....do.....	65,200	58,000
Turkey-red cottons and dyed T-cloths.....pieces..	1,097	1,344	China ware, coarse and fine.....value..	\$656	\$1,786
Dyed drills and sheetings.....pieces..	7,247	4,321	Cigarettes.....mille..	534	17,628
Poplins, figured.....do.....	686	1,309	Fish:		
Cotton dannel, plain, dyed, and printed, Japanese.....pieces..	780	336	Dried and salt.....pounds..	221,466	223,000
Fancy woven cottons.....yards..	386,623	895,904	Fresh.....do.....	278,400	116,133
Japanese cotton crape.....do.....	37,060	130,506	Cotton underwear, Japanese.....dozens..	6,126	47,415
Japanese cotton cloth.....do.....	305,454	10,035,341	Fruits, fresh.....pounds..	320,400	622,533
Cotton blankets, Japanese.....pieces..	12,842	12,880	Hair, pig.....do.....	109,066	32,133
Handkerchiefs, Japanese.....dozens..	2,525	3,934	Hides, buffalo and cow.....do.....	50,266	169,866
Towels:			Hosiery.....dozens..	16,594	15,409
Japanese.....dozens..	1,075	600	Matches.....gross..	8,883	3,121
Other kinds.....do.....	47,616	48,045	Medicines.....value..	\$24,059	\$11,570
Cotton yarn, Japanese.....pounds..	2,234,533	1,922,400	Milk, condensed, in tins.....dozens..	616	470
Cotton thread in balls.....pounds..	9,000	5,066	Oil:		
Cotton thread on spools.....gross..	368	4,306	Engine, American gallons..	2,174	1,720
<b>WOOLEN GOODS.</b>			Kerosene, Japanese.....do.....		20,540
Cloth, broad, medium, habit, and Russian.....yards..	523	30	Paper.....pounds..	107,609	83,333
Woolen and worsted yarn and cord.....pounds..	2,133	400	Seaweed.....do.....	16,800	20,400
<b>MISCELLANEOUS PIECE GOODS.</b>			Skins (furs), unclassified, pieces..	32,518	55,317
Silk piece goods.....pounds..		18,400	Soap:		
Silk piece goods, mixtures.....pounds..	147,600	107,733	Bar.....pounds..	2,933	1,333
<b>FOREIGN METALS.</b>			Toilet.....dozens..	29,799	28,334
Iron and mild steel, old.....pounds..	52,800	3,733	Soy.....pounds..	88,000	63,866
Iron and steel manufactures.....pounds..	52,133	7,600	Sugar:		
			Brown.....do.....		26,666
			White.....do.....	258,400	145,000
			Candy.....do.....	25,866	14,800
			Timber:		
			Hardwood.....cubic feet..		306
			Beams, poles, and piles, softwood, square feet..	34,419	103,620
			Planks, softwood.....do.....	6,942	3,063
			Tobacco.....pounds..	249,333	66,666
			Umbrellas, cotton.....pieces..	4,848	800
			Wines, beer, spirits, etc.:		
			Saké, in barrels.....pounds..	166,666	203,466
			Beer and porter, in bottles.....dozens..		2,316
			Spirits of wine.....gallons..		3,170

## Exports Through the Maritime Customs.

The principal exports of Chinese produce, with their amounts, excluding reexports, to foreign countries and Chinese ports through the Antung maritime customs during the first quarter of 1915 and 1916 follow:

Articles.	Jan.-Mar., 1915.	Jan.-Mar., 1916.	Articles.	Jan.-Mar., 1915.	Jan.-Mar., 1916.
Bean cake.....pounds..	2,997,333	2,382,133	Silk—Continued.		
Beans.....do.....	4,690,133	1,305,066	Waste.....pounds..	266	10,266
Bones, animal.....do.....		124,933	Pongee.....do.....	3,066	1,733
Bricks and tiles.....pieces		20,000	Silk worms, dried,		
Cereals:			.....pounds.....		37,466
Maize.....pounds.....	118,800	400	Timber:		
Millet.....do.....	4,490,000	60,000	Beams, softwood,		
Coal.....tons.....	30,936	47,364	.....pieces.....	5,158	14,768
Iron pans.....pounds.....	9,066	7,600	Planks, softwood,		
Iron, manufactures of,			.....sq. ft.....	601,637	625,611
n. & s.....pounds.....	28,000	92,133	Poles, softwood,		
Oil, bean.....do.....	20,933	60,809	.....pieces.....	6,726	10,798
Samahu.....do.....	77,866	36,133	Tobacco, leaf and stalk,		
Seeds, sesamum.....do.....	50,400	148,266	.....pounds.....	2,133	.....
Silk:			Vermicelli and macaroni,		
Raw, wild, not flature.....pounds..	164,666	211,200	.....pounds.....	3,866	3,600
Cocoons, wild.....do.....	133	148,533	Yeast.....value..	\$1,821	\$2,152

The dues and duties collected by the maritime customs during the first three months of 1916 amounted to \$63,546 United States currency, against \$60,879 for the corresponding period in 1915. The import duties under foreign flags during the 1916 period amounted to \$54,234, and the export duties \$7,870.

#### GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS FOR SALE.

The following were among the publications received in stock for sale by the Superintendent of Documents at Washington during the week ended July 1, 1916:

*An Inter-Laboratory Photometric Comparison of Glass Screens and of Tungsten Lamps, Involving Volor Tests* (Standards Bureau Scientific Paper 277).—Gives results of cooperative experiments conducted as a result of an agreement between the International Physical Laboratory of England and the United States Bureau of Standards. Price, 10 cents.

*Further Experiments on Volatilization of Platinum* (Standards Bureau Scientific Paper 280).—Investigations, consisting of a series of observations on the change in weight of various platinum crucibles when subjected to heating tests. Price, 5 cents.

*Strength and Other Properties of Concretes as Affected by Materials and Methods of Preparation* (Standards Bureau Technologic Paper 58).—Tabulated and descriptive text, detailing the scope and results of tests of mortars and concretes by physicists of the Bureau of Standards. Price, 35 cents.

*Manufacture of Nitrate from the Atmosphere* (from Smithsonian Report, 1913).—Scientific and practical discussion of processes for electric fixation of nitrogen, of particular interest to ammunition and fertilizer manufacturers. Price, 10 cents.

*Production of Sulphuric Acid and a Proposed New Method of Manufacture* (Agriculture Department Bulletin 283).—Gives in a classified and tabulated form all American patents for the manufacture of sulphuric acid, and outlines new processes and apparatus which is predicted will be economically successful. Price, 10 cents.

**MARKET FOR STAVES IN FRANCE.**

[Consul General A. M. Thackara, Paris, June 9.]

If the 1916 wine crop reaches normal proportions, there appears to be every prospect of a crisis arising owing to the shortage of barrels in which to store the new wine. The American consul general at Marseille reports that stocks of staves in hand amount to 1,500 or 2,000 tons, but that if a normal wine crop is obtained, the quantity of staves required in the Marseille and Cette districts alone will be in the neighborhood of 20,000 tons. Unless it be possible to obtain a portion of these from Russia—which seems highly problematic—they will have to be bought in their entirety from the United States.

Reports from the American consul at Bordeaux likewise indicate a great scarcity of staves, and buyers are said to be willing to purchase from 500,000 to 600,000 at least 1 meter (39.37 inches) in length. The prices at which white oak staves could be sold at Bordeaux are said to be from 100 to 120 francs<sup>1</sup> per 101 staves, c. i. f. Bordeaux, with 3 per cent discount.

It is stated that if white oak staves are not available in sufficient quantities, Bordeaux buyers will purchase those made of chestnut.

Further inquiries tend to show a large demand for the whole barrel (knocked down), provided ocean freight rates and insurance can be obtained at sufficiently low terms.

**Demand for Old Barrels—Iron Hoops.**

According to a prominent Paris wholesale wine dealer, in the event of a satisfactory wine crop the present price of barrels in the wine districts of 25 francs may easily rise to 30 francs and over. The situation will be partly met by the use of old barrels, but the supply of these will be quite inadequate, as is shown by the sharp rise in their prices. Old barrels a year ago were worth about 10 francs each, whereas to-day they are selling freely at 18 francs.

The Wine Merchants' Federation of the Gironde (Bordeaux) district has recently taken up the question of the shortage of barrels with the Ministries interested, and has asked that, if it proves impossible to assist the manufacture of barrels by the provision of staves and hoops, "of which there is a great shortage," the Ministries do everything possible to place the stocks of old barrels at the disposal of the wine growers.

It is also reported that a good demand exists for iron hoops, which before the war sold for 20 to 23 francs per 100 kilos (220.46 pounds), but the price for which at the present time ranges from 70 to 75 francs delivered Bordeaux.

**RESULTS OF FOREIGN TRADE OPPORTUNITIES.**

A machine company in New York State writes the District Office of the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce in New York City that it has secured an order for cigarette-making machines for Tunis; and that the address of the firm for which the machines are being made was obtained from the Foreign Trade Opportunity Column of COMMERCE REPORTS.

<sup>1</sup> In this report French currency has not been converted to United States money owing to the high and constantly varying rate of exchange. At the time of writing the dollar is worth 5.91 francs, as compared with 5.20 francs in times of peace. American exporters before quoting should carefully consult the exchange rates prevailing at the time of their offer, especially if they quote in francs.

**MARKET FOR LUMBER IN CUBA.**

[Weekly Bulletin of the Canadian Department of Trade and Commerce, Ottawa, June 12; from article forwarded by J. C. Manser, special representative of the New Brunswick Government in Habana.]

Cuba imports annually about 600,000,000 feet of lumber. This consists, for the most part, of pine, spruce, and fir, and is imported in the form of inch boards, running from 6 to 12 inches in width; planks 2 and 3 inches thick and of various widths, and deals sawn to various dimensions to conform to orders received.

The greater part of this lumber comes from the United States, principally from the Gulf of Mexico ports, but Canada supplies a large quantity. A large part of this lumber is brought on schooners, but since the ferry service between Cuba and Key West has been in operation, considerable lumber from Florida and Georgia is shipped by rail. This lumber, on arrival in Cuba, is taken direct from the docks to the mills, where it is planed and made ready for building purposes. It is then shipped to all parts of the island.

The increasing prosperity of the island has largely increased the demand for lumber of all kinds, but lack of vessels has prevented the necessary supply from being obtained, and consequently has curtailed building operations.

The laborers in the cane fields, now that they are getting more pay for their work, are not content to live in houses of palm leaves, but are constructing more comfortable wooden houses. The clerks in the business houses, many of whom have been living in small, poorly ventilated rooms in the crowded parts of Habana, are now getting building lots outside the city and constructing houses, mostly of wood, where their families can enjoy the fresh air and sunshine. The business men also are building residences in the suburbs, mostly of brick or concrete, but even these require large quantities of lumber for doors, windows, staging, molds for concrete, etc. Spruce, pine, fir, hemlock, and cedar would be suitable for all building purposes in Cuba.

Besides this class of lumber, Cuba imports quantities of shingles, thousands of crates for fruit, shooks for packing cases, stave heads and hoops for making barrels, and large quantities of broom handles. Pine, spruce, and fir would be suitable for making fruit crates and packing cases. These are imported cut in exact lengths ready to be nailed together and are tied in bundles. Birch, maple, and ash would be suitable for barrel heads, staves, and hoops. These arrive tied in bundles, and when put together are used for packing beer. Yellow birch and maple make the best broom handles.

**SPANISH DRILS POPULAR IN HONDURAS.**

[Consul Walter F. Boyle, Puerto Cortes, June 20.]

There is a considerable sale of striped Spanish drils in the Puerto Cortes district, the same being popularly supposed to be made of linen. Merchants claim that it is impossible to secure American goods of a similar class. A sample of the most popular variety is forwarded herewith, the price of which in Barcelona is 0.975 peseta per meter (equivalent to 17.2 cents a yard). The fabric is 29½ inches wide.

[The sample may be seen, upon request, at the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce or its district offices. Ask for file No. 77876.]

## PRICES OF DRUGS IN GERMANY.

[Consul Milo A. Jewett, Kehl, May 24.]

The German trade journal Der Drogenhändler recently published a comparative list of average wholesale prices of drugs at different dates. In the following table are the prices on January 1, 1914, 1915, and 1916, as given in the publication referred to, and some prices on May 15, 1916, as quoted to me by a local druggist:

Articles.	Price per pound.			
	Jan. 1, 1914.	Jan. 1, 1915.	Jan. 1, 1916.	May 15, 1916.
Acetone, pure	\$0.18	\$0.22	\$0.32	
Acids:				
Acetic, 80%	.09	.16	.16	\$1.26
Boric, pure, cryst	.06	.26	.26	.88
Carbolic, crude, 20/25%	.015	.018	.024	
Citric, cryst	.45	.62	1.50	
Hydrochloric, crude	.007	.009	.016	
Oxalic, crude, cryst	.06	.08	.09	.13
Sulphuric, crude, 60°	.010	.013	.018	
Tartaric, cryst	.27	.33	.81	1.00
Agar-agar, extra fine, white	.41	.51	1.08	1.60
Alum, crude, pulv	.018	.02	.03	.04
Ammonium:				
Carbonate	.08	.10	.25	
Chlorate, pure, cryst	.05	.06	.08	
Starch, rice	.05	.09	.14	.25
Benzine, 0.720/40	.04	.17	.27	
Borax, refined, pulverized	.04	.05	.18	.04
Calcium carbide	.03	.03	.04	
Camphor, refined	.39	.91	1.02	1.94
Irish moss, natural	.04	.06	.14	.30
Wax, yellow	.35	.38	.43	
Lead carbonate:				
Pure	.07	.08	.09	
In oil	.08	.09	.12	
Resin, red	.03	.08	.30	.38
Cascara sagrada, cortex	.06	.15	.24	
Bark:				
Soap (quilla)	.08	.17	.16	.26
Condurango	.09	.11	.15	
Dextrine, 1a, yellow	.03	.05	.07	.11
Senna leaves, medium	.07	.16	.38	
Aniseed (steilhat)	.22	.36	.41	
Glycerin, pure, 28	.18	.33	.31	.48
Gum arabic, Cordofan, naturel	.08	.15	.24	.33
Potassium:				
Chloride	.09	.16	.69	
Bichromate, red	.07	.09	.21	
Nitrate, refined	.05	.09	.40	
Permanganate, cryst	.09	.11	.13	
Lac, orange	.21	.28	.36	.48
Aqua ammonia, caustic, 0.910	.03	.03	.04	
Lycopodium, refined	.37	.53	.91	
Sodium hyposulphite, refined	.01	.02	.04	
Burgundy pitch	.03	.11	.15	
Oil:				
Peanut	.11	.18	.49	
Fennel	1.70	2.59	2.70	5.40
Cod liver, white	.11	.14	.49	
Linseed, refined	.05	.12	.45	
Olive, fine	.19	.22	.48	
Poppy	.12	.18	.45	
Pine, German	.05	.12	.25	
Rape, refined	.07	.17	.41	
Castor, refined	.08	.35	.69	
Sesame	.11	.17	.48	
Turpentine, American	.07	.20	.39	.48
Vaseline, yellow	.03	.15	.21	.27
Vaseline, white	.05	.18	.26	.43
Paraffin, white, tablets	.06	.11	.27	.40
Pepper:				
White, "Muntok"	.23	.34	.48	.88
Black, "Singapore"	.16	.23	.37	.80
Tamarind pulp, Calcutta	.04	.09	.18	
Lead acetate	.06	.09	.13	

Articles.	Price per pound.			
	Jan. 1, 1914.	Jan. 1, 1915.	Jan. 1, 1916.	May 15, 1916.
<b>Root:</b>				
Gentian.....	\$0.06	\$0.12	\$0.19	.....
Licorice.....	.07	.10	.12	.....
Soap, white.....	.09	.12	.18	.....
Valerian.....	.18	.17	.18	.....
Ginger.....	.12	.15	.17	.....
Milk sugar, white.....	.14	.15	.17	\$0.26
<b>Seed:</b>				
Canary, Holland.....	.05	.06	.09	.....
Fennel, Greek.....	.02	.04	.08	.....
Linseed.....	.03	.09	.18	.....
Poppy.....	.05	.11	.17	.....
Cevadilla.....	.11	.17	.25	.....
Mustard, Holland.....	.07	.10	.21	.....
Sassafras, white, tablets.....	.11	.18	.32	.....
Storax, liquid, crude.....	.13	.38	.59	.....
Cream of tartar, purified, 90 per cent.....	.19	.27	.52	.86
Turpentine, French.....	.06	.13	.18	.33
Thymol, cryst.....	1.62	4.50	8.64	.....
Tragacanth gum, light.....	.46	.56	.86	.....
<b>Unguent:</b>				
Acid boric.....	.14	.27	.34	.48
Paraffini agit.....	.14	.22	.31	.45
Vanillin, pure, 100 per cent.....	3.78	6.26	10.80	.....
Vaseline, yellow, viscous.....	.12	.23	.56	.....

### CIVIC WELFARE WORK IN ST. ETIENNE.

[Vice Consul Davis B. Lewis, St. Etienne, France, June 5.]

Cooperating with the labor unions in order to reduce the cost of living for its members the municipality of St. Etienne has placed at the disposal of the Exchange of Labor (Bourse du Travail) a building in which the unions have installed a depot to dispense food products to their members as nearly at wholesale cost as possible. A saving of at least 15 per cent has been effected. This action is entirely apart from any idea of cooperative stores, of which there are many in this district operated by the employees of various large enterprises.

City and departmental officials have also recently been in conference with large employers of labor and union officials regarding the comfortable and sanitary housing of workmen and the hygienic lodging of the great influx of workers brought to this city by the extension and increase of its manufacturing institutions. Plans pertaining to this project that were about to become operative at the beginning of the war, having been held in abeyance, will now likely be carried out. These measures are not necessarily the result of present unusual conditions, but are cited as illustrating the regard for the welfare of industrial workers by the civic authorities.

Salaries paid by the manufacturing establishments of Wisconsin increased 46 per cent in total amount between 1909 and 1914, according to a statement issued by the United States Bureau of the Census. Salaries and wages together increased 25.2 per cent. The capital invested in manufactures in 1914 was \$754,287,000, compared with \$605,657,000 in 1909.

**FREIGHT TRAFFIC ON CANADIAN BORDER.**

[Consul Frank C. Denison, Prescott, Ontario, June 8.]

During the month of May, 1916, the Canadian Pacific Railway delivered through the port of Prescott, via the Prescott and Ogdensburg Ferry, to the New York Central & Hudson River Railway, for transmission to various United States points, 1,235 loaded cars and 447 empties, a total of 1,682 cars. Among the products carried were Chinese dyes, crude rubber, pelts, and 13 carloads of raw silk. There were received from the New York Central Railway during the same period 754 loaded and 555 empty cars, totaling 1,309, and making a grand total for the month of 2,991 cars handled both ways.

During the corresponding period in 1915 there were delivered to the New York Central Railway 621 loaded and 478 empty cars, a total of 1,099. There were received by the Canadian Pacific Railway, from the New York Central Railway, 659 loaded and 701 empty cars, a total both ways of 2,459.

During 1915 there were delivered by the Canadian Pacific Railway to the New York Central Railway 9,191 loaded and 4,684 empty cars, and 6,012 loaded and 8,669 empty cars were received by the Canadian Pacific Railway, a total of 28,556 cars handled both ways during the year. During the same period 38,103 boxes of cheese were received from the New York Central Railway for transportation from the United States. During 1915 there was received at this port, by barge from the United States, 250,485 tons of bituminous coal.

The Grand Trunk Railway does not have direct connection at this point with American railways.

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**DISTRIBUTION OF AMERICAN COMMERCE.**

Examples of the changes in international trade that have been brought about by the war are presented in a special compilation of the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, which shows the distribution of American commerce by national domains. British territory is far in the lead, both as the source of our imports and as the market for our exports, having supplied more than one-third of the former and having taken nearly one-half of the latter in the calendar year 1915.

Imports from the United Kingdom and her colonies increased from \$572,000,000 in 1913 to \$624,000,000 in 1915, while exports there-to rose from \$1,120,000,000 to \$1,687,000,000. Other sections of the world, as a rule, show decreased imports in the last two years, but gains in exports have been widely distributed. To French territory our exports increased from \$160,000,000 to \$507,000,000, and they formed 14 per cent of the total in 1915, as against 6½ per cent in 1913. There were also large gains in exports to nearly all European countries except Germany, Belgium, and Austria-Hungary. Exports to Germany fell from \$352,000,000 in 1913 to \$12,000,000 last year, and those to Belgium from \$64,000,000 to \$23,000,000.

**Foreign Trade with Various Countries.**

In those cases where foreign nations have colonial possessions, our trade is largely with the home country, except that we have a vast



commerce with British colonies and buy considerable raw material from the Dutch East Indies. Thus we bought from Danish colonies about \$300,000 worth of merchandise in 1915 and sold to them a like sum. French colonies sold to us \$2,400,000 and bought from us \$7,100,000. German colonies show imports into the United States, \$200,000; exports from the United States, \$100,000. In the case of the Portuguese colonies, our imports were \$1,700,000, our exports \$3,200,000; Italian colonies—imports \$100,000, exports \$200,000; Belgian colonies—imports \$100,000, exports \$27,000; Japanese colonies—imports \$300,000, exports \$1,800,000; German colonies—imports \$200,000, exports \$100,000; Dutch colonies—imports \$16,900,000, exports \$7,000,000; and British colonies—imports \$366,000,000, exports \$495,000,000.

The following table shows our trade with national domains during the last three years, the figures including not only the trade with each nation, but also the colonies and dependencies under the jurisdiction of each:

National domains.	Imports from—			Exports to—		
	1915	1914	1913	1915	1914	1913
British.....	\$623,900,000	\$599,400,000	\$572,000,000	\$1,686,800,000	\$1,029,600,000	\$1,119,800,000
French.....	80,400,000	106,200,000	141,100,000	507,000,000	176,600,000	156,800,000
Italian.....	51,700,000	55,300,000	55,400,000	270,900,000	97,900,000	78,700,000
Russian.....	3,200,000	14,700,000	24,800,000	160,500,000	30,100,000	30,800,900
Dutch.....	45,400,000	45,500,000	44,000,000	150,100,000	105,100,000	126,600,000
Cuban.....	197,500,000	146,800,000	125,100,000	95,100,000	67,900,000	73,280,000
Swedish.....	11,400,000	11,700,000	11,900,000	84,800,000	31,000,000	13,600,000
Danish.....	3,000,000	4,300,000	2,700,000	74,300,000	42,800,000	19,500,000
Argentine.....	94,700,000	56,300,000	25,600,000	52,900,000	27,100,000	55,000,000
Japanese.....	108,600,000	106,000,000	99,100,000	47,500,000	43,700,000	65,000,000
Norwegian.....	7,000,000	12,000,000	8,400,000	46,900,000	19,600,000	9,300,000
Spanish.....	18,700,000	22,000,000	24,400,000	45,700,000	27,800,000	30,800,000
Mexican.....	83,600,000	86,300,000	81,700,000	41,100,000	33,200,000	48,100,000
Brazilian.....	120,100,000	95,000,000	100,900,000	34,900,000	23,300,000	36,900,000
Central American Republics.....	21,300,000	18,600,000	18,000,000	36,500,000	36,900,000	40,200,000
Greek.....	5,400,000	4,100,000	3,300,000	27,200,000	8,800,000	1,100,000
Belgian.....	2,600,000	30,400,000	41,500,000	23,200,000	34,800,000	64,300,000
Chinese.....	52,800,000	36,300,000	40,100,000	19,800,000	20,400,000	25,300,000
Chilean.....	337,300,000	24,200,000	29,600,000	17,800,000	13,600,000	16,600,000
German.....	45,000,000	150,000,000	185,200,000	11,900,000	158,900,000	352,900,000
Swiss.....	19,900,000	21,500,000	24,400,000	5,900,000	800,000	800,000
Colombian.....	19,800,000	17,500,000	15,700,000	9,900,000	5,800,000	7,600,000
Paruvian.....	15,800,000	11,300,000	10,800,000	7,900,000	5,900,000	7,600,000
Uruguayan.....	13,900,000	9,600,000	1,900,000	7,900,000	4,200,000	7,600,000
Venezuelan.....	14,300,000	10,900,000	9,300,000	7,600,000	5,600,000	5,500,000
Dominican Republic.....	10,800,000	5,600,000	4,000,000	7,400,000	4,400,000	5,600,000
Egyptian.....	20,900,000	15,000,000	17,200,000	5,100,000	2,100,000	2,200,000
All other.....	49,400,000	73,400,000	14,800,000	52,300,000	56,300,000	76,600,000
Total.....	1,778,600,000	1,789,300,000	1,792,600,000	3,547,500,000	2,113,600,000	2,484,000,000

## DIRECT PAYMENTS BETWEEN RUSSIA AND THE UNITED STATES.

[Ambassador David R. Francis, Petrograd, May 17; summary from Retch, May 16.]

In commercial contracts between Russian and American business houses it is often provided that payment be effected through London. A circular has been issued by the British Government requesting that all such sums be transmitted direct to the United States, because payments through London increase the demand for drafts on New York and decrease the exchange value of the pound sterling. The Russian Minister of Finance accordingly recommends direct payments between Russia and the United States.

## PROHIBITION OF TRANSFER OF ITALIAN SHIPS.

[Consul General David F. Wilber, Genoa, May 31.]

La Finanza Italiana, in the edition of February 5, 1916, publishes a decree establishing the method by which transfers of Italian vessels to foreign flags may be prohibited. The text is:

ARTICLE 1. The Minister of Marine has the power of prohibiting or of suspending for the time in which the Kingdom will remain in the present condition of war the transcription upon the registers of the offices of any harbor master or offices at ports of the Kingdom or of consular authorities accredited to foreign countries of binding contracts or of maritime changes which bind in any manner the property of mercantile vessels flying the Italian flag. No opposition, appeal, or recourse is admitted against the decision of the Minister of Marine.

ART. 2. In the case in which the minister of marine intends to avail himself of the power accorded him by the preceding article, he will inform the authorities, both maritime and consular, apprising, in the meantime, the owner of the ship. The maritime or consular authorities to which the title of transcription be presented for binding contracts, maritime changes, or others which may in any manner bind the property of Italian mercantile vessels must, however, take charge of them, making note of the date and hour of such presentation in a special register, save the transcription of such when so authorized by the minister of marine. According to the last paragraph of article 675 of the Code of Commerce, in the competition of several credits, preference is determined according to priority of the presentation of petition of transcription.

ART. 3. The minister of marine will provide by special instructions for the execution of the present decree.

ART. 4. The present decree will go into force on the day of its publication in the Official Gazette of the Kingdom.

### Italian Shipbuilding During the Past Year.

The same periodical publishes a list of vessels and their tonnage, built in Italian shipyards as well as in foreign shipyards during the calendar year 1915, with names, places of launching, and tonnage, as follows: *Giuseppe Verdi*, Riva Trigoso, Italy, 9,754; *Citta di Tripoli*, Ancona, Italy, 2,950; *Citta di Trieste*, Palermo, Italy, 4,450; *San Gennaro*, England, 10,400; *Ausonia*, Hamburg, Germany, tonnage unknown.

The *Giuseppe Verdi* was built for the Transatlantica Italiana Steamship Navigation Co., and will develop a speed of 16 knots an hour. It is a sister ship to the *Dante Alighieri* of the same company. Both vessels are engaged in the passenger service between Italian ports and New York.

The *Citta di Tripoli* will also average 16 knots an hour, and was built for the Sicilia Steamship Navigation Co. for the Tripolitania and Cirenaica services, which are subsidized by the Italian Government. The *Citta di Trieste*, built for the same company, will have a speed of 14 knots an hour.

The *San Gennaro* was launched in England. It is 528.21 feet long and will average 18 knots an hour. This vessel was built for the Sicola Americana Steamship Navigation Co., and will engage in the passenger trade between Naples and New York.

The *Ausonia* was built at Hamburg, Germany, for the Societa Italiana di Servizi Marittimi; its tonnage and velocity are not known. The vessel was intended to engage in the trade between Venice and Alexandria, Egypt. It was launched on October 21, 1915, but has not been delivered on account of the war. A sister

steamer called the *Esperia* is now being built for the same company, at the shipyard of Riva Trigoso, Italy.

#### Vessels in Course of Construction.

Vessels in course of construction in Italy up to the 1st day of December last represent a gross tonnage of 82,482, including 284 tons for the construction of a wooden dredge. Among the steamers under construction at that date was the *Duilio*, of 20,000 gross tons. This vessel was launched January 9, 1916, at the shipyards of Gio. Ansaldo & Co., at Sestri Ponente, near Genoa, Italy. It is a sister ship of the *Giulio Cesare*, now being built in England for the Navigazione Generale Italiana. Three other ships are under construction at Spezia, Italy. Their tonnage will be 10,000 each. Five steamers of 5,500 gross tons each are being built at the shipyards of N. Odero & Co. in this district beside one of 3,000 tons being built at Cantieri Navali Riuniti. The three shipbuilding companies mentioned have offices in Genoa.

Among eight Italian steamers which were sunk during 1915 are mentioned the *Ancona* and the *Citta di Firenze*.

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### SIBERIAN IRON-ORE REGION.

[Consul John K. Caldwell, Vladivostok, Asiatic Russia, May 12; translation from *Sibirskaya Zhizn*.]

The iron deposits in the basin of the River Telbess, right tributary of the River Kondoma, flowing into Tom River opposite the city of Kuznetsk, Siberia, have been known since the last century, but not until recently was the region surveyed. In 1913 it was turned over by Crown Land Administration to the Kuznetsk Coal Mine Joint-Stock Co., which undertook a careful study of the region with the view of establishing a large iron foundry and works.

Prof. P. P. Gudkoff was engaged to do the work and some of the results are already published. Over 10 independent iron deposits were discovered in the region. The main deposit is situated on the right bank of the Telbess River, some 5 miles from its influx into the Kondoma River; it is of an eruptive nature and consists mainly of granodiorite, quartz, porphyrites, and melaphyre, with secondary strata of crystalline limestone, hornblende, slate, etc. The normal sedimentary strata were discovered only to the north of the region, where the Telbess iron region is separated from the Kuznetsk coal region.

The volume of ore uncovered at the Telbess deposit proper amounts to 3,611,412 tons of 58 per cent ore and 3,069,700 tons of poorer ore; and at the so-called Temir-Tau deposit to 7,222,824 tons of 54 per cent ore and 1,305,706 tons of poorer ore. Studies of other deposits of the region in 1915 indicate that the total deposit amounts to 27,087,396 tons of ore.

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The quantity of gypsum quarried in the United States in 1915 was 2,447,611 short tons, valued at \$6,596,893, about 1 per cent less in quantity than that in 1914, and a decrease in value of about 4 per cent. The United States Geological Survey reports that there were 77 active mines or quarries and 69 plants.

**PROPOSALS FOR GOVERNMENT SUPPLIES AND CONSTRUCTION.**

[Correspondence should be direct with the offices named, and specifications can usually be obtained at the points where the goods are to be delivered or the work is to be performed. In cases where the time limit is too short to permit firms to submit tenders, they should ask to be placed on the mailing lists of such offices to receive notices calling for future supplies or work of a similar nature.]

**Construction, No. 3419.**—Sealed proposals will be received at the office of the Supervising Architect, Treasury Department, Washington, D. C., until August 11, 1916, for the construction complete of the United States post office at Burlington, N. C. Drawings and specifications may be obtained from the custodian of site at Burlington, N. C., or at the above-named office.

**Subsistence supplies, No. 3420.**—Sealed proposals will be received at the office of the Depot Quartermaster, United States Army, 115 East Ontario Street, Chicago, Ill.; at the office of the Depot Quartermaster, United States Army, Kansas City, Mo.; or at the office of the Depot Quartermaster, United States Army, Omaha, Nebr., until July 7, 1916, for furnishing bacon, corned beef, fresh beef, and corned beef hash.

**Construction, No. 3421.**—Sealed proposals will be received at the office of the Supervising Architect, Treasury Department, Washington, D. C., until August 16, 1916, for the construction complete of the United States post office at Newark, Ohio. Drawings and specifications may be obtained, after July 15, 1916, from the custodian of site at Newark, Ohio, or at the above-named office.

**Portland cement, No. 3422.**—Sealed proposals will be received at the United States Engineer Office, Room 415 Customhouse, Cincinnati, Ohio, until July 15, 1916, for furnishing and delivering at Ravenna, Ky., about 2,500 barrels of American Portland cement, in canvas sacks. Further information may be obtained from the above-named office.

**Lease of lighthouse reservation, No. 3423.**—Sealed proposals will be received by the Lighthouse Inspector, Charleston, S. C., for leasing the Bloody Point Lighthouse Reservation, consisting of 5 acres and good dwelling house, on Daufuskie Island, Beaufort County, S. C. Further information may be obtained from the above-named officer.

**Dredge, No. 3424.**—Sealed proposals will be received at the Bureau of Yards and Docks, Navy Department, Washington, D. C., until August 12, 1916, for a gravity swing, 1 ton, bucket dredge, for the navy yard, Mare Island, Cal. Plans and specification may be obtained on application to the Bureau of Yards and Docks or to the commandant of the navy yard named.

**Construction, No. 3425.**—Sealed proposals will be received at the Office of the Supervising Architect, Treasury Department, Washington, D. C., until August 28, 1916, for the extension, remodeling, etc., of the United States post office and customhouse at Nashville, Tenn. Drawings and specifications may be obtained after July 15, 1916, from the custodian at Nashville, Tenn., or at the above-named office.

**Lard, No. 3426.**—Sealed proposals will be received at the office of the Depot Quartermaster, U. S. Army, 115 E. Ontario St., Chicago, Ill., at the office of the Depot Quartermaster, U. S. Army, Kansas City, Mo., or the office of the depot quartermaster, U. S. Army, Omaha, Nebr., until July 7, 1916, for furnishing 20,000 pounds of lard.

**Radio mast, No. 3427.**—Sealed proposals will be received at the Bureau of Yards and Docks, Navy Department, Washington, D. C., until July 22, 1916, for one wooden radio mast, at the naval radio station, North Head, Wash. Plans and specifications may be obtained on application to the Bureau of Yards and Docks or to the commandant of the navy yard at Bremerton, Wash.

**Subsistence supplies, No. 3428.**—Sealed proposals will be received at the office of the Depot Quartermaster, U. S. Army, 115 E. Ontario St., Chicago, Ill., at the office of the Depot Quartermaster, U. S. Army, Kansas City, Mo., or at the office of the Depot Quartermaster, U. S. Army, Omaha, Nebr., until July 11, 1916, for furnishing bacon, corned beef, fresh beef, and corned-beef hash.

**Repair, etc., of vessel, No. 3429.**—Sealed proposals will be received by the lighthouse inspector, Philadelphia, Pa., until July 14, 1916, for docking, painting bottom, and repairing lighthouse tender *Iris*. Further information may be obtained from the above-named officer.

**Construction, No. 3430.**—Sealed proposals will be received at the Office of Indian Affairs, Department of the Interior, Washington, D. C., until July 28, 1916, for furnishing materials and labor for the construction of a combination stone day school and quarters building, at Camp Verde, Ariz. Plans specifications, and instructions to bidders may be examined at the United States Indian warehouses at Chicago, Ill., St. Louis, Mo., and San Francisco, Cal., and the builders' exchange, St. Paul, Minn., and at the office of the superintendent of the Camp Verde Indian School, Camp Verde, Ariz.

### AMERICAN CONSULAR OFFICERS ON LEAVE OF ABSENCE.

The following American consular officers are on leave of absence in the United States and will be glad to confer with business men and commercial organizations relative to conditions in their respective jurisdictions. The consul's time is available primarily for personal interviews. He has limited facilities for correspondence, and except in urgent cases letters should be directed to the consulate.

Name.	Post.	Expiration of leave.	Address.
Wakefield, E. A. ....	Port Elizabeth, South Africa.	July 8	Department of State, Washington, D. C.
West, George N. ....	Kobe, Japan.	Aug. 15	Do.
Van Struve, H. C. ....	Curaçao, Dutch West Indies.	July 7	4200 Avenue B, Austin, Tex.
Winship, North. ....	Petrograd, Russia.	do.	271 Hardeman Avenue, Macon, Ga.
Rasmussen, B. M. ....	Goteborg, Sweden.	July 14	Roland, Iowa
Cashe, A. B. ....	Patras, Greece.	Aug. 10	121 West Charlotte Street, Norfolk, Va.
Calver, Henry B. ....	St. John, New Brunswick.	July 7	Vineland, N. J.
Hale, F. D. ....	Huddersfield, England.		Lunenburg, Vt.
Fisher, Fred D. ....	Tientsin, China.	Aug. 5	Albany, Oreg.
Masterson, William W. ....	Durban, Natal, South Africa.	Sept. 1	Carrollton, Ky.
Seltzer, Harry G. ....	Breslau, Germany.		Gibbsville, Pa.

### EMISSION OF BONDS IN FRANCE.

[Consul General A. M. Thackara, Paris, June 14.]

By a law dated May 31, 1916, published in the Journal Officiel of June 1, 1916, the French Government prohibits the emission, exhibition, sale, or introduction on the French market of foreign government rentes, or loans and other public securities of foreign governments, and of bonds or securities of any nature of cities, corporations, or companies, whether French or foreign. This prohibition is to take effect from the date of the law and until a date to be fixed by decree of the Ministerial Council after the conclusion of hostilities. Certain exceptions may, however, be made by an order of the Minister of Finance.

### District Offices of the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce.

New York, Room 409 United States Customhouse; Boston, eighteenth floor United States Customhouse; Chicago, 504 Federal Building; St. Louis, 402 Third National Bank Building; Atlanta, 521 Post Office Building; New Orleans, 1020 Hibernia Bank Building; San Francisco, 308 United States Customhouse; Seattle, 848 Henry Building. Cooperative district offices: Cleveland, Chamber of Commerce; Cincinnati, Chamber of Commerce; Asst. Gen'l Frt. Agt., C. N. O. & T. P. Ry. Co., Cincinnati; Los Angeles, Chamber of Commerce; Detroit, Board of Commerce; Philadelphia, Chamber of Commerce; South American Agent, Southern Ry. Co., Chattanooga, Tenn.

## FOREIGN TRADE OPPORTUNITIES.

Reserved addresses may be obtained from the Bureau and its district offices. Request for each opportunity should be on a separate sheet and state opportunity number. The Bureau does not furnish credit ratings or assume responsibility as to the standing of foreign inquirers; the usual precautions should be taken in all cases.

*Leather leggings*, No. 21720.—An American consular officer in North Africa reports that a merchant is in the market for leather leggings. Requirements, about 1,000 pair a year. Further information may be obtained from the Bureau or its district offices.

*School furniture and supplies*, No. 21721.—A Government official in Brazil informs an American consular officer of his desire to obtain, as soon as possible, descriptive catalogues and price lists of school furniture and school supplies of all kinds, except books. Communication with publishers in a position to offer new methods of teaching English, French, and German, adapted to Portuguese students, is also desired. Correspondence should be in Portuguese.

*Sole leather*, No. 21722.—An American consular officer in Denmark reports that a man in his district is in the market for sole leather. The exclusive agency for an American firm is desired.

*Toilet articles, etc.*, No. 21723.—A man in Spain informs an American consular officer that he is in the market for perfumery and toilet articles. Correspondence and literature should be in Spanish.

*Motor street sweepers*, No. 21724.—An American consular officer in the United Kingdom writes that a municipality contemplates the purchase of a vacuum motor road sweeper, about 60 horsepower, driving a brush 7 feet 6 inches in length and 4 feet in diameter. Additional machines will probably be purchased later.

*Hardware*, No. 21725.—A firm in the Orient informs an American consular officer that it wishes to be placed in touch with American manufacturers of brass and iron hardware.

*Osier, rattan, seeds, etc.*, No. 21726.—A flower merchant and manufacturer of wicker goods in Greece requests an American consular officer to furnish him with the names and addresses of American exporters of osier, rattan, seeds and bulbs for flowers, and flower vases. Illustrated catalogues and price lists should be sent.

*Glassware and lantern globes*, No. 21727.—An American consular officer in Canada reports that a manufacturers' agent desires to be put in touch with manufacturers and exporters of colored lantern globes and glassware.

*Machinery*, No. 21728.—An American consular officer in an insular possession of a foreign country reports that a man contemplates the construction of a starch factory and wishes to receive proposals for the requisite machinery and equipment.

*Fishing nets and lines*, No. 21729.—A possible market for American fishing nets and lines in Norway is reported by an American consular officer in that country. The articles particularly in demand are cotton nets, hemp twine, fishing nets and lines made of hemp twine, and rope made of Russian hemp, or manila rope. A list of dealers and others interested in the purchase of these articles may be obtained from the Bureau or its district offices.

*Paper, jewelry, paints, etc.*, No. 21730.—An American consular officer in China reports that a firm desires to communicate with American exporters of imitation gold rings; gold-filled watch chains; printing and colored papers; glazed papers; dry paints; cheap oil paints; cheap cigars (attractive make-up very important); rubber rings for soda-water bottles; essences for the manufacture of lemonade, etc.; cigarette holders (ambroid); prismatic field glasses; false teeth, good and cheap qualities; and clocks and watches of all descriptions.

*Paraffin*, No. 21731.—A firm in the United States informs the Bureau that its agent in France desires to be placed in touch with exporters of paraffin.

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No. 158

Washington, D. C., Friday, July 7

1916

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## CHANGES IN BRITISH IMPORT PROHIBITIONS.

[Cablegram from American Consul General, London, July 5.]

Under Notification No. 4 a general license has been issued allowing the unrestricted importation of all kinds of acetic acid, brass and wood screws, cotton duck for belting weighing 18 ounces and upward per square yard, dates, Italian pumice stone and powder, wooden pulleys, and tool handles of any wood of Canadian origin. The general license (see *COMMERCE REPORTS* for June 28, 1916) admitting tool handles of all woods now covers only tool handles of ash and hickory.

## BRITISH PROHIBITIONS OF EXPORTATION.

[Telegram from American Consul General, London, July 5.]

Changes are made in prohibitions of exportation to all nonallied countries in Europe as follows: The former item "Meat of all kinds (except poultry and game), not including beef and mutton, fresh or refrigerated" is replaced by "Fresh or refrigerated meat of all kinds, not including beef and mutton, poultry and game;" the item "Resins and resinous substances, except such as contain caoutchouc" is replaced by the new item "Resins, resinous substances, excepting such containing caoutchouc, and articles containing resins and resinous substances." New items are added as follows: Bamboo, feathers and down, feldspar, tobacco.

Rennet powder, extract, and other preparations of rennet are under prohibition to all destinations.

Tables of the exports of woolen yarn from Germany and from France, by countries, for the calendar year 1913, showing both quantities and values, have been compiled by the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce. They will be loaned on application addressed to the Bureau, at Washington, D. C.

**PROPOSED TARIFF REVISION IN ARGENTINA.**

[Cablegram from American Ambassador, Buenos Aires, July 3.]

On June 30 there was signed by the president a decree prepared in the Ministry of Finance creating a commission on the revision of the present tariff system. Before considering separately modifications of the existing rates on particular articles the commission will give 15 days' notice and will require the resubmission of all representations heretofore made. It is suggested that interested American exporters forward at once briefs of their cases.

[Memoranda regarding reductions on particular products should be submitted to the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce for transmission to the State Department.]

**CANADIAN COMMISSIONER ADVISES EXPORTERS.**

[Consul Edward A. Dow, St. Stephen, New Brunswick, June 24.]

The acting Trade Commissioner of Canada in Buenos Aires, in the Weekly Bulletin of the Canadian Department of Trade and Commerce, issue of June 19, 1916, gives advice from which suggestions have been drawn to apply to exporters who want to increase the attractiveness of their products in foreign countries. Points emphasized are:

Goods should bear the mark of the country of origin, and the lettering and spelling should show clearly that the exporter put the label on before shipment.

Goods, especially those for Latin-American countries, should bear labels in two or more colors, with name of the goods clearly set forth and, if possible, a small but attractive and characteristic illustration accompanying this name.

Labels should be printed correctly in the language both of the exporting and the importing country, and the foreign words should be properly chosen, both correct and idiomatic terms being desirable.

As an important element, the trade-mark should be registered as soon as possible, to prevent the use by others of a well-designed label.

**MARITIME NOTES FROM VENEZUELA.**

[Consul Homer Brett, La Guaira, June 19.]

The third increase in freight rates since the beginning of the war has been announced by the Red "D" Line of steamships. After July 1, 1916, the rates on the principal articles exported from La Guaira and Puerto Cabello to New York will be as follows, per 1,000 kilos (2,204 pounds): Coffee, \$8.50; cocoa, \$9.50; sugar in sacks, \$8.50; and skins in bales, \$16.50. The rates on dry hides will be 22 cents each, and green hides, 35 cents each. These rates are plus a 5 per cent surcharge and 4 cents per 100 kilos wharf dues.

The American steamship *Alpha*, of 297 net tons, has been sold to Venezuelan owners and is now at Carenero completing some slight repairs. When ready the vessel will be placed on the run between Carenero and La Guaira, duplicating the service now maintained by the steamer *Ossun*.

The Venezuelan steamer *Condor*, of 180 tons, has been placed on a run between Macuro and Puerto Cabello, touching at La Guaira and other points on the coast. As several of these points are not now visited by steam vessels, the new service should prove of great assistance.



## GROWTH OF FRUIT INDUSTRY IN SOUTH AFRICA.

[British and South African Export Gazette.]

One of the most remarkable developments in the industrial history of South Africa has been the growth of the fruit industry, and particularly the citrus-fruit industry, during recent years. Indeed, the Union Trades Commissioner has not hesitated since his return from the other side to declare his belief that California will be outrivalled within the next few years, and that great fortunes will be made in orange growing.

## PROSPEROUS LAMP FACTORIES IN THE NETHERLANDS.

A publication recently issued by the N. V. Philips Gloeilampen Fabrieken of Eindhoven, the Netherlands, giving the history of its plant and elaborately illustrated descriptive material relating to its present equipment, has been forwarded from The Hague by American Commercial Attaché Erwin W. Thompson. It is explained by Mr. Thompson that before the war most of the electric lamps used in the Netherlands were imported but that since the war started this importation has almost stopped, and that there has been a rapid development of the few factories in the country that were able to produce incandescent lamps. The Philips corporation is among those that have shared in the prosperity. The copy received may be inspected at the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce or its district offices. Refer to file No. 1546.

## SHORTAGE OF DRESS ACCESSORIES IN HONGKONG.

[Vice Consul A. E. Carleton, Hongkong, British China, May 9.]

It is becoming more and more difficult for women in Hongkong to obtain many of the ordinary dress accessories. Formerly these articles were supplied in the main by Great Britain and France, with not unimportant shipments from Switzerland, but at present it is almost impossible to obtain steady deliveries from any of the countries named. The participation of the United States in this trade in the past has been relatively small; and, although more extensive purchases are now being made in America, it is thought that present imports could be increased to a considerable extent if the American products were more generally known and appreciated.

Among the articles reported as particularly in demand in Hongkong are small brass safety pins (gold finish), small bronze hairpins (known as fringe pins), washable ribbons for lingerie, white washable veils, undervests in thin Indian gauze or cotton rib, dainty inexpensive novelties such as belts (not leather), washable neckware, hat frames, buttons, fancy ribbons, and the like. Women find some difficulty in obtaining boots and shoes, and during the past season it was impossible to obtain in Hongkong high cloth-top boots. One or two local shoemakers were able to produce these boots from samples, but the results were not by any means satisfactory. Children's shoes and sandals, hats and other headgear, and children's silk socks are likewise hard to obtain in Hongkong stores.

[A list of Hongkong retailers and wholesale importers may be had upon application to the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce or its district offices. Ask for file No. 77489.]

**MACHINE-MADE LACE INDUSTRY OF CALAIS.**

[Consul James B. Milner, Calais, France, June 15.]

The machine-made lace industry in the city of Calais, notwithstanding the European war, has been proceeding well under the circumstances. The greatest difficulty is the loss of so many of the twist hands, who are at the front. Older men and boys have been employed to fill the vacancies. The industry employs many women and girls, but the looms are always operated by men. The occupation of Caudry (which was an important producer of lace) by the German forces has increased the demand for Calais laces.

The following table shows the exports invoiced for the United States at the Calais consulate during the three months ended March, 1916:

Articles.	Value.	Articles.	Value.
Embroideries: Silk and cotton.....	\$75	Nettings:	
Laces:		Tinsel.....	
Cotton.....	913,787	Silk and cotton.....	\$133
Silk.....	107,090	Vells:	244
Silk and cotton.....	16,936	Silk.....	
Tinsel.....	13,956	Silk and cotton.....	1,088
Nets:			544
Cotton.....	467	Total.....	
Silk.....	265		1,072,199
Silk and cotton.....	16,936		
Tinsel.....	678		

**NEW SHIPS FOR LUMBER TRADE.**

[Panama Canal Record, June 21.]

Two new ships of the American-Hawaiian Line, designed especially for the lumber trade, have recently made their maiden voyages through the Panama Canal. Both are engaged at present in carrying nitrates from Chilean ports to the United States; their diversion to this trade, however, is regarded as temporary on account of the high freights prevailing on nitrates.

The ships (the *Artisan* and the *Arborean*) are similar in construction to the type known as the "west coast lumber schooner," but their size is unusual for this type. Each is 389½ feet in length by 54½ feet beam, with a depth of 32½ feet, and is registered at 5,550 tons gross. The essential feature in construction for the lumber trade was the placing of the engines and most of the housing well aft, leaving a long, broad deck clear, except for the masts, for the loading of lumber. Each ship can carry approximately 2,500,000 feet of lumber on deck and about an equal quantity in the hold.

**REPORTS DISCOVERY OF MANGANESE DEPOSIT.**

[Consul Henry P. Starrett, Fort William, Ontario, Canada, June 14.]

A local prospector has recorded three claims in the section south of Lower Shebandowan Lake, District of Thunder Bay, Ontario, on which he claims the largest deposit of manganese in the Dominion is located. An outcrop of this mineral on the property, he says, is 50 feet high and nearly half a mile long. It should be stated, however, that as yet the result of the assay is unknown, and that the value of the discovery must be determined by an analysis of the sample ores and an engineering survey of the property.

**EXPORTS OF CRUDE RUBBER FROM BRAZIL AND PERU.**

[Consul George H. Pickereil, Para.]

The exports of crude rubber to the United States from Para, Manaoas, and Itacoatiara, Brazil, for the month of May, 1916, amounted to 5,693,929 pounds and to Europe 1,403,549 pounds. The exports from Iquitos, Peru, to the United States amounted to 190,293 pounds and to Europe 27,055 pounds. The following table shows the several grades of rubber shipped during the month:

Item.	To United States.	To Europe.	Item.	To United States.	To Europe.
<b>From Para, Brazil:</b>	<i>Pounds.</i>	<i>Pounds.</i>	<b>From Itacoatiara, Brazil:</b>	<i>Pounds.</i>	<i>Pounds.</i>
Fine .....	1,661,041	283,304	Fine .....		6,687
Medium .....	128,939	34,755	Medium .....		
Coarse .....	1,096,040	47,302	Coarse .....		4,620
Caucho .....	789,701	444,846	Caucho .....		5,623
<b>Total .....</b>	<b>3,645,721</b>	<b>810,207</b>	<b>Total .....</b>		<b>16,930</b>
<b>From Manaoas, Brazil:</b>			<b>From Iquitos, Peru:</b>		
Fine .....	885,375	47,752	Fine .....	14,104	4,561
Medium .....	177,497	64,469	Medium .....		
Coarse .....	428,401	37,427	Coarse .....	9,741	1,238
Caucho .....	556,935	426,764	Caucho .....	166,448	21,256
<b>Total .....</b>	<b>2,048,208</b>	<b>576,412</b>	<b>Total .....</b>	<b>190,293</b>	<b>27,055</b>

**CULTIVATION OF SILKWORM IN WEST INDIES.**

A possible new industry for the island of Trinidad is suggested in an article quoted from the Bulletin of the Imperial Institute by the Textile Mercury of Manchester, England. It is that of the cultivation of the silkworm. It is stated that a recent examination of Trinidad silk at the Imperial Institute proved satisfactory, and that as a result of the various experiments that have been carried out it seems possible that silkworms can be successfully reared in the island. It might be feasible, therefore, to establish silk culture as a village industry, which could be carried on chiefly by the women and children, and thus increase the resources of the colony without withdrawing labor from other occupations.

It is pointed out that attention in Trinidad should first be directed to the mulberry silkworm and the Eri silkworm. The respective food plants of these varieties grow well in the island and could readily be planted in any desired quantity.

**OIL MILLING IN SOUTHERN RHODESIA.**

The eyes of farmers in every part of South Africa are turned to the experimental oil factory established at Salisbury, according to the British and South African Export Gazette for June. After being in operation for an entire year, it is now possible to judge results, and these, the Gazette says, appear exceedingly satisfactory, rendering it clear that there is a real commercial future for many similar enterprises, either official or run by farmers' associations.

The prime purpose when starting was the production of various kinds of commercial oil, with oil cake and other by-products as side lines, and already it has been found that the manufacture of soaps is likely to prove a profitable branch.

# FERTILIZER INDUSTRY OF THE UNITED STATES.

The quinquennial census of American manufacturing industries, taken in 1914, has revealed in some cases notable advances in production as compared with the output of 1909. Few industries, however, can equal in this respect the manufacture of fertilizers. In the course of five years it has increased its output in quantity by 49.8 per cent; in value, by 50.5 per cent. The number of establishments primarily devoted to this branch has grown from 550 in 1909 to 784 in 1914.

A preliminary summary of the data collected in this latest census of the American fertilizer industry has been prepared in the Bureau of the Census. The most important results are tabulated as follows:

Materials or products.	1909	1914	Materials or products.	1909	1914
<b>PRINCIPAL MATERIALS USED.</b>			<b>PRINCIPAL MATERIALS USED—contd.</b>		
Ammoniates:			Potash salts:		
Tons.....	1,018,555	1,463,278	Tons.....	269,974	<sup>b</sup> 529,973
Cost.....	\$19,097,415	\$31,662,515	Cost.....	\$7,708,544	\$12,774,113
Cotton seed meal—			Muriate of potash—		
Tons.....		325,234	Tons.....	( <sup>a</sup> )	177,372
Cost.....		\$8,419,383	Cost.....	( <sup>a</sup> )	\$6,497,364
Tankage and ammoniates not elsewhere specified—	842,557		Sulphate of potash—		
Tons.....	\$17,200,611		Tons.....	( <sup>a</sup> )	39,232
Cost.....			Cost.....	( <sup>a</sup> )	\$1,684,998
Fish—			Double manure salts—		
Tons.....		887,934	Tons.....	( <sup>a</sup> )	108,580
Cost.....		\$20,131,141	Cost.....	( <sup>a</sup> )	\$1,740,241
Ammonium sulphate:			Other potash salts—		
Tons.....	242,145	250,110	Tons.....	( <sup>a</sup> )	187,359
Cost.....	\$3,066,613	\$3,111,991	Cost.....	( <sup>a</sup> )	\$2,399,277
Cyanamid or lime nitrogen:			Sulphuric acid, total consumption (amount purchased and amount made and consumed, reduced to 50° Baumé), tons..	1,462,193	1,973,054
Tons.....	( <sup>a</sup> )	25,911	Superphosphates or acid phosphates, total consumption (amount purchased and amount made and consumed), tons..	2,372,075	3,785,495
Cost.....	( <sup>a</sup> )	\$1,176,119			
Nitrate of soda:			<b>PRODUCTS.</b>		
For mixed fertilizers—			Total value....	\$111,871,481	<sup>c</sup> \$168,388,405
Tons.....		147,150			
Cost.....		\$6,807,228	<b>Fertilizers:</b>		
For acid manufacture—	89,546		Tons.....	5,618,234	8,414,959
Tons.....	\$3,916,320		Value.....	\$100,089,971	\$152,815,786
Cost.....		\$704,581	Complete fertilizers—		
Phosphate rock:			Tons.....	3,001,370	4,488,565
Tons.....	1,549,407	2,080,961	Value.....	\$63,104,917	\$97,046,825
Cost.....	\$8,828,831	\$11,222,992	Ammoniated fertilizers—		
Bone—raw, ground, steamed, and bone discard:			Tons.....	522,389	1,116,739
Tons.....	( <sup>a</sup> )	148,191	Value.....	\$11,004,390	\$24,344,271
Cost.....	( <sup>a</sup> )	\$3,410,545	Superphosphates and concentrated phosphate fertilizers—		
Pyrites:			Tons.....	1,494,097	1,760,290
Tons.....	457,507	613,842	Value.....	\$16,458,344	\$16,145,659
Cost.....	\$2,843,548	\$3,590,235	Other fertilizers—		
Sulphur:			Tons.....	600,378	1,049,365
Tons.....	4,236	2,041	Value.....	\$9,522,520	\$15,279,081
Cost.....	\$68,924	\$42,716	Other products, value	\$11,781,510	\$15,572,619
Basic slag or Thomas phosphate powder:					
Tons.....	( <sup>a</sup> )	16,190			
Cost.....	( <sup>a</sup> )	\$144,213			
Guano:					
Tons.....	( <sup>a</sup> )	120,128			
Cost.....	( <sup>a</sup> )	\$445,416			
Kainit:					
Tons.....	347,104	448,685			
Cost.....	\$3,008,183	\$3,939,263			

<sup>a</sup> Figures not available.

<sup>b</sup> Includes 17,430 tons, value \$452,233, not distributed by kind.

<sup>c</sup> Includes fertilizer product, valued at \$15,192,263 in 1914 and \$7,911,268 in 1909, made by establishments engaged primarily in the manufacture of other commodities.

**Nitrogen Plays More Important Rôle.**

The above table shows in a striking manner the present trend of the fertilizer movement. Nitrogen plays relatively a much more important rôle than was the case a decade ago. During the five years in question the consumption of Chile saltpeter, or sodium nitrate, has increased 81 per cent. The consumption of ammonium sulphate increased 128 per cent, and this enlarged demand was met almost entirely by the rapidly expanding output of the domestic by-product coke ovens. Cyanamid manufactured on this continent thus far only at Niagara Falls, Ontario, has become a distinct factor, and its use is steadily growing.

The consumption of potash in the form of the mineral kainite increased 29 per cent. In the use of more concentrated forms, especially the muriate, the increase was 96 per cent. In contrast with these figures stands the increase in the consumption of raw phosphate—34 per cent. The amount of basic slag employed in the fertilizer industry, 16,190 tons, is much below what would naturally be expected in a country possessing such highly developed iron and steel industries.

In general the movement toward a more scientifically balanced ration for the country's crops is most pronounced. The consumption of fertilizers should, however, be increased manyfold. American farmers still harvest from their fields, after the same expenditure of labor, crops of cereals, potatoes, roots, etc., less than one-half in amount of what equal areas of arable land yield in Belgium, Denmark, Germany, and Holland.

The geographical location of the industry is predominantly in the South, harmonizing with the notable consumption of fertilizers in that section. Of the 1,124 establishments engaged in the industry, 293 were located in Georgia, 103 in Alabama, 85 in South Carolina, 69 in North Carolina, 66 in Pennsylvania, 61 in Virginia, 50 in Maryland, 31 in Ohio, and 30 in New Jersey. Other States contain less than 30 each.

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**JAPANESE SHIPPING FOR SOUTH AMERICAN TRADE.**

[Consul General George H. Seidmore, Yokohama, May 31.]

South American shipping services are either being established or improved by Japanese shipping lines, the Japan Daily Mail says, with a view to eradicating the remarkable degree of inconvenience to which Japan is subjected on account of the necessity of transshipping all cargo to the Latin-American Republics at either London or Marseille. It is true that a service between Japan and South America has been maintained by the Toyo Kisen Kaisha, but that is becoming insufficient for the growing trade Japan is building up there.

The Toyo Kisen Kaisha has decided to inaugurate a service between Japan and Brazil or the East coast of South America, employing five new boats of 7,500 tons each, which will soon be under construction. The Toyo Kisen may, however, be forestalled by the Osaka Shosen Kaisha, if this line speeds up its shipbuilding program.

The Osaka Shosen Kaisha has already dispatched a party of experts to the Latin-American Republics to conduct preliminary investigations into trade possibilities there, at the same time negotiating with the Communications Department respecting the new scheme.

### UTILIZATION OF PRICKLY PEAR IN SOUTH AFRICA.

The utilization of the prickly pear in the production of feeding cakes for cattle is reported by the British and South African Export Gazette as engaging the attention of South African agriculturists. For this purpose it is said to have food values of high quality. Its value was demonstrated during a recent drought when only by its use were the farmers able to keep their cattle, sheep, goats, and ostriches alive. The result is that many are now actually planting what they formerly tried to exterminate.

The Export Gazette also states that at the recent Port Elizabeth Agricultural Show a public demonstration of the value of the cactus for paper-making purposes was given. Continuing, it says regarding the food value of the product:

The evidence that it can be utilized as a suitable stock food seems undeniable, judging from reports reaching us not only from South Africa but Australia, the West Indies, etc. The Union Government is, I understand, taking up the matter, and in all probability their experts will shortly be able to determine the matter one way or the other. I suggest, however, that the scientific department of the Imperial Institute, which is doing such splendid work for the colonies, might do worse than import some specimens of the prickly pear from various parts of the world and submit them to a critical analysis in order that the true value of the cactus, whether as stock food or as a possible substitute for wood pulp or other purpose, may be definitely ascertained. If it possesses any value at all, it should be utilized at this juncture, especially bearing in mind that the supply is inexhaustible.

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### AMERICAN CAPITAL WANTED FOR TURKESTAN.

[Consul General John H. Snodgrass, Moscow, Russia, Apr. 13.]

To attract American capital to investments in Turkestan a group of business men in Russia has organized special expeditions to Turkestan, by means of which they hope to make American financial circles better acquainted with the country. The first of these expeditions is to interest Americans in an irrigation project for 8,000,000 acres. The expedition will be organized with the support of the Russian Government but will not be under its direction. It will be composed of representatives of American financial circles; of members of the Russian Council of State, the Imperial Duma, the ministries, and representatives of various public institutions; and authorities well acquainted with the country. The expedition will last four or five weeks. The itinerary is to be worked out in the near future.

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### DEMAND FOR ENGLISH KHAKI IN HONDURAS.

[Consul Walter F. Boyle, Puerto Cortes, June 20.]

Although American-made khaki is sold in the Puerto Cortes district to a considerable extent, persons desiring a superior grade always insist on having English khaki. A sample of the standard high-grade English khaki generally carried in stock by the merchants of this district is forwarded herewith. This piece of goods, which is 27½ inches wide, is quoted at 11½ cents a yard in Manchester.

[The sample may be inspected at the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce or its district offices upon asking for file No. 77875.]

**SUPPLIES OF MANGROVE IN ECUADOR.**

[Consul General Frederic W. Goding, Guayaquil, June 1.]

On the Ecuadorean littoral straight mangrove or red mangle logs of extreme length and diameter are plentiful. They are used in the construction of wharves because of their durability under the water. The specific gravity of the wood is 0.98 to 1.15, depending upon the locality where it grows and the age of the tree. An important feature of mangle is its power of reclaiming land from the sea, upon which it gradually encroaches, elevating the surface and fitting it for other vegetation. Owing to this capacity the area of the Gulf of Guayaquil is much smaller than formerly.

The tree in Ecuador sometimes reaches a height of 110 feet, with a straight trunk free of branches for half its length and a relatively small crown. The circumference of matured trees is 7 to 10 feet, but it is not rare to observe specimens of 15 feet or more. These dimensions apply only to the trees growing in this country, as those found elsewhere are described as much smaller. Most of the large houses in Guayaquil and other cities of the Ecuadorean littoral are built of mangle, and, although its consumption has been continuing many years for house construction, wharves, fuel, and charcoal, no diminution of the source of supply is to be observed. The land bordering the salt water bears a jungle of the trees covering many hundreds of square miles. The bark in some instances is 1 inch thick. It contains great quantities of tannin.

**Trade Has Followed Trial Shipment.**

A trial shipment was made to New York in January, 1915, and it sold for \$15 per ton f. o. b. Guayaquil, the freight being \$40 per ton at that time. Considerable trade has followed during the current year.

The mangle, cut in pieces, is exported in sacks. The present prices are \$0.87 to \$0.96 per quintal of 100 pounds f. o. b. Guayaquil. The present freight rates are approximately \$35 and \$37.50 per ton from Guayaquil to San Francisco and New York, respectively. Unlimited quantities of the logs and bark may be obtained if previously contracted for.

**COTTON EXPORTS FOR ONE WEEK.**

The cotton exported during the week ending July 1, 1916, at the twelve principal customs districts of the United States was as follows:

Districts.	Bales.	Districts.	Bales.	Districts.	Bales.
Georgia.....		Philadelphia.....	6, 137	San Francisco.....	1, 636
Massachusetts.....	6, 025	South Carolina.....		Washington.....	20, 043
Maryland.....	1, 742	Virginia.....	7, 667		
New York.....	27, 509	Galveston.....	47, 040	Total.....	146, 928
North Carolina.....	12, 706	New Orleans.....	16, 423		

The export of 146,928 bales of cotton during the past week makes the total since August 1, 1915, approximately 5,633,568 bales. Exports of cotton for the corresponding periods of the preceding year were, respectively, 60,633 bales for the week and 8,312,521 bales in the cotton year.

## FOREIGN TARIFFS.

## BRITISH HONDURAS.

[Gazette Extraordinary, Feb. 21.]

**Export Duty on Logwood.**

Logwood exported from British Honduras is now subject to an export duty of \$0.50 per ton, according to an order in council of February 18, 1916. The former export duty on logwood was \$0.01 per ton.

**CANADA.**

[Customs Memorandum 2014B, June 10.]

**Temporary Admission of Tourists' Motor Vehicles.**

The regulations governing the temporary admission into Canada of tourists' automobiles, motorcycles, and bicycles have been amended as follows:

When a non-resident owner of an automobile or motorcycle manufactured abroad desires to bring such a machine into Canada for a stay of not more than one month he shall, in all cases, report at the customhouse at the frontier port in Canada and present a certificate, in form hereto appended (No. E. 291), to the collector of customs, who, if satisfied that the machine is imported in good faith, may admit the same without formal entry, and may issue a certificate in duplicate (as per form E. 291), the original to be given to the owner, who shall present it to the collector at the port of departure from Canada.

The following is a facsimile of the certificate required:

CERTIFICATE OF IMPORTATION OF AUTOMOBILES AND MOTORCYCLES FOR TOWING  
PURPOSES FOR A PERIOD OF NOT OVER 1 MONTH.

E. 291.

Amended.

No. ----

Port of ----- 19----

This is to certify that the machine described below was this day brought into Canada from ----- for touring purposes for a period not exceeding one month; that the owner resides outside of Canada; that the machine is not to be used for any commercial or business pursuits whatever while in Canada, and shall be exported from Canada within one month from the date hereof.

## DESCRIPTION.

Motorcycle ----- Value, \$-----  
Automobile ----- Value, \$-----  
Touring or runabout -----

(Strike out words not needed in above description.)

Manufactured by -----, at -----  
Manufacturer's No. -----; number of cylinders -----;  
Seating capacity -----; foreign license No. -----;  
Licensed in -----; equipped with wind shield -----;  
Speedometer -----; top -----; clock -----; No. of extra tires -----;  
Outfit and extra parts -----  
-----  
-----

(Signature of owner.)

(Street and number.)

(Town and country.)

Permission is granted to use the above automobile-motorcycle and outfit for touring purposes in Canada under the conditions above stated.

Collector.

NOTE.—This certificate to be retained by the owner and presented to the collector of customs at the port of exit, who will note exportation of machine and mail to collector of customs at port of entry.



CERTIFICATE RESPECTING EXPORTATION.

I, \_\_\_\_\_ (owner or agent), do solemnly declare that the identical automobile-motorcycle and outfit hereinbefore described are now presented for inspection and exportation at the frontier port of \_\_\_\_\_, this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 19\_\_\_\_.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

The above automobile-motorcycle and outfit have been identified to my satisfaction and have been exported through this port.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Customs Officer.

[For previous regulations regarding the temporary importation of tourists' automobiles see Foreign Tariff Notes, No. 1, p. 21; No. 3, p. 92; and No. 19, p. 60.]

MEXICO.

[El Pueblo, Mexico City, Mar. 7.]

Tarif Changes.

A decree of the Carranza Government published March 6, 1916, provides for a number of additional changes in import and export duties. The decree of September 29, 1915, establishing a new schedule of export duties (see COMMERCE REPORTS for Feb. 2, 1916) has been considerably modified, the changes consisting mostly in slight reductions in former rates. The rates have been increased, however, in the case of a few articles, including cattle hides, cotton seed, muscovado sugar, and sponges, and a number of new export duties were prescribed.

The free list established by the decree of September 29, 1915, has been extended by the addition of alimentary pastes, lard compounds, and nails, and the free admission of olive oil has been discontinued. The provisions of the decree of January 8, 1916, reducing by 75 per cent the import duties on certain articles of clothing (see COMMERCE REPORTS for Mar. 4, 1916) have been extended to the following articles: Kid skins and other tanned skins not specified (tariff No. 62), steel sewing needles (No. 252), cotton thread in skeins or on spools (No. 328), bed spreads and quilts of cotton not embroidered (No. 351), and sewing-machine needles (No. 612). The following articles are also to be admitted at the reduced rates when made of fabrics containing not more than 30 threads in warp and weft in a square of 5 millimeters side: Woolen bedspreads, table linen, cotton handkerchiefs (not cut or hemmed), sheets and towels, and cotton bags for use as outer coverings. Cotton handkerchiefs, if cut or hemmed, are dutiable at the reduced rate, with a surtax of 25 per cent. The special reduction of 75 per cent in duty has been discontinued in the case of cotton fabrics containing more than 30 threads in a square of 5 millimeters (Nos. 333B, 334B, and 336), cotton hosiery (No. 345), cotton underwear and shirts for men and boys (No. 347), and cotton knit goods, not specified (No. 349).

The value of the copper, lead, zinc, tin, aluminum, and antimony recovered in the United States from scrap metals, skimmings, and drosses in 1915 was \$114,304,930, against \$57,039,706 in 1914, a 100 per cent increase, according to statistics prepared by the United States Geological Survey.

**RAILROADS IN SIBERIA.**

[Consul John K. Caldwell, Vladivostok, Asiatic Russia, May 17; translation from Sibirskaya Zhizn, Irkutsk.]

The Priamurie, recalling that March 17, 1916, marks the twenty-fifth year since the beginning of the construction of the Ussuri Railroad, gives the following details of the Great Siberian Line:

The Amur Railroad, with the exception of the Amur bridge, is complete. Its total length from the station Kuenga to Khabarovsk is 1,247½ miles; the branch line from Bochkarevo to Blagovyeshtchensk is 68 miles long (from Kuenga to Blagovyeshtchensk the distance is 904½ miles); small branch lines—Tchassovinskaya, Reinovskaya, Tcherniaevskaya, Innokentievskaya, Vladimirovskaya, and others—118 miles.

The Ussuri Railroad from Vladivostok to Khabarovsk is 478 miles long; from station Nikolsk-Ussurisk to station Pogranitchnaya, of the Chinese Eastern Railroad, 76½ miles. It has 22½ miles of spur lines.

In the 25 years since the beginning of construction of the Great Siberian Line, there have been built in Russian territory alone 5,255½ miles of railroads, divided as follows: Samara-Ufa Tchelyabinsk (Samara-Slatoustovskaya Railroad), 628 miles; Tchelyabinsk-Irkutsk (Omsk and Tomsk line), 2,044 miles; Irkutsk-Kuenga (Transbaikai line), 858 miles; Kuenga-Khabarovsk (Amur line), 1,247½ miles; Khabarovsk-Vladivostok (Ussuri line), 478 miles.

The distance from Samara to Vladivostok via the Chinese Eastern Railroad is 4,692 miles: Samara-Irkutsk, 2,672 miles; Irkutsk-Manchuria, 948½ miles; Manchuria-Pogranitchnaya, 926 miles; Pogranitchnaya-Vladivostok, 145½ miles.

The following lines in Siberia are also completed: Altai Railroad, 500 miles; Atchinsk-Minusinsk Railroad, 287½ miles; Kolchuginskaya Railroad, 139½ miles; Kulundinskaya Railroad, 196½ miles (over 66 miles ready); Omsk-Tyumen line, 354½ miles. The Siberian and Transbaikai Railroads are double tracked to a great extent. The Ussuri line is undergoing an almost entire reconstruction, which will be finished in a short time.

**PACKING THREAD FOR SALE IN GUATEMALA.**

A firm in Guatemala City in its correspondence with an American exporter furnishes the following suggestion relative to the packing of thread for sale in that city:

The limited sale of American spool cotton in Guatemala is due to the fact that the wooden spools on which it is wound weigh about 44 per cent of the gross weight of the spool and thread combined; whereas European thread comes wound on paper cartons that weigh from 6 to 33 per cent. Where the cartons carry more than the standard yardage (200 yards) the differential against the American product is still greater, despite the fact that the duty is 50 per cent higher on carton-packed threads.

Upon weighing two French cartons of thread and an American spool of thread, it was found that the cartons alone weighed 3.95 grams and 0.5 gram, respectively, the thread and cartons combined weighing 11.65 grams and 8.2 grams; while the American spool weighed 6.5 grams and the spool and thread combined, 13.2 grams.

**LIQUIDATION OF GERMAN AND AUSTRO-HUNGARIAN FIRMS.**

[Vice Consul A. E. Carleton, Hongkong, May 29.]

The liquidation of German and Austro-Hungarian firms in Hongkong has been practically completed. The disposal of stocks has been so successful without the slightest dislocation of the market that the Government had in December last fixed April 30, 1916, as the period at which it was expected that all stocks would have been disposed of, but owing to difficulties an extension has just been granted for two months or until June 30. This extension has been granted on condition that 50 per cent of the outstandings in each case are paid for and taken delivery of by May 31, 1916, and that all godown charges are paid by the purchasers, together with interest at the rate of 1 per cent per month. This order represents cargo sold but not delivered.

In reference to the piece goods liquidation, the liquidators of German firms are now confronted with the refusal of Chinese dealers to take deliveries of the remaining quantities of stock, endeavoring to force the sale of these stocks at public auction. The Chinese claim that they can not be prosecuted for nonacceptance of their obligations as the German firms have no legal standing in the colony, but this contention can not be determined until the expiration of the Government's notice of the conclusion of the liquidation, or on June 30. The various liquidators of the German firms, and particularly those dealing in piece goods, have been subject to a large number of petty claims of one class or another on the part of the Chinese dealers, and the Government with the idea in view of not delaying the final liquidation through these petty cases has included in the bill entitled "An ordinance to amend further the alien enemies (winding up) ordinance, 1914," the disclaimer cause to deal with just such cases.

In many of the German contracts for piece goods with Chinese dealers, no mention was made of charges for insurance, godown charges, and other expenses after the expiration of the date when the goods were sold but delivery not taken, and the disclaimer section of the ordinance in question, which will be introduced at the next meeting of the legislative council, gives power to the attorney general to waive these charges where the contract is silent in respect to them. The disclaimer is modeled on the power of disclaimer in bankruptcy, and any person injured by the disclaimer will be treated as a creditor of an alien enemy to the extent of such injury, and a right to obtain the decision of the court on the amount of damage is recognized.

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**AN ELECTRIC VEHICLE IN PANAMA.**

An electric vehicle for use by a business concern in Panama has been furnished from this country by the Ward Motor Vehicle Co. of Mount Vernon, N. Y., and is said to be the first one of the sort to be placed in use in that country. In view of the purchase of this car, a statement made in a dispatch published in **COMMERCE REPORTS** for June 27, 1916, is subject to correction. It was stated that the use of electric machines had not been adopted in that country.

**AGRICULTURAL CONDITIONS IN WALES.**

[Consul Lorin A. Lathrop, Cardiff, June 15.]

Of the 4,750,000 acres in Wales, 2,000,000 are under permanent pasture and 700,000 are cultivated. Of the cultivated area, nearly one-third is annually planted to clover and grasses and something less than this fraction to oats. The seeding of wheat in 1915 covered 49,000 acres; of barley, 80,000 acres; turnips, 50,000, and potatoes, 26,000. These crops are everywhere doing well.

The pastures of Wales carry 150,000 head of horses, 783,000 of cattle, 3,700,000 of sheep, and there are 183,000 hogs. Its climate, the contours of the hilly country, lack of labor, and reluctance to break up permanent pastures prevented any general response to reiterated official requests to plant more wheat in the fall of 1915; the increase of wheat acreage was in fact only 11,000 acres. Its horses decreased by 10,000 head in a year because of Government demands. Its cattle increased by 25,000 head, largely as a result of restriction of the sale of calves.

**Great Hay Crop Nearly Ready for Cutting.**

The great hay crop is nearly ready for cutting and promises well everywhere. Notwithstanding the heavy cost of feeding stuffs for cattle, fewer pastures have been used for cattle, and it is officially estimated that an acreage about 5 per cent larger than the average has been reserved for mowing. The entire hay crop will be officially controlled, and the Government will take what it wants at a fixed price approximating \$23 per ton for meadow hay and \$26 for clover. Hay will be made and grain harvested by labor obtained through the exercise of ingenuity. Women from the country mansions and the workmen's cottages are already in the fields in organized companies. Boys from the schools are expected to help.

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**UNITED KINGDOM'S EXPORTS OF WOOLEN MANUFACTURES.**

[Vice Consul Hamilton C. Clalborne, Bradford, England, June 15.]

Comparative returns of the exports of woollens and worsteds from the United Kingdom to foreign and colonial countries are given for the first five months of 1916, 1915, and 1914 by the Yorkshire Post. The figures are taken from the returns published by the Board of Trade. The exports of woolen tissues were 53,536,400 yards in the five months of 1916, compared with 35,484,600 in 1915 and 38,699,300 in 1914. The exports of worsted tissues were 21,546,900 yards, compared with 24,163,500 in 1915 and 32,313,500 in 1914.

Of the woolen tissues the United States received 3,293,200 in 1914, 1,633,300 in 1915, and 1,979,200 in 1916. There were increased shipments in 1916 over 1914 and 1915 to Sweden, Norway, Denmark, Netherlands, France, Portugal, Argentina, Egypt, British South Africa, Australia, New Zealand, and Canada.

Of the worsted tissues the United States received 3,967,200 yards in 1916, compared with 9,362,900 in the corresponding period of 1915 and 14,027,600 in 1914. There were increased shipments in 1916 over 1914 and 1915 to Norway, Denmark, Netherlands, Portugal, Spain, Uruguay, Argentina, Egypt, and New Zealand.

# SWISS OUTLOOK FOR THE CURRENT YEAR.

[Consul Walter H. Schulz, Berne, June 10.]

The business outlook of Switzerland for 1916 is not promising, viewed from the standpoint of foodstuff imports, but the satisfactory increase in the importation of raw silk, metals, and coal promises well for most of the nation's factories during the year.

Satisfactory imports are noted in wheat, corn, leather, board lumber, raw silk, coal, wool, iron, and calves. In the exports the machinery and textile trade, both cotton and silk, seem to be prospering. Considerable increases in the two articles are being shown; in some instances even the 1915 exports are being surpassed.

A most striking increase is observed in Portland cement exports. The shipments of this article increased from 1,023,385 pounds in January, 1915, to 14,994,517 pounds in January, 1916, and the January, 1914, figures were exceeded by 1,300,000 pounds.

In what great measure food imports have been affected by the war may be gathered from the following January, 1916, figures: Oats declined from 35,487,587 pounds in 1914 to 8,611,034 pounds; rice from 17,120,876 pounds in January, 1915, to 2,826,766 pounds; raw and crystal sugar from 39,244,702 pounds in January, 1915, to 13,534,837 pounds, and other sugar imports in proportion.

The imports of cattle decreased from 2,641 head in January, 1914, to 4 in January, 1916; sheep from 9,111 to 1; and pigs from 1,521 to 933. In January, 1915, 9,159 pigs were imported.

The decreased imports in foods, fertilizer, wood, and cotton are naturally causing the principal concern.

## AMERICAN CONSULAR OFFICERS ON LEAVE OF ABSENCE.

The following American consular officers are on leave of absence in the United States and will be glad to confer with business men and commercial organizations relative to conditions in their respective jurisdictions. The consul's time is available primarily for personal interviews. He has limited facilities for correspondence, and except in urgent cases letters should be directed to the consulate.

Name.	Post.	Expiration of leave.	Address.
West, George N.....	Kobe, Japan.....	Aug. 15	Department of State, Washington, D.C.
Rasmussen, B. M.....	Goteborg, Sweden.....	July 14	Roland, Iowa.
Coote, A. B.....	Patras, Greece.....	Aug. 10	121 West Charlotte Street, Norfolk, Va.
Hale, F. D.....	Huddersfield, England.....	Aug. 10	Lunenburg, Vt.
Fisher, Fred D.....	Tientsin, China.....	Aug. 5	Albany, Oreg.
Marterson, William W.....	Durban, Natal, South Africa.....	Sept. 1	Carrollton, Ky.
Seltzer, Harry G.....	Breslau, Germany.....		Gibraltar, Fa.

## District Offices of the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce.

New York, Room 409 United States Customhouse; Boston, eighteenth floor United States Customhouse; Chicago, 504 Federal Building; St. Louis, 402 Third National Bank Building; Atlanta, 521 Post Office Building; New Orleans, 1020 Hibernia Bank Building; San Francisco, 306 United States Customhouse; Seattle, 848 Henry Building. Cooperative district offices: Cleveland, Chamber of Commerce; Cincinnati, Chamber of Commerce; Asst. Gen'l Frt. Agt., C. N. O. & T. P. Ry. Co., Cincinnati; Los Angeles, Chamber of Commerce; Detroit, Board of Commerce; Philadelphia, Chamber of Commerce; South American Agent, Southern Ry. Co., Chattanooga, Tenn.

## FOREIGN TRADE OPPORTUNITIES.

Reserved addresses may be obtained from the **Bureau** and its **district offices**. Request for each opportunity should be on a separate sheet and **state opportunity number**. The Bureau does not furnish credit ratings or assume responsibility as to the standing of foreign inquirers; the usual precautions should be taken in all cases.

**Bank fixtures, etc.**, No. 21732.—An American consular officer in Venezuela reports a possible opportunity for the sale of modern bank furniture, fixtures, and supplies.

**Sewing thread**, No. 21733.—The Bureau is advised that the department of commerce of a neutral government in Europe is desirous of obtaining the names of American manufacturers of sewing thread.

**Crockery**, No. 21734.—An American consular officer in Canada reports that a firm wishes to receive catalogues and price lists, etc., of crockery ware.

**Buttons and button machines**, No. 21735.—A man in Australia informs an American consular officer that he desires to communicate with manufacturers of buttons of all kinds; also with manufacturers of machines for making buttons.

**Oil stoves**, No. 21736.—An American consular officer in Greece reports that a man wishes to represent American manufacturers of oil cookstoves. The two and three hole burners, blue-flame type, are desired. Correspondence may be in English.

**Clover seed**, No. 21737.—A bank in the Caucasus informs an American consular officer of its desire to establish permanent relations with American importers and others interested in the purchase of Turkestan clover seed. Correspondence may be in English.

**Hardware, novelties, etc.**, No. 21738.—An American consular officer in South Africa writes that a firm is anxious to secure exclusive agencies for American products suitable for the South African market, with a preference for tools, small hardware, and novelties.

**Steel wire**, No. 21739.—A merchant in France informs an American consular officer that he wishes steel wire for the manufacture of beds.

**Paper**, No. 21740.—An American consular officer in Paraguay reports that a firm desires to receive quotations on paper of all kinds, particularly news-print paper, of which it purchases about 10,000 kilos (22,046 pounds) every two months. Prices should be quoted c. i. f. Buenos Aires or Montevideo. Correspondence should be in Spanish. Samples are desired.

**Medicinal herbs**, No. 21741.—An exporter of medicinal herbs in southern Spain informs an American consular officer of his desire to communicate with importers of these products in the United States.

**Novelties**, No. 21742.—The Bureau is informed that a man in Russia desires to be placed in touch with American manufacturers and exporters of novelties of all kinds.

**Agency**, No. 21743.—According to a report received from an American consular officer in Venezuela, a manufacturer's agent in that country has sailed for the United States with a view to securing additional lines for representation. No particular line is specified.

**Cream separators, etc.**, No. 21744.—An American consular officer in the United Kingdom reports that a firm is desirous of being placed in communication with American manufacturers of cream separators and other dairy apparatus. Reference is given.

**Washing machinery**, No. 21745.—The owner of a laundry establishment in the Far East informs an American consular officer that he desires to be placed in touch with American manufacturers of washing machinery.

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

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No. 159

Washington, D. C., Saturday, July 8

1916

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### AMERICAN COTTON FOR HOLLAND'S TEXTILE INDUSTRY.

[Consul Frank W. Mahin, Amsterdam, June 22.]

At a meeting this week of the Chamber of Commerce and Manufacturers of Enschede, the center of the textile industry in this district, the situation regarding cotton was considered. It appears from statements made that 10,000 bales per month are required to supply the needs of the spinners, and that the Holland-Amerika Steamship Co. reports its inability to transport that quantity from the United States unless it were allowed to carry the cotton on deck, so far as might be necessary. The spinners were almost unanimously opposed to loading cotton on deck; but at the same time it was argued that unless the 10,000 bales per month were supplied the spinning industry would practically come to a standstill.

One of the speakers said he had received 200 bales brought from the United States on deck and that 20 per cent thereof was damaged by sea water, for which loss the insurers would not indemnify him.

It was decided to confer with Government authorities regarding ways and means to obtain the necessary supply of cotton.

### THE INCREASING PRICE OF DIAMONDS.

[Consul Frank W. Mahin, Amsterdam, Netherlands, June 22.]

For some years preceding the war the prices of diamonds steadily increased. The outbreak of the war brought a decline, but it was only temporary. The increase in prices is again steadily maintained, and the explanations indicate that the war is the main cause.

According to the London diamond syndicate, the supply of the raw stones is reduced for lack of workmen in the South African mines on account of the war; while the demand is large from the United States for the general trade, and there is also an unusual demand caused by the purchasing of diamonds, both by the public and by dealers in these gems, as a safe and convenient form of investment in view of the uncertainty of various securities in which these investors would ordinarily place their savings.

**BRITISH MARKET FOR PACIFIC COAST PRODUCTS.**

[Consul J. S. Armstrong, Jr., Bristol, England, June 5.]

A monthly service between Bristol and the Pacific coast is now maintained by the Maple Leaf Line, using the Panama Canal. Several of these steamers are now sailing under the American flag. The inauguration of the service has brought about an increased trade in such Pacific coast products as alfalfa hay, barley, canned goods, dried fruits, Oregon pine, California redwood, and Puget Sound salmon.

Although the development of trade between ports on the western coast of the United States and the city of Bristol has been promising, the recent import restrictions imposed by the British Government are sure to have a depressing effect on imports of some of the principal articles produced on the Pacific coast.

**Principal California Products in Demand.**

Canned salmon, as a staple article of food, is appreciated in this district. There is a good demand for California evaporated fruits, which yearly increase in popularity. California redwood is used for railroad ties, and this also meets with a good demand. These goods are all imported direct.

An important California product coming indirectly to this port is the cinematograph film. Picture theaters in Bristol use a great many more American films than any other kind, and their hold on the public favor seems to be constantly growing. In spite of the import tax recently imposed, motion-picture producers find it quite impossible to compete with the American product, partly because of the superiority of the California climate for photographic purposes.

The commercial superintendent of the port of Bristol some time ago estimated the saving per ton that he believed could be effected on a few of the principal commodities exported from California to certain British centers if shipped through Bristol instead of Liverpool or London. He estimated the average saving per ton on California produce via Avonmouth Dock, Bristol, as against London to Birmingham to be \$1.59; as against Liverpool to Birmingham, 83 cents; as against Liverpool to London, \$1.33; as against London to Cardiff, \$2.88; and as against Liverpool to Cardiff, \$2.70. The average saving per ton on exports to California via Avonmouth Dock, Bristol, as against London from Birmingham is \$1.30; as against Liverpool from London, \$1.38; and as against Liverpool from South Wales, \$1.83.

**Large Population Within Reach of Bristol.**

The population within a 100-mile radius of Bristol is 10,000,000. Passengers and mails can be conveyed from the Royal Edward Dock passenger station to London or Birmingham within two hours. There is a direct route by rail or water to the center of England. Granaries, elevators, cold stores, and cool transit sheds adjoin the quays, and the docks are equipped with electric, steam, and hydraulic cranes. There are railway lines alongside steamers' berths at all the docks. The graving docks can accommodate the largest class of steamers.

The quantities of goods imported directly into Bristol from Pacific Coast ports, from January 1, 1916, to May 30, 1916, as shown by



figures compiled at this consulate, and taken from customs bills of entry, were: Canned fruit, 40,112 cases; other canned goods, 27,117 cases; barley, 44,021 hundredweight; dried fruit, 9,610 cases; canned salmon, 5,950 cases. Lumber also was received.

The Bristol Chamber of Commerce states that local importers of canned goods have had to contend with exceptional difficulties during the past year. The scarcity of freight accommodations from oversea ports, and delays in transit were among the difficulties brought about by the war. These were further increased by the breakdown of the Panama Canal, a route in which Bristol traders are especially interested. In spite of these adverse influences, the trade generally is reported to have been able to obtain adequate supplies to meet the very large and steady demand which was one of the features of 1915. The increased freights and cost of handling goods on arrival raised prices, with very few exceptions, all along the line, and the year 1915 closed with the highest prices on record for many descriptions of canned goods.

#### **Up-to-date Facilities Reduce Congestion.**

Although there has been delay and congestion of traffic at this port, the up-to-date facilities for discharge at the Avonmouth and Bristol docks have reduced these difficulties to a minimum. Bristol has been recognized as most conveniently situated for distribution, and local merchants have been able to send their goods over a larger area than in normal times, and in distributing locally they have had less competition than usual from London and Liverpool.

Considering the war conditions, the dried-fruit trade has not been unsatisfactory. The quantity is somewhat reduced, but fruit usually supplied by Turkey has been obtained elsewhere, principally from California. The chamber of commerce reports that the total arrivals of Valencia oranges into Bristol up to April 13, 1916, were 221,787 cases, as against 188,068 for the corresponding period last year. The trade in this fruit is reported to have been quite satisfactory since the beginning of the season, which commenced November 15. The slump in prices which usually occurs during January was avoided this year, probably through an arrangement made among the packers to reduce shipments during that period. As a result of the scarcity of other fruits, there has been a steady demand for oranges throughout the season.

The arrivals of Valencia onions up to March 23 were 104,605 cases, compared with 90,190 last year. The prices asked for them are the highest on record. This is no doubt due to the total cessation of shipments from Holland, which was heretofore Bristol's chief source of supply.

The chamber of commerce states that the difficulties of transit have prevented any appreciable quantity of apples coming directly into Bristol. A few thousand boxes of Oregon apples have found their way to this market via Cardiff and Liverpool, but only one shipment is recorded to have come direct to Avonmouth.

[A list of firms in Bristol, England, probably interested in Pacific coast products may be obtained from the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce or its district offices. Refer to file No. 77606. Several classes of goods mentioned in this dispatch are on the British list of prohibited imports. These are: Vegetables and fruits, canned, dried, bottled, and preserved.]

## AMERICAN SHIPBUILDING DURING FISCAL YEAR.

The Bureau of Navigation, Department of Commerce, reports 1,030 vessels of 347,847 gross tons were built in the United States and officially numbered during the fiscal year ended June 30, 1916, compared with 1,266 vessels of 215,711 gross tons during the fiscal year ended June 30, 1915.

The seaboard yards have built 35 large steel merchant steamers aggregating 191,859 gross tons, the largest merchant steel output in their history. Of these, 21 steamers are each over 5,000 gross tons, the largest being the steamer *H. H. Rogers* of 10,050 gross tons, and 14 are between 3,000 and 5,000 gross tons each. The Newport News, Va., Shipbuilding and Dry Dock Co. built 6 of 40,329 gross; Maryland Steel Co., Sparrows Point, Md., 8 of 35,665 gross; Union Iron Works, San Francisco, Cal., 5 of 32,665 gross; New York Shipbuilding Co., Camden, N. J., 7 of 32,164 gross; and Fore River Shipbuilding Co., Quincy, Mass., 4 of 24,932 gross. The Newport News, Camden, and Quincy yards were also engaged in naval construction.

Of these steel ocean steamers, 24 of 138,858 gross tons have been registered for foreign trade, 8 of 34,386 gross tons enrolled for the coasting trade, one, the steamer *Pacific* of 6,034 gross tons, was sold to Norwegians, and up to June 30 the two remaining had not been documented.

Of the relatively small output of the Great Lakes, 8 vessels of 14,775 gross tons are each under 2,500 tons, built for the ocean trade, of which four are for foreign trade and one (*Morris Adler*, of 2,481 gross) has been sold to Norwegians.

## Class of Vessels and Where Built.

Following is the detailed statement according to material, power (gasoline included under steam), and place of build for the fiscal year ended June 30, 1916, compared with the preceding fiscal year.

FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 1916.

	Atlantic and Gulf.		Pacific.		Great Lakes.		Western rivers.		Total.	
	Num-ber.	Gross.	Num-ber.	Gross.	Num-ber.	Gross.	Num-ber.	Gross.	Num-ber.	Gross.
Wood:										
Sailing .....	44	14,208	3	1,879					47	16,087
Steam .....	242	7,107	172	8,426	82	1,350	98	1,898	594	18,781
Unrigged .....	159	49,033	77	10,054	20	3,060	29	677	285	62,844
Total .....	445	70,368	252	20,359	102	4,410	127	2,575	926	97,712
Metal:										
Steam .....	47	162,237	6	32,887	23	48,079	10	2,009	86	245,212
Unrigged .....	5	2,723			7	2,117	6	83	18	4,923
Total .....	52	164,960	6	32,887	30	50,196	16	2,092	104	250,135
Totals:										
Sailing .....	44	14,208	3	1,879					47	16,087
Steam .....	289	169,344	178	41,313	105	49,429	108	3,907	680	263,993
Unrigged .....	164	51,776	77	10,054	27	5,177	35	760	303	67,787
Grand total .....	497	235,328	258	53,246	132	54,606	143	4,667	1,030	347,847

FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 1915.

	Atlantic and Gulf.		Pacific.		Great Lakes.		Western rivers.		Total.	
	Num-ber.	Gross.	Num-ber.	Gross.	Num-ber.	Gross.	Num-ber.	Gross.	Num-ber.	Gross.
<b>Wood:</b>										
Sailing.....	49	7,225	1	16					50	7,241
Steam.....	297	8,297	237	13,612	103	2,029	106	3,144	743	27,082
Unrigged.....	205	51,515	101	4,187	35	3,727	14	194	355	59,621
Concrete.....	2	565							2	565
<b>Total.....</b>	<b>553</b>	<b>67,602</b>	<b>339</b>	<b>17,815</b>	<b>138</b>	<b>5,756</b>	<b>120</b>	<b>3,338</b>	<b>1,150</b>	<b>94,511</b>
<b>Metal:</b>										
Sailing.....	1	27							1	27
Steam.....	35	98,332	8	16,833	17	4,458	8	762	68	120,385
Unrigged.....	1	283	1	434	1	34	4	37	7	784
<b>Total.....</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>98,642</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>17,267</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>4,492</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>799</b>	<b>76</b>	<b>121,200</b>
<b>Totals:</b>										
Sailing.....	50	7,252	1	16					51	7,268
Steam.....	332	106,629	245	30,445	120	6,487	114	3,906	811	147,437
Unrigged.....	206	51,798	102	4,621	36	3,761	18	231	362	60,411
Concrete.....	2	565							2	565
<b>Grand total.....</b>	<b>590</b>	<b>166,244</b>	<b>348</b>	<b>35,062</b>	<b>156</b>	<b>10,248</b>	<b>132</b>	<b>4,137</b>	<b>1,266</b>	<b>215,711</b>

### ANALYSIS OF THE FOREIGN COMMERCE FOR MAY.

The following statement of the foreign trade of the United States for May has just been completed by the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, Department of Commerce. The imports and exports by great groups during May and the 11 months ended May, 1916, follow:

Groups.	Month of May—		Eleven months ended May—	
	1916	1915	1916	1915
<b>IMPORTS.</b>				
Crude materials for use in manufacturing.....	\$90,229,348	\$57,274,023	\$843,614,704	\$513,898,082
Foodstuffs in crude condition and food animals.....	21,549,498	15,380,775	229,569,685	205,708,042
Foodstuffs partly or wholly manufactured.....	36,902,951	30,431,992	266,932,109	255,309,873
Manufactures for further use in manufacturing.....	40,067,785	18,051,376	313,711,237	213,356,260
Manufactures ready for consumption.....	30,084,534	20,434,321	281,834,633	312,612,228
Miscellaneous.....	1,354,901	662,364	16,425,644	15,590,115
<b>Total imports.....</b>	<b>229,188,957</b>	<b>142,284,851</b>	<b>1,952,088,072</b>	<b>1,516,474,600</b>
<b>EXPORTS.</b>				
Crude materials for use in manufacturing.....	47,917,819	44,337,493	479,040,915	478,957,613
Foodstuffs in crude condition and food animals.....	36,146,874	38,752,970	358,241,207	481,110,381
Foodstuffs partly or wholly manufactured.....	62,248,328	40,828,391	542,003,155	406,373,144
Manufactures for further use in manufacturing.....	78,011,728	36,872,883	581,028,842	317,216,854
Manufactures ready for consumption.....	239,623,211	97,546,012	1,700,195,213	698,257,553
Miscellaneous.....	6,130,803	10,998,443	93,944,781	70,117,865
<b>Total domestic exports.....</b>	<b>470,078,763</b>	<b>269,336,222</b>	<b>3,814,454,113</b>	<b>2,452,033,411</b>
Foreign merchandise exported.....	4,802,492	4,881,920	55,706,973	48,008,510
<b>Total exports.....</b>	<b>474,881,255</b>	<b>274,218,142</b>	<b>3,870,161,086</b>	<b>2,500,041,921</b>

Exports of principal items under the heading "Miscellaneous" in May, 1916, were: Horses, \$4,049,275; mules, \$1,887,281, and seeds, \$114,565; and for 11 months ending with May, 1916, horses, \$69,008,116; mules, \$21,121,410; and seeds, \$3,406,541.

**WATER AND LIGHTING ENTERPRISES IN UPPER SILESIA.**

[Consul Harry G. Seltzer, Breslau, Germany, June 2.]

**Water-Supply Plans for Industrial District.**

About five years ago the Continental Water Works Co. of Berlin proposed to erect a large new supply plant in the district of Lublinitz near Miottek, where water is plentiful, and to serve the whole Upper Silesian industrial district. At that time the plan had to be dropped, since the Royal Government in Oppeln in its turn encouraged the plan of erecting a new plant near Krappitz, where the water should be taken from the Oder and conducted by the straightest way to the industrial district. On account of considerable technical difficulties this plan was also dropped and the Continental Water Works Co. again approached the various Upper Silesian towns and concerns.

At present the city council of Beuthen is considering a contract with this company; but, since the water supply from three important works has proved to be sufficient and healthy, this plan has many opponents. On the other hand, account must be taken of the possibility that some day these sources might be endangered or stopped by the mining industry. In that case, a contract with the Continental Water Works Co. would be desirable, although a cubic meter of water would then cost about 2 cents more. No definite action has yet been taken.

**Attention Given to Furnishing of Supply in Past Years.**

The water supply of Beuthen in past years has been improved by making various contracts with the waterworks Adolfschacht, Zawada, and Rosaliengrube. In 1884 and 1904 contracts were made with the Adolfschacht, which supplied the royal mining and railway plants in the district of Beuthen and Hindenburg, the city of Königshütte, parts of Beuthen itself, 12 villages, 2 farm districts, 10 industrial plants, and 1 hospital, with altogether 164,300 inhabitants. A contract was made with Zawada in 1895. This plant supplied the cities of Peiskretscham and Gleiwitz and parts of Beuthen, the royal mining and railway plants in the district of Tost-Gleiwitz, 15 villages, 9 industrial concerns, 5 farm districts, and 3 hospitals, with altogether about 150,000 inhabitants. In 1899 a contract with Rosaliengrube was made, to supply the cities of Kattowitz, Myslowitz, and Beuthen, 25 industrial concerns and farm districts. In 1900 the towns of Rossberg, Deutsch-Piekar, and Schomberg entered into this contract.

**Annual Report Submitted by Electrical Company.**

The annual report of the Schlesische Electricitäts- und Gas A-G. in Upper Silesia, just published, shows satisfactory results for 1915. The number of subscribers has increased from 27,057 in 1914 to 35,408 at the end of 1915, and the total consumption of current amounted to 158,770,971 kw.-hr. in comparison with 145,327,130 kw.-hr. in 1914. Since only a few new connections were made, the augmented consumption of current was principally due to the highly increased activity of industrial life in Upper Silesia. In spite of some extensions and new buildings in 1915, the works can now hardly supply the demand, and a further considerable increase of their capacity is planned.

The total receipts from electric current, rent of meters, etc., amounted to \$1,571,431 (\$1,514,509 in 1914); the total expenditures for fuel, wages, repairs, etc., amounted to \$623,595 (\$591,460 in 1914), and the surplus was \$947,836 (\$923,049 in 1914) for 1915.

Since the available funds of the corporation are low, the directory proposed to increase the capital stock by \$714,000, issuing 2,500 shares at \$285.60, entitled to only half of the amount of dividend for 1916. An investment of \$3,618 was made in the Silesian Narrow Gauge Railway Co., while \$47,600 was put aside for the electric works at Sosnowice, Russian Poland.

### **NEW IODINE FACTORY IN VLADIVOSTOK.**

[Consul John K. Caldwell, Vladivostok, Siberia; translation from *Dalekaya Okraina*, May 18.]

Last year the Russian Colonization Department commissioned Mr. Melnikoff, in charge of drug stores at Tomsk, to come to Vladivostok to study the conditions of seaweed gathering in the Far East. Mr. Melnikoff was in Vladivostok for over two months, and during that time visited almost the whole shore line of Peter the Great Bay. He considered the peasant's method of gathering the seaweed, unproductive and harmful, the seaweed being torn up by the roots. The Colonization Department proposed using divers to cut the seaweed, but that proved unnecessary, because the weed does not grow farther than 50 feet from the shore line.

Mr. Melnikoff has again arrived in Vladivostok, this time to erect an iodine factory, for which the Colonization Department has assigned \$60,000. It has been decided to construct the factory on Nahodka Bay. Eight hundred boats have already been ordered; the gathering of seaweed will be effected by means of hooks.

During the summer of 1916 it is intended to gather and work not less than 8,064 long tons of seaweed.

Yesterday Mr. Melnikoff went to Khabarovsk to procure permits to gather seaweed to the north of Povorotni Cape.

### **BRITISH COLUMBIA LOAN TO AID RAILWAY.**

[Consul R. B. Mosher, Victoria, June 19.]

Under authority granted in an act passed by the last British Columbia Legislature—the British Columbia Loan Act—which enables the Province to borrow \$10,000,000 for the purpose of assisting the Pacific Great Eastern Railway, bonds to the value of \$2,000,000 will be floated at once, so that this railway may complete its line through to Prince George, B. C. It is stated that the loan will be floated at a rate to cost the Province 5.60 per cent. The bonds are to be sold through eastern Canadian houses, and in all likelihood will be disposed of in New York.

The act empowers the Provincial Government to advance \$6,000,000 to the Pacific Great Eastern Railway to complete work already undertaken. The acquisition of the \$2,000,000 will permit work to be done on the railway immediately.

Men have been sent north to Clinton, B. C., and from that point tracklaying will be rushed ahead along the grade. By fall the steel will be into Prince George. The company will require a large number of men for the work, which includes bridge building, etc., and the resumption of the enterprise will prove a boon to the district through which the line runs.

**TANNING METHODS EMPLOYED IN PHILIPPINES.**

[J. F. Boomer, correspondent, Manila, May 2.]

The place held by leather in the trade of the Philippine Islands has grown year by year. The local tanneries turned out approximately \$900,000 worth of leather of all classes during the past year. At the same time the importations of leather amounted to \$1,274,802. In 1914 the importations amounted to \$1,557,324. The marked annual increase in the use of leather goods of various kinds in the islands has stimulated local interest in the production of the raw material.

Comparatively speaking, the islands can not become great producers of leather even with a vast improvement in the methods of tanning, on account of the scarcity of cattle. A large proportion of the beef consumed in the Philippines is imported, and a still larger proportion of the imports comes in cold storage. This situation is likely to continue unchanged until some effective way is found to eradicate the cattle diseases of the country and permit the raising of beef cattle here.

A survey of the islands for data relating to the tanning industry has been made recently, and this has thrown more light on the leather trade's progress. The number and distribution of tanneries in the islands and their production for the past year were:

Provinces.	Tan-neries.	Number of hides.	Provinces.	Tan-neries.	Number of hides.
Manila.....	8	39,050	Batangas.....	19	220
Bulacan.....	11	36,000	Zamboanga.....	1	216
Iloilo.....	3	5,929	Nueva Ecija.....	4	164
Cebu.....	4	4,401	Sorsogon.....	1	120
Pangasinan.....	11	2,600	Antique.....	2	70
Albay.....	4	1,320	Cavite.....	4	65
Ilocos Norte.....	37	1,130	Cagayan.....	17	54
Ilocos Sur.....	13	1,114	Capiz.....	22	23
Ambos Camarines.....	3	270			
Rizal.....	1	250			
Tayabas.....	2	250	Total.....	167	93,345

**Boots and Shoes Constitute More Than Half of Leather Imports.**

The annual imports of leather and manufactures of leather now average a little more than \$1,000,000 in value. Of this amount over 60 per cent is made up of boots and shoes.

In the local market the average prices for leather in piece run as follows: Leather from Philippine cattle tanned in the Philippines, \$6.50 to \$10; leather from Australian cattle tanned in the Philippines, \$8 to \$12; leather imported for soles, \$20 to \$50. Hides for the manufacture of leather are usually sold by the piece in the markets. Those from Australian cattle are sold, on an average, for \$8; those from Chinese cattle and native cattle at an average price of \$5. In many of the Provinces where hides are available only occasionally, they may be bought for \$2.50. In many places no use whatever is made of the hides. Occasionally dried hides are shipped to Hongkong or India for the manufacture of glue. The natives do not understand the preservation of hides by the use of salt and brine, and shipments often reach the tannery in a state of putrefaction more or less advanced, through lack of care. During the past four or five years considerable quantities of green or untanned hides have been received, almost exclusively from China.

**Mangrove and Camanchile Barks Used.**

The only tanning materials used in the Philippines are the mangrove and camanchile barks. These are exceedingly abundant at present and sell for about \$12 per ton. The mangrove is not used extensively outside of Manila. The Filipinos generally seem to prefer the camanchile. The best results are said to be obtained by a combination of the two. The preference of the Filipino tanners for camanchile has caused a slight rise in its price. Although the tree grows in almost every part of the islands, it is not cultivated. The annual consumption of its bark for tanning purposes is approximately 1,500 tons. The fear is expressed by some that, inasmuch as no effort is made to cultivate the tree, and it has a tendency to die when despoiled of a considerable amount of bark, the supply of tan bark from this source may soon be exhausted. The camanchile bark gives a clear color to leather. An analysis of a well-dried specimen shows the following results: Nontannins, 9.41 per cent; tannins, 25.36 per cent.

In the climatic conditions of the Philippines it is found that solutions of camanchile bark readily ferment and decompose, losing their tanning properties and giving off an offensive odor. Experiments have shown that the addition of a small amount of carbolic acid is desirable. The camanchile-bark solutions contain an irritating matter that appears to affect the eyes of workmen in tanneries, causing also a swelling of the eyelids. Many other barks in the Philippines contain varying amounts of tannins, but none in sufficient quantities to be of commercial importance.

**Modern Methods Used in Attempt to Improve Industry.**

Owing to the primitive methods employed in Philippine tanneries and the poor results obtained, an effort is being made to improve the industry by the introduction of modern methods. It is hoped that by these methods an improved output may be obtained without the investment of more capital at present. An expert tanner recently made a survey of the tanneries in the neighborhood of Meycauayan, Bulacan Province, taking these as typical of the Philippine plants. The tanneries of this region consume the hides from the Government slaughterhouse at Sisiman, some hides imported from Hongkong, and also some carabao hides. The last mentioned are very hard to tan, owing to their thickness. Usually these are divided, the outer part being tanned and the rest sold for the manufacture of glue. Where the hide as a whole is tanned, the process is usually so incomplete that the inner portion decays, giving the leather an offensive odor. The leather so tanned is of a very poor quality and is not serviceable in making shoes.

When the skins are received in the tannery they are allowed to stand in the water for about eight hours. The edge of a small river is utilized for this purpose at Meycauayan. The skins are usually fastened together in lots of from 17 to 20. From the water they are removed to a vat of lime. These vats are constructed in lines, with 10 to 20 in a row, of ordinary Guadalupe stone and lime, without roofs or other protection. Each vat is approximately 5.5 by 3 feet, with a depth of about 2.5 feet. A bundle of about 20 hides is put into each vat, which contains 25 liters (1 dry quart=1.1012 liters) of lime and sufficient water to fill the vat. The lime and water are mixed, and

the undissolved pieces of large size are strained out by means of a cane sieve. The hides are put into the vat, doubled longitudinally in such a manner that the hair is on the outside. They are laid one upon another in this way until the vat is full, and are left in this lime bath for 10 to 15 days. During this period they are examined three or four times and moved about in the vat, so that the hides first at the bottom are later at the top of the vat. The length of time for the bath is determined by the looseness of the hair and the swelling of the skin. The lime water is used but once.

After the lime bath the hides are taken to the river, where the hair is removed and the flesh side of each hide is scraped with a dull knife. To remove all traces of the lime, the hides are allowed to remain some hours in the water.

#### **Waste Parts Sold for Manufacture of Glue.**

The scrapings of flesh, small particles of the hide, and all the waste parts of the hide except the hair are thrown into receptacles where they are mixed with a small amount of lime, pressed into cakes, dried, and sold for the manufacture of glue. These cakes are usually sold for \$4.50 per picul (139.44 pounds). The receipts from this source in local tanneries are usually divided between the tanner and his laborers.

The vats in which the tanning liquid is placed are made of stone and ordinary masonry and extend a short distance above the ground. Over them is a large roof without walls. They are approximately 6 by 4 feet and 3 feet deep. In each one 20 hides of Chinese or Philippine cattle or 17 hides of Australian cattle may be placed at one time for tanning purposes. For this number of hides about 1,100 pounds of camachile bark cut into small pieces is soaked in about 400 gallons of liquid for three days. This liquid is usually made up of two parts well water and one part of tanning liquid once used. At the end of three or four days the bark is separated from the liquid in which it has been soaking. The bottom of the vat is first covered with a layer of the bark that has been soaked. Then a hide, doubled longitudinally, is laid with the hair side down upon this layer of bark, the upper fold of the hide being supported in the hands of the workman. Another layer of bark is placed over the half of the hide that rests on the bottom of the vat, and the upper fold of the hide is brought over to rest on the second layer of bark. The process is continued until the vat is filled. Then the liquid is poured into the vat until the hides are submerged.

#### **Kneading Employed as Part of Process.**

During the first four days of the process of tanning, the hides are removed once a day from the vat to be kneaded by the process in which the workmen walk over them and tramp them with the bare feet. After each kneading period the hides are returned to the vat in the same manner as in first instance. The kneading is thought to make the tissues more susceptible to the absorption of the tannin and to prevent putrefaction in the hides. It is sometimes done five or six times when conditions are thought to require it. If the hides are not sent to the markets immediately after the tanning process is completed, they are usually left in vats containing old tanning liquid, where they are kept sometimes for several years. When needed for the market, they are first taken to the river or other wash-



ing place and cleaned, and are then stretched by means of bamboo frames and left to dry. Once dry they are sent direct to the market.

Experts who have examined the tanneries at Meycauayan have reached the conclusion that putrefaction is due in a large measure to improper care in the matter of disinfecting and keeping the vats clean during the process. It is also believed that the water used is impregnated with substances which tend to produce or hasten putrefaction. Experiments have been made in one of the Filipino tanneries, giving special attention to the cleanliness and thoroughness of all the processes, and a good grade of leather has been produced. In this experiment water from an artesian well was used, and the hides were thoroughly cleaned after each step in the process. The first application of tanning liquid to the hides was weak, so that it would not tan the surfaces before the tannin had had time to penetrate to the inner portion.

Probably the quality of leather produced in the Philippines will not be improved for a long time to come, and it will not be possible to produce a sufficient quantity of any grade to supply the local demand or compete successfully with the imported article.

[A previous review of the tanning industry of the Philippine Islands was published in *COMMERCE REPORTS* for June 28, 1915.]

### AMERICAN CONSULAR OFFICERS ON LEAVE OF ABSENCE.

The following American consular officers are on leave of absence in the United States and will be glad to confer with business men and commercial organizations relative to conditions in their respective jurisdictions. The consul's time is available primarily for personal interviews. He has limited facilities for correspondence, and except in urgent cases letters should be directed to the consulate.

Name.	Post.	Expiration of venue.	Address.
West, George N.....	Kobe, Japan.....	Aug. 15	Department of State, Washington, D.C.
Rasmussen, B. M.....	Goteborg, Sweden.....	July 14	Roland, Iowa.
Cooke, A. B.....	Patras, Greece.....	Aug. 10	121 West Charlotte Street, Norfolk, Va.
Hale, F. D.....	Huddersfield, England.....		Lunenburg, Vt.
Fisher, Fred D.....	Tientsin, China.....	Aug. 5	Albany, Oreg.
Masterson, William W.....	Durban, Natal, South Africa.....	Sept. 1	Carrollton, Ky.
Seltzer, Harry G.....	Breslau, Germany.....		Gibraltar, Pa.

### PRIMARY EDUCATION IN SIBERIA.

[Consul John K. Caldwell, Vladivostok, Asiatic Russia, May 29; translation from *Dalekaya Okraina*.]

The Department of Education at Petrograd recently issued statistical tables which show the status of primary education in European Russia and Siberia at the beginning of 1915. On January 1, 1915, the number of schools in Siberia was 5,190, of which 538 were in towns and 4,652 in villages. The number of schools in the various sections were as follows: 2,730 in the western Siberian district, 1,751 in the eastern Siberian district, and 709 in the Priamur District. The Provinces with the largest number of schools were Tomsk (135), Transbaikial (57), Akmolinsk and Tobolsk (55 each), and Irkutsk and the Maritime Province (51 each).

**BAUXITE PRODUCTION IN BRITISH AND DUTCH GUIANA.**

[Consul George E. Chamberlin, Georgetown, May 31.]

Activity in exploring for bauxite in British and Dutch Guiana has been marked in the past two years. Bodies of this mineral have been found in both colonies, and the prospects of those engaged in the industry are believed to be highly satisfactory. A syndicate which establishes a working agreement has been formed, from 13,000 to 14,000 acres of land have been purchased, mining rights over 6,000 acres secured, and application made to the Government of British Guiana for the lease of three tracts of Crown land of 500 acres each. All of these tracts are on or near the Demerara River, in the vicinity of Wismar, Christinburg, and Three Friends, from 65 to 80 miles above Georgetown. Other deposits are known to the local government, and application has been made for particulars as to the location.

Active operations have been commenced in Dutch Guiana, but on account of the fact that the leases for Crown lands required in British Guiana have not yet been approved by the British Government, to which they were referred, no active development has been undertaken in this colony.

The extent of the deposits of bauxite in Dutch Guiana is not known, but they are believed to be fully as extensive as those of this colony. Some of the known deposits are located as follows: At Oncribo, Para Creek, Surinam River; at Rena Reu Creek, Portorico, on the Surinam River; on the Cotteca River; on the Marechals branch of the Surinam River.

American citizens are not prevented by the laws of either colony from acquiring prospecting and mining rights for minerals, but in British Guiana only British subjects can acquire rights for mineral oil.

**Regulations Governing Concessions or Leases.**

Mining concessions or leases of Crown lands in British Guiana, for 99 years or under, may be obtained for any area on payment of \$10 with the application and an annual rental of 20 cents per acre, payable in advance on April 1 of each year. The concessions are suitable in cases where the work to be carried on is of a permanent nature and necessitates the expenditure of large capital, as they are not open to automatic revocation for nonpayment of rental nor are they liable to be "jumped," as an ordinary claim license is liable every June.

The terms and conditions under which mining concessions are ordinarily granted for gold, silver, and valuable minerals, or of precious stones are in part:

The holder of the concession shall diligently explore such land for gold, silver, etc., unless he has permission to cease work from the Commissioner of Lands and Mines or from the warden of the district. He is not allowed to use the land for other purposes without the written sanction of the Commissioner of Lands and Mines.

The holder of the concession shall, as often as required, furnish true and proper returns and statistics or other particulars of the operations to be carried on and the results thereof.

The boundary lines must be kept clearly marked and the name boards, having marked thereon the name of the holder of the concession, its number, date, and area, properly put up.

Aboriginal Indians are allowed the right to camp, hunt, and traverse the land of the concession. Acceptance of rent or royalty can not be pleaded as a waiver of the right of the Commissioner of Lands and Mines to enforce the observance of the conditions of the concession, or of the right of the Governor in Council to cancel the concession for any breach thereof.

#### Permission May be Granted for Railway Construction.

Permission may be granted to any person or persons to construct a railway across or through any portion of the land comprised in the concession, without any right to the holders to compensation or abatement of rental.

If any part of the land is required for the purpose of any township, village, road, canal, railway, railway station and approaches thereto, or tramways, etc., the Commissioner of Lands and Mines may give three months' notice in writing that such part will be required, and such part of the land shall cease to be included in the concession, and the holder thereof shall not be entitled to any abatement of rent or compensation.

At the end of the term for which the concession is granted, or sooner if the concession is canceled, he shall deliver peaceable possession of the land to the Commissioner of Lands and Mines, and shall remove all tools and appliances within a specified time.

All concessions have to be surveyed at the cost of the applicant by a qualified surveyor. The cost of Government survey is 10 cents per acre, together with the actual cost of the work and taking the surveyor to and from the spot.

All disputes arising under the regulations are settled by the warden of the district in which they arise, and only the Supreme Court has the power to set aside a warden's decision after appeal has been made against it.

### EXPORTS FROM DUTCH EAST INDIES TO UNITED STATES.

The following table shows the principal exports, with the quantity, from the Netherlands India to the United States during the first quarters of 1915 and 1916:

Articles.	Jan.-Mar., 1915.	Jan.-Mar., 1916.	Articles.	Jan.-Mar., 1915.	Jan.-Mar., 1916.
Arecannts.....pounds.....		67,184	Oils—Continued.		
Bamboo hats.....number.....	301,280	191,958	Fusel.....pounds.....		334,077
Cassia.....pounds.....	13,673	363,702	Kajjoepoeti.....liters.....	1,782	2,550
Cassia vera.....do.....	351,512		Kananga.....pounds.....		1,738
Chemical products.....do.....		1,752	Pepper:		
Cloves.....do.....	69,739	3,850	Black.....do.....	102,272	7,578,712
Coca.....do.....		36,585	White.....do.....		384,891
Cocoa.....do.....	84,844	79,976	Potash.....do.....		31,702
Coffee.....do.....	2,853,598	477,733	Quinine (Manila).....do.....	1,012	12,228
Copra.....do.....		6,800	Rattan.....do.....	104,718	1,402,759
Cutch (Manila).....do.....		2,992	Rubber.....do.....	703,115	7,171,626
Damar.....do.....	735,586	560,934	Sago flour.....do.....		605,200
Damar dust.....do.....	24,481	48,962	Sewing machines (Manila)		
Fiber.....do.....	1,566,058	1,703,422	.....number.....	105	714
Gambier.....do.....		70,298	Shells:		
Grass (pandan) hats, num- ber.....	229,020	99,120	Green small.....pounds.....	8,969	46,445
Groundnuts (peanuts)..... pounds.....	136,932	218,797	Mother-of-pearl.....do.....		121,240
Gum benjamin.....do.....	2,069	2,011	Tortoise.....do.....		17,680
Gum copal.....do.....	277,910	430,796	Skins:		
Gutta bangkang.....do.....	22,293		Deer.....pieces.....	200	2,000
Gutta percha.....do.....	102,637	161,165	Goat.....do.....	134,683	407,826
Hides (buffalo and cow)..... pieces.....	19,808	67,439	Lizard.....do.....		5,932
Jelotong.....pounds.....	12,138	1,018,994	Sheep.....do.....	32,600	26,300
Kapok.....do.....	1,476,289	3,100,721	Snake.....do.....		753
Kapok (Manila).....do.....		27,203	Tapioca flake.....pounds.....	176,076	571,948
Mace.....do.....	3,400	47,929	Tapioca flour.....do.....	5,586,990	12,155,965
Matte.....do.....	92,178		Tapioca, pearl.....do.....		29,493
Mats.....pieces.....	50,000		Tapioca residue.....do.....	69,108	
Nutmegs.....pounds.....	199,233	53,512	Tapioca seeds.....do.....		43,500
Oil:			Tapioca siftings.....do.....		44,559
Citronella or essential			Tea.....do.....	69,767	127,679
pounds.....	12,024	52,103	Tin.....do.....	3,134,921	6,008,226
Coconut.....do.....	178,572	1,497,845	Wax, paraffin.....do.....	74,900	266,560
			Wood:		
			Ebony.....do.....		68,816
			Sandal.....do.....		64,480

### NEW CAR FOR FISH DISTRIBUTION.

The new Bureau of Fisheries car, constructed at Wilmington, Del., arrived at Union Station, Washington, July 1. The car was delivered to the bureau and accepted in May, but has since been at Wilmington for the installation of special equipment preparatory to being placed in commission. A crew of five men has been assigned to the new car, transferred from one of the old wooden cars.

The car is entirely of steel and is thoroughly insulated by the latest improved method to insure against heat and cold. It has a length of 60 feet  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch over ends of body plates, and a standard width of 10 feet. The weight of the car with equipment is 150,000 pounds and is designed to carry a load of 35,000 pounds.

The car is specially designed for carrying live fishes long distances. In the center, running lengthwise on each side, are insulated tanks with a total capacity for 130 ten-gallon cans in which the fish are held. During transportation the fish will be furnished with oxygen and fresh water by means of air and water pumps, operated by a 6-horsepower steam boiler. The boiler will also furnish heat to the car, but in addition to this independent heating system the usual train attachment for heating from the locomotive is provided.

Tanks for carrying a reserve water supply are located beneath the car, and an ice box of a capacity of 1 ton of ice provided. In addition to the facilities for the transportation of fish the car is fitted with living accommodations for a crew of five men, a cook's galley, an office, and a space for a dining table.

Fish are distributed by the Bureau of Fisheries in every State of the Union, some 10,000 individual applications being filled annually in addition to the large public plants of the so-called commercial species in the Great Lakes and coastal streams of the seaboard. This phase of the bureau's work has grown to enormous proportions, and in the fiscal year ended June 30, 1915, 49 species were propagated, these including, in addition to fishes, the lobster and several species of economically valuable fresh-water mussels. The total output of these was over four and a half billions, which were planted in every State and Alaska. Some idea of the magnitude of the work of distributing fish is indicated by the fact that it involved 637,716 miles of travel, of which 146,544 was by the bureau's special cars and the remainder by car messengers.

Solely by reason of these fish-cultural operations and similar activities on the part of the States, the supply of trout and other game and food fishes in streams and small lakes is being maintained and increased, the whitefish of the Great Lakes is holding its own, the shad in certain waters is being saved from extinction, and the effects of exhaustive fisheries for the Pacific salmon and certain marine fishes are being offset. As a result of transplanting, the Atlantic shad and striped bass are abundant on the Pacific coast, and the former are being shipped back in large numbers to supply the markets of the East. Certain depleted salmon rivers of Maine recently have been planted with humpback salmon from the Pacific coast, and small runs of breeding fish already have appeared in several of these streams, indicating that the nearly exterminated Atlantic salmon may be replaced by a worthy successor, better able to cope with the new conditions in the streams incident to industrial development.

**SUPPLIES FOR ITALIAN TECHNICAL TRADES.**

[Vice Consul Ulysses J. Bywater, Rome, May 29.]

Information has been sought regarding the market in this consular district for electroplating supplies, felt for washers and castings, "glassite," powdered glass, and steel wool. In general there is not a large market in the district for supplies for technical trades, as Rome is not a commercial or industrial center. Local dealers obtain such supplies from the large importing and distributing houses at Genoa, Milan, and Turin, and very rarely import direct. On account of the difficulties in connection with an attempt to deal direct with a number of small merchants, American manufacturers would probably find it more satisfactory and profitable to enter the Italian market through a general agent situated either at Genoa or Milan.

It would probably be possible to find a good market for felt for printing purposes in this district, as there is a general shortage of such materials. Although felt is manufactured to some extent in northern Italy, the production is insufficient for the needs of the country, and considerable quantities were imported before the war. Steel wool should have a large market here if properly introduced, as it is an article which can find general use for household and industrial purposes. Such household articles were imported in very large quantities into Italy before the war, but the source of supply is now cut off.

**Should Use Italian Language and Metric System.**

In communicating with dealers here, the Italian language should be used and all weights and measurements should be given in metric terms. In general, printed matter in English is useless in this country and a short description in the Italian language of the articles offered is worth far more than booklets or catalogues in a language which is not understood. Prices should be quoted f. o. b. New York or other Atlantic seaport, as the Italian importer is not in a position to ascertain freight rates between inland centers and the seaboard. If possible, it would also be advisable to give approximate but not binding rates between the American and Italian ports.

At present, most of the foreign commerce is on a cash basis but if much business is desired in this country Americans must be prepared in the future to grant credit terms of two or three months.

[Lists of electroplating and metal-working plants, dealers in and agents for automobile accessories, dealers in and agents for newspaper and lithographers' supplies, and dealers in and agents for household articles in the Rome consular district may be obtained from the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce or its district offices. Refer to file No. 77784.]

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**District Offices of the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce.**

New York, Room 409 United States Customhouse; Boston, eighteenth floor United States Customhouse; Chicago, 504 Federal Building; St. Louis, 402 Third National Bank Building; Atlanta, 521 Post Office Building; New Orleans, 1020 Hibernia Bank Building; San Francisco, 306 United States Customhouse; Seattle, 848 Henry Building. Cooperative district offices: Cleveland, Chamber of Commerce; Cincinnati, Chamber of Commerce; Asst. Gen'l Frt. Agt., C. N. O. & T. P. Ry. Co., Cincinnati; Los Angeles, Chamber of Commerce; Detroit, Board of Commerce; Philadelphia, Chamber of Commerce; South American Agent, Southern Ry. Co., Chattanooga, Tenn.

## FOREIGN TRADE OPPORTUNITIES.

Reserved addresses may be obtained from the **Bureau and its district offices**. Request for each opportunity should be on a separate sheet and **state opportunity number**. The Bureau does not furnish credit ratings or assume responsibility as to the standing of foreign inquirers; the usual precautions should be taken in all cases.

*Paper*, No. 21746.—A firm of dealers in typewriters and office supplies in the Far East requests an American consular officer to place it in touch with American manufacturers of writing and printing paper, typewriting and manifold paper, wrapping and packing paper, manila covers, etc., in accordance with samples which may be inspected at the Bureau or its district offices. (Refer to file No. 77720.) American manufacturers should submit samples with their quotations.

*Barrels*, No. 21747.—An American consular officer in South America reports that a man desires to receive, as early as possible, quotations, f. o. b. New York, on knockdown barrels, with and without inscription, as follows: 1,000 barrels, capacity 200 liters; 200 barrels, 100 liters; and 200 barrels, 50 liters. (1 liter equals .2642 gallon). Barrels may be consigned in care of a local bank. Cash will be paid against documents at destination. Barrels are desired for storing sugar-cane brandy. Correspondence should be in Spanish.

*Pharmaceutical products, machinery, etc.*, No. 21748.—The representative of a company recently organized in France for the purpose of developing trade between the United States and France, Italy, and Spain, desires to enter into direct commercial relations with American manufacturers of pharmaceutical products, moving-picture films, electric magnetos, machinery, etc. A complete list of the articles desired, together with further information, references, etc., may be obtained from the Bureau or its district offices.

*Chloride of lime*, No. 21749.—An American consular officer in Spain reports that an importer is in the market for wholesale quantities of chloride of lime. Correspondence should be in Spanish. Cash will be paid against documents. Commercial references will be furnished upon request, it is stated.

*Machinery*, No. 21750.—A firm in Chile informs an American consular officer that it desires to receive catalogues, prices and terms, on a small spinning frame for wool and necessary additional machinery for the needs of a small knitting mill. Further equipment will probably be ordered later. Correspondence may be in English. References can be furnished, it is stated. Shipping weight and cubic measurements should be given.

*Sewing machines, etc.*, No. 21751.—An American consular officer in France writes that a firm wishes to enter into commercial relations with American manufacturers of household articles of all kinds, and toys; sewing machines; agricultural machinery; separators for milk and cream; glass bottles and vases, and paper and parchment of all kinds.

*Confectionery*, No. 21752.—A retail dealer in confectionery in the United Kingdom informs an American consular officer of his desire to enter into business relations with American manufacturers of confections, such as are sold in the average candy store.

*Office supplies, etc.*, No. 21753.—An American consular officer in Denmark reports that a man wishes to represent American manufacturers of pencils, pens, office supplies, tools, sewing thread, etc.

*Sporting goods, vacuum bottles, etc.*, No. 21754.—A firm in South Africa advises an American consular officer that it desires to represent American manufacturers of collapsible go-carts, vacuum bottles, fishing tackle, boxing gloves, etc.

*Smoke stack nozzles*, No. 21755.—A shingle manufacturer in Canada informs an American consular officer of his desire to be placed in touch with manufacturers of smoke-stack nozzles.

*Wines*, No. 21756.—An American consular officer in China reports that a firm in his district desires to be placed in touch with American exporters of table wines, both red and white, bottled and in cask.

JUL 31 1916

PRINCETON, N. J.

# COMMERCE REPORTS



DAILY CONSULAR AND TRADE REPORTS  
ISSUED DAILY BY THE BUREAU OF FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC COMMERCE  
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

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1916

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### BRITISH GOVERNMENT REQUISITIONS LEATHER.

[Cablegram from American consul-general at London, dated July 6.]

Notice is given that War Office intends to take possession of all bends of 10 pounds weight and upward from English or imported hides, all classes including butts, which will be calculated as two bends; all medium and heavy shoulders, square or with cheeks, from English or imported hides of all classes. Sale, removal, or secretion of these materials without War Office consent constitutes an offense.

### IMPORTATION OF TOBACCO INTO GREAT BRITAIN.

[Cablegram from American Consul General, London, July 6.]

A license has been granted to the British-American Tobacco Co. to import American tobacco during the year commencing June 1 to the extent of four times the quantity of such manufactured tobacco (plus 10 per cent for loss in weight) that was exported from the United Kingdom by this company during the three months ending March 31, 1916. A condition of the license is that leaf tobacco shall be imported in neutral ships not usually trading with United Kingdom and that cargo space not usable for tobacco shall be at the disposal of the British Government for carrying munitions or other goods at current rates. A further condition is that any manufacturer of tobacco for export may obtain similar license on furnishing to the Department of Import Restrictions prior to July 15 a statement showing the quantity of tobacco imported by the applicant during the quarter ending March 31 and, license having been issued, the tobacco must be carried in ships provided by the British-American Tobacco Co. at the rate paid by the company for transporting its own tobacco, namely \$3.50 per 100 pounds (in hogsheads) and \$4 per 100 pounds (in tierces). These licenses are distinct from license granted importers for the importation of one-third of quantity imported during 1915. The British-American Tobacco Co. will make arrangements as far as possible to accommodate the goods of other manufacturers on reasonable notice in London or Terminal Shipping Co., Baltimore.

[For previous notices regarding British import restrictions on tobacco, see COMMERCE REPORTS for Jan. 31, Feb. 17 and 18, Mar. 7, and May 19, 1916.]

## IMPORTS AND EXPORTS BY COUNTRIES FOR MAY.

The total values of merchandise imported from and exported to each of the principal countries during May and the 11 months ended with May, 1916, compared with corresponding periods of the preceding year, have just been made public by the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce of the Department of Commerce, as follows:

Grand division and country.	Month of May—		11 months ended with May—	
	1916	1915	1916	1915
<b>IMPORTS FROM:</b>				
<b>Grand divisions—</b>				
Europe.....	\$58,767,208	\$42,274,452	\$548,948,853	\$509,740,722
North America.....	67,900,809	50,252,333	523,615,601	433,017,911
South America.....	36,002,410	19,084,507	248,896,080	235,279,174
Asia.....	48,167,495	19,090,682	361,730,001	221,054,906
Oceania.....	11,031,980	8,110,887	89,570,123	47,006,123
Africa.....	6,709,965	2,863,010	60,406,995	20,375,762
<b>Total.....</b>	<b>229,188,967</b>	<b>142,294,851</b>	<b>1,962,088,672</b>	<b>1,516,474,600</b>
<b>Principal countries—</b>				
Austria-Hungary.....	96,006	449,925	1,389,942	9,508,185
Belgium.....	127,023	117,917	1,326,125	10,171,143
France.....	8,278,796	5,394,430	91,951,730	71,807,531
Germany.....	463,413	3,172,030	13,145,428	89,544,821
Italy.....	5,317,035	4,403,833	50,853,703	49,584,724
Netherlands.....	5,547,655	2,447,889	31,166,448	29,908,664
Norway.....	584,560	460,480	6,452,268	10,205,993
Russia in Europe.....	121,674	46,348	3,271,467	2,364,182
Spain.....	3,271,395	1,039,858	24,568,293	16,266,030
Sweden.....	845,124	528,517	10,672,590	10,816,098
Switzerland.....	2,106,656	1,665,456	19,402,123	17,961,804
United Kingdom.....	30,499,455	21,766,266	275,693,573	233,217,564
Canada.....	19,923,720	11,593,671	185,148,408	144,708,832
Mexico.....	9,613,963	8,247,684	88,637,400	69,286,453
Cuba.....	30,478,087	25,036,046	195,599,489	163,570,507
Argentina.....	10,462,424	5,047,866	101,100,448	66,136,353
Brazil.....	12,269,743	6,176,708	120,859,788	90,573,050
Chile.....	7,641,859	2,265,722	54,138,624	23,728,690
China.....	7,093,867	5,262,616	63,540,452	35,939,863
British East Indies.....	21,315,963	5,173,343	154,399,400	75,171,468
Japan.....	14,782,161	7,962,501	131,768,368	91,376,846
Australia and New Zealand.....	6,809,892	6,523,106	60,972,236	24,183,194
Philippine Islands.....	3,965,092	1,531,730	25,886,760	21,797,988
Egypt.....	3,011,063	1,984,297	32,348,527	15,854,326
<b>EXPORTS TO:</b>				
<b>Grand divisions—</b>				
Europe.....	330,537,786	201,142,655	2,686,092,437	1,789,947,591
North America.....	75,610,781	41,829,080	657,888,265	430,437,742
South America.....	17,734,454	11,976,058	159,664,110	85,579,867
Asia.....	38,924,711	9,562,842	236,268,786	100,822,090
Oceania.....	9,652,228	7,426,375	91,614,104	68,229,948
Africa.....	2,421,295	2,281,132	38,253,384	25,024,686
<b>Total.....</b>	<b>474,881,255</b>	<b>274,218,142</b>	<b>3,870,161,086</b>	<b>2,500,041,904</b>
<b>Principal countries—</b>				
Austria-Hungary.....	13	18,745	152,929	1,238,660
Belgium.....	2,570,194	868,541	18,733,918	19,078,509
Denmark.....	4,466,774	4,935,969	51,449,081	75,485,791
France.....	77,814,417	49,713,434	555,429,670	326,289,744
Germany.....		400	283,385	28,861,587
Greece.....	2,614,044	787,883	29,528,049	22,564,611
Italy.....	24,164,842	11,483,346	244,770,172	180,636,816
Netherlands.....	9,182,133	12,924,065	89,590,682	135,615,267
Norway.....	4,745,232	2,072,509	48,350,107	37,967,485
Russia in Europe.....	30,758,160	6,718,538	175,118,043	23,580,088
Spain.....	3,125,371	5,961,171	45,992,466	36,098,572
Sweden.....	2,008,123	4,343,307	48,490,083	76,264,370
United Kingdom.....	186,840,682	98,672,348	1,362,514,777	822,612,939
Canada.....	49,587,105	25,558,287	415,838,399	271,125,690
Central America.....	4,729,348	3,241,966	38,481,393	30,373,323
Mexico.....	4,660,789	3,010,614	44,724,113	30,383,373
Cuba.....	12,701,080	7,114,372	115,082,364	66,006,115
Argentina.....	5,280,446	5,438,888	88,469,749	87,398,396
Brazil.....	4,737,123	2,386,606	35,029,788	25,013,477
Chile.....	2,986,066	1,128,126	21,523,497	6,060,563



Grand division and country.	Month of May—		11 months ended with May—	
	1916	1915	1916	1915
<b>EXPORTS TO—continued.</b>				
<b>Principal countries—Continued.</b>				
China.....	\$2,992,739	\$2,147,144	\$21,652,009	\$14,522,670
British East Indies.....	2,281,814	1,200,125	22,353,286	14,381,243
Japan.....	8,994,370	3,708,555	65,161,041	37,007,423
Russia in Asia.....	21,248,091	1,174,885	108,330,411	19,654,780
Australia and New Zealand.....	6,700,764	5,200,402	68,803,808	45,157,701
Philippine Islands.....	2,783,918	2,132,397	21,302,296	22,124,341
British Africa.....	1,400,743	1,518,597	26,346,941	15,886,925

### CENSUS OF FLOUR-MILL AND GRISTMILL INDUSTRY.

A summary of the general results of the 1914 census of manufactures for the flour-mill and gristmill industry has been issued by the United States Bureau of the Census. Reports were received from 10,787 establishments which did merchant grinding during 1914, the products of which were valued at \$875,496,013. At the census of 1909 there were reported 11,691 establishments, with products valued at \$883,584,405. The consumption of wheat by flour mills and gristmills increased from 496,480,314 bushels in 1909 to 543,970,038 bushels in 1914, and that of rye from 11,503,969 bushels in the earlier year to 12,748,135 bushels in the later. The number of bushels of oats ground remained practically stationary at 50,227,050 in 1914. In the case of other grains the figures show marked declines. The consumption of corn decreased from 209,281,237 bushels in 1909 to 180,115,704 bushels in 1914. This probably may be accounted for by the increased use of this grain, by establishments other than flour mills and gristmills, in the manufacture of breakfast foods and of prepared foods for animal consumption.

### SPANISH WHEAT AND CORN IMPORTS IN APRIL.

[Consul General Carl Bailey Hurst, Barcelona, June 12.]

According to statistics published by the Director General of Customs, Spain's imports of wheat during April, 1916, totaled 38,238 metric tons of 2,204.6 pounds each, a decrease compared with the previous month of over 9,000 tons. With the exception of 3,700 tons, this wheat came from the United States, nearly half being from Galveston. About 28,000 tons were discharged at Barcelona, the rest going to other Spanish ports. There were 6,322 metric tons of corn, chiefly of South American origin, received at Barcelona and other Spanish ports during the same month.

### BUOY LIST FOR FIRST LIGHTHOUSE DISTRICT.

A buoy list for Maine and New Hampshire (First Lighthouse District) has been published by the United States Lighthouse Service, corrected to May 1, 1916. The list includes all aids to navigation maintained by or under the authority of the service in that district. These aids are lighthouses, lighted beacons, light vessels, lighted buoys, fog signals, and unlighted beacons and buoys of all descriptions. A copy of the publication may be obtained free of charge by any shipmaster or pilot on application to the Division of Publications, Department of Commerce, Washington, D. C.

**CONSTRUCTION WORK.**

[Consul William Dawson, jr., Rosario, May 31.]

**Irrigation Works in Argentina.**

By a decree of May 19, 1916, the Argentine Government has approved a new project to substitute that approved on June 18, 1914, for the construction of a dam on the Conlara River to furnish water for irrigation works at Santa Rosa, San Luis. The change in plans consists in the use of masonry and concrete instead of metallic products, which it has proved impracticable to secure from Europe. The decree mentions that, with the exception of cement, all the materials now required can be procured in the country. The new project provides for an expenditure of approximately \$42,000, and is to be executed directly by the Direction General of Irrigation (Dirección General de Irrigación, Buenos Aires).

It may be recalled in this connection that the law provides that all contracts for supplies must be made after a preliminary call for tenders, except where the contract does not exceed 1,000 gold pesos (\$965). In certain cases, where it appears advisable, a different procedure may be followed, but in this case the authorization of the executive power given by the ministry as a whole is required. On account of the shortness of the time allowed for presentation of tenders and the necessity of familiarity with procedure in such cases, it is difficult to secure contracts unless the manufacturer is represented at Buenos Aires.

A decree of April 24, 1916, authorized the Direction General of Irrigation to expend \$4,200 in drawing up plans for the construction of a dam to collect the waters of the Río de la Punta, Departamento de Castro Barros, La Rioja.

**AUSTRALIA.****Three New Railways in South Australia.**

According to the Board of Trade Journal, three new lines of railway are projected in South Australia. The Hanson-North Booborowie line will be 24 miles in length, of 5-foot 3-inch gauge, using 60-pound rails. The total estimated cost is \$880,000, of which \$48,000 will be for rolling stock.

The proposed Willunga-Yankalilla Railway will be 23 miles long, of 5-foot 3-inch gauge, and is to be laid with 60-pound rails. The total estimated cost of construction is \$1,941,000, and rolling stock is estimated to cost an additional \$97,000.

The Long Plains-Port Augusta line, 145 miles in length, will cost \$6,874,000, of which \$358,000 will be for rolling stock. The gauge of this line, which will be laid with 80-pound new rails, will be 5 feet 3 inches.

**CANADA.**

[Consul Henry P. Starrett, Fort William, Ontario, June 14.]

**Construction of a Grain Elevator.**

The Grain Growers' Grain Co. (Ltd.), of Winnipeg, Manitoba, a cooperative association of western grain growers, intends shortly to commence the construction of a modern grain elevator to be located on a site that it purchased on the bay front at Port Arthur, Ontario.

The total capacity is to be 400,000 bushels. The storage house will be built of steel and concrete and the workhouse of wood. Electric power will be used in the operation of the plant. The approximate cost is said to be around \$150,000.

At present this company is operating outside elevators under leases, and it is planned, as these leases expire, to add to the above proposed initial plant until it has sufficient capacity to meet its requirements.

#### JAPANESE LEASED TERRITORY.

[Vice Consul E. R. Dickover, Dairen, Manchuria, May 31.]

##### Building Activity at Port Arthur.

The Manchuria Daily News of May 9 states that building activity at Port Arthur this year promises to be the liveliest yet known, as the proposed operations amount to about \$300,000. The principal investments are:

Completion of half-finished building for use as war museum-----	\$50, 000
Extension of engineering college-----	40, 000
Construction of commercial museum-----	30, 000
Construction of light railway line between Port Arthur and Shuang-taowan-----	60, 000
Repairing of buildings at New Town-----	20, 000
Construction of slaughterhouse-----	15, 000
Extension of isolation hospital-----	10, 000

#### SUCCESSFUL SIBERIAN MINING COMPANY.

[Consul John K. Caldwell, Vladivostok, Asiatic Russia; translation from Priamurskaya Vedomosti, Khabarovsk, May 21.]

The Maritime Province, Siberia, contains deposits of silver, lead, and zinc, the working of which began in 1909. A concentrating plant was built at a cost of \$500,000 and opened in 1914. It proved a success, and in 1914 the output consisted of 90.66 tons of lead concentrates, averaging about 71 per cent of lead, 4.5 per cent of zinc, and 1,100 grams of silver, as well as 194.14 tons of concentrates, containing 33.5 per cent of zinc and 7 per cent of lead. According to official figures, the output in 1915, from 5 out of 11 mines belonging to the company, amounted to over 30,000 tons of lead ore. The undertaking is increasing its output each year; it began in 1909 with only 97 long tons of silver-lead ore and increased the output in 1913 to 29,956 tons. In 1914 and 1915, on account of the war, the output was smaller.

The company owns 11 deposits, covering an area of over 2,635 acres, and, in addition, a gold deposit, covering 191 acres; it also rents from the Government 1,350 acres of land for various purposes. The mines are equipped with 180 buildings, costing \$252,500; a concentrator, costing \$500,000; a narrow-gauge railroad, 23 miles long, costing \$159,000; an aerial cableway, costing \$29,500; and conveyors, wharves, wagon roads, etc., costing \$18,000.

As the greater part of the capital invested in this enterprise is German, the management of the undertaking is intrusted to a special board of temporary managers.

[The name of the mining company and of one of the board of temporary managers may be obtained from the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce or its district offices; Refer to file No. 77623.]

**NORWEGIAN GOVERNMENT PURCHASING GRAIN.**

[Consul General E. Haldeman Dennison, Christiania, June 5.]

The Norwegian Government at the beginning of the war recognized that difficulties might arise in securing sufficient food supplies for the country, and that unless steps were taken at once to prevent it there would be a food shortage and an undue raising of prices. Accordingly, on August 18, 1914, the Government authorized the fixing of maximum prices with adequate machinery for preventing the adoption of excess prices. A special food commission was appointed, with its headquarters in Christiania and branch offices in various portions of the country.

**Purchases of Foodstuffs—Prices Obtained.**

Large purchases of grain, flour, sugar, and other necessities have been made, and these have been stored by the commission and released to private dealers only when their stocks became low or prices at which the articles could be purchased in foreign markets became excessive. Most of these purchases have been made in the United States, but several large lots of corn for cattle feeding were obtained from Argentina last January. In all 12,000 tons were bought, at prices ranging from 246s. to 257s. per ton.

About half of this supply has been disposed of to wholesalers at 19 crowns per 100 kilos. In other words, the prices paid were from 2.72 to 2.84 cents per pound, and the price obtained for that part of it which was sold was 2.31 cents per pound, indicating that a considerable loss was incurred by the commission. This loss, however, was somewhat reduced owing to the fact that the goods were paid for in British currency, which at the time was considerably below the normal rate of exchange as expressed in Norwegian crowns.

The commission carefully watches prices of grain and other foodstuffs in the foreign market and purchases when prices seem favorable. It has in stock at present from 6 to 9 months' supply and hopes eventually to increase this to a 12 months' supply, although no definite decision on this point has as yet been arrived at. The commission's powers are wide and include the control of coal and coke and, in fact, any other necessary commodity. Private dealers may and do import on their own account, but the fact that the commission has in stock such large supplies that may be immediately released tends to steady the markets and keeps prices within reasonable limits.

**Purchases of Ships for Transporting Food.**

In this connection it is of interest to note the recent purchase of food ships by the Norwegian Government. Although the new shipping tax secures some compensation to the nation for its contribution (in the shape of high prices) to shipping profits, the tax does not reduce freights. Hence as an alternative to requisitioning ships the Government is devoting the proceeds of the new tax to the purchase and maintenance of food ships. Three 6,000-ton motor ships have already been acquired and the 18,000 tons dead weight capacity thus available for cheap transport of necessities has already done much to ease the food situation.

**USE OF CHECKS IN FRANCE.**

[Commercial Attaché C. W. A. Veditz, Paris.]

The Banque de France is urging a more general use of checks in France, where to-day the checking system so well known in the United States is hardly used at all. Practically all transactions are settled by passing bank notes from hand to hand. This practice has led to the issuance of both small and large denominations of bank notes. For ordinary daily purchases, etc., there are the 5, 10, and 20 franc notes, and for large transactions there are the 1,000-franc notes.

In a pamphlet of explanations just issued by the Banque de France the difficulties of the present French system are well pointed out—the risks of error in counting, the risks of loss and of theft, and particularly the surcharging of the fiduciary circulation of the country by the fact that most everyone carries about in his pockets either a few thousand or a few hundred francs, representing for the whole of the country a sum well up in the billions of francs, which is dead capital, unemployed. Then follows a full description of the use of checks as known in America—opening of the account, issuance of check books, correct form of checks, etc. One feature described in the pamphlet is somewhat different from the American method: In order to protect adequately the drawer of a check that is to be sent through the mails to another city, and therefore subject to special risk of loss, the drawer can trace across the face of the check two parallel lines (*barres transversales*), by which sign, under the terms of the new law, the check can be made negotiable only at a bank, which bank becomes responsible for any payment to a wrongful holder.

In this connection it is interesting to note that the French Minister of Finance announces that hereafter payment made by the French Government will be largely by check, and that arrangements will be introduced whereby private establishments can make payments to the Government by check.

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**BANK OF BRAZIL GRANTS LONGER DISCOUNTS.**

[Commercial Attaché William C. Downs, Rio de Janeiro, May 31.]

At a general meeting of the Banco do Brasil, held at Rio de Janeiro on May 24, 1916, and with the approval of the Federal Government, section 4 of article 5 of its statutes, granting power to discount bills, was amended to read as follows:

To discount bills of exchange, promissory notes, and other commercial paper to order and for a term not exceeding four months, guaranteed by at least two firms of known responsibility in the market of Rio de Janeiro or the markets of its branches or agencies. To discount drafts or bills of the Federal or State treasuries, pledges of the mint, and drafts of fiscal agencies payable in this capital. While the Portfolio of Emissions is not in operation, the term of four months of this provision may be extended to six months, at the discretion of the directorate. By exception, there may be discounted bills of exchange and promissory notes, guaranteed by two firms, only one being located in the place if they are drawn on firms of good repute against merchandise or against confirmed credits.

The amendment was officially approved by the President of Brazil May 31, 1916.

**BRAZILIAN CATTLE RAISING AND BEEF EXPORTS.**

[Consul General Alfred L. Moreau Gottschalk, Rio de Janeiro, May 20.]

As mentioned in former reports from this office, the questions of the production of cattle and exportation of refrigerated beef have been the subject of a general agitation throughout Brazil for some time past.

There is a decided feeling in the country at present that its economic future would be brighter were its interests more diversified—if it did not depend so much upon rubber or coffee or yerba maté, or some one popular product which may be a source of much income at present but which is subject to economic disturbances with the fluctuations of the foreign markets, and which is always threatened with the danger, at home, of overconfidence on the part of the producers and of consequent overproduction.

**Demand for Refrigerated Beef—Pasture Lands.**

The increased demand in the world's markets for refrigerated beef at this particular juncture in Brazil's finances has been of considerable financial aid. The decrease in the amount of available pasture for cattle in those countries where the influx of the homesteader has greatly limited the range, the large demand of the warring European nations for refrigerated meat, and other causes have convinced the Brazilians of the fact that their country, whose extent is as great as that of the United States exclusive of Alaska, possesses all the requisites for the establishment of a flourishing cattle industry.

Vast tracts of land have for many years been devoted to cattle raising. Particularly in the more temperate south, a type of Brazilian has been evolved which is in many respects that of the American cowboy, and the life of the cattle ranch makes a strong appeal to many Brazilian young men of the out-of-doors type.

There is a large number of cattle in Brazil, but thus far no complete census has been made. Incomplete figures were transmitted at the close of last year. [See *COMMERCE REPORTS* for Jan. 24, 1916.] The native stock, commonly known as gado crioulo, or "creole cattle," is said to be excellent, in fact, to be as good as if not better than the original native type of the Rio de la Plata, upon which the cattle industry of Argentina has been built. The Brazilian stock contains a considerable influx of East Indian Zebu blood, notably heavy imports of the Zebu having been made at various times in the effort to improve the quality of the Brazilian animal.

**Rules to be Followed to Improve the Cattle Industry.**

The Brazilian cattle industry has a bright future, provided the proper attention is directed. Some of the requirements are:

1. Care in not yielding to the incentive of making ready money by exportation, and thereby depopulating herds of the animals best fitted for reproduction. Legislation with a view to conservation in this respect is contemplated.

2. Development of the pasture by the introduction into the various regions of Brazil of grasses suitable to the climate and other conditions. This problem is a serious one in a country covering as many degrees of latitude as Brazil, and it is probable considerable experiments must be made before adequate pasture grasses are found for

each and all of the varying cattle-raising climates of the country. While the industry of exporting meat may seem at present centered in the south of Brazil, there is no reason why, with irrigation and the introduction of proper grass seeds, vast stretches of country in the center and the north of the Republic should not be valuable cattle ranges, which regions, in spite of the disadvantages, have for generations been raising and are raising cattle in great numbers.

3. The occasional infusion of foreign bloods suited to the various latitudes, climates, and soils of the country, and the creation of Government stations where stud animals could be kept for the use of farmers.

The Federal Government of Brazil, although working against many difficulties, has been able to establish a Federal service of cattle inspection which, although it is not yet perfect, is yielding results and is daily strengthening its hold upon the country at large.

**The First Meat Shipment—Packing Establishments.**

The actual exportation of refrigerated beef from this country began in November, 1914, with a shipment out of the port of Santos to Great Britain. It was but a small export of a little over 1,000 kilos (2,204 pounds), valued at something less than \$300.

Already there are numerous meat-packing establishments (frigoríficos) in the country. One of these is the Frigorífico dos Caes do Porto in Rio de Janeiro, one of the subsidiary enterprises of the Brazil Railway System; another is the Frigorífico at Osasco, a Brazilian enterprise in the State of São Paulo. There are numerous smaller ones cropping up. The Continental Products Co., a combination of the Sulzberger interests, of Chicago, and those of the Brazil Railway, is operating successfully at Barretos, near the city of São Paulo.

**Exports of Refrigerated Meat in Four Months.**

The refrigerated meat exports during the first four months of 1916 amounted to 6,228,209 kilos (1 kilo=2.2 pounds), compared with 345,513 kilos for the corresponding period in 1915. The value of these shipments amounted to \$1,210,005 and \$54,025, respectively. The ports of origin of the exports and countries of destination during the four months were as follows:

Item.	Quantity.		Values.	
	Jan.-Apr., 1915.	Jan.-Apr., 1916.	Jan.-Apr., 1915.	Jan.-Apr., 1916.
<b>PORTS OF ORIGIN.</b>				
Rio de Janeiro.....	Kilos. 615	Kilos. 1,544,136	\$22	\$275,486
Santos.....	344,898	4,684,073	53,933	934,519
Total.....	345,513	6,228,209	54,025	1,210,005
<b>PORTS OF DESTINATION.</b>				
United States.....		1,105,547		321,160
France.....	38,240	2,470,746	3,736	386,679
Great Britain.....	286,379	2,020,483	46,362	401,936
Italy.....	21,003	631,434	3,897	126,367
Total.....	345,513	6,228,209	54,025	1,210,005

[A report on the jerked-beef industry of southern Brazil was published in *Commerce Reports* for Oct. 5, 1915.]

**LIST OF ARTICLES UNDER IMPORT PROHIBITION IN GREAT BRITAIN.**

In view of the number of inquiries received by the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce with reference to the articles the importation of which into Great Britain is prohibited at the present time, the following list, showing all products now subject to prohibition, has been prepared:

Manufactures of aluminum; automobiles, automobile chassis, motorcycles, and parts and accessories of automobiles and motorcycles other than tires (except omnibuses, ambulances, and motor vehicles for use in trade or agriculture); baskets and basket ware (except of bamboo); metal baths; beer; brooms and brushes; building materials; carpet sweepers; cash registers; casings, bladders, and sausage skins; cement; chinaware, earthenware, and pottery (except cloisonné goods); cotton yarn and piece goods, and other manufactures of cotton, except hosiery and lace (excluding knit underwear); cutlery; unset diamonds; fatty acids; dried, preserved, canned, and bottled fruits; furniture, manufactured joinery and other manufactures of wood, except lacquered wares; games; hollow ware and hardware (except awl blades, bayonets, bullet molds, caps for cartridge making, cartridge cases, hammers and hammer heads, horse clippers, jacks, percussion-cap shells, pliers, pulleys and pulley blocks, scythes and sickles, shears, spanners, tools for carpenters, coopers, joiners, masons, and shipwrights, edge tools, trenching struts, and brass or copper tubes); hops; horns and hoofs; ice; vegetable ivory; lawn mowers; manufactures of leather other than belting, boots, and gloves; machine tools; matches; mangles; moss litter; musical instruments, including gramophones, pianolas, and other similar instruments, and accessories, component parts, and records therefor; oilcloth; paper and materials for the manufacture thereof, including wood pulp, esparto grass, linen and cotton rags; cardboard, including strawboard, pasteboard, millboard, wood-pulp board, and manufactures of paper and cardboard; periodical publications exceeding 16 pages in length, imported otherwise than in single copies through the post; plants, trees, shrubs, bulbs, etc.; playing cards; salt; sewing machines; soap; spirits and strong waters of all kinds, except brandy and rum; stones and slates; stoves and ranges; sugar; cigars, cigarettes, manufactured and unmanufactured tobacco; toilet articles containing glycerin; toys; vacuum cleaners; vegetables (canned, bottled, dried, and preserved) and pickles; woods for furniture, hardwood, and veneers; wood of beech, birch, elm, and oak; manufactures of wool and worsted, except yarns; wringers; yeast.

In the case of all the foregoing articles, shippers should obtain definite assurance from their agents or consignees in Great Britain that the necessary import license has been obtained. Applications for such licenses should be made by the British importer to the Department of Import Restriction, 64 Victoria Street, London, and there appears to be nothing which American manufactures and exporters can do to facilitate favorable consideration of such requests. According to recent reports, there is considerable confusion among British importers as to the precise scope of the various prohibitions, and where there is doubt regarding the application of the provisions to particular articles, it is highly advisable that the exporter before



making shipment obtain from the consignee assurance that no import license is necessary or that one has been issued. The same rule is to be observed in the case of consignments of prohibited goods which were contracted for previous to the date of the proclamation forbidding their importation, but which were not actually paid for or en route (i. e., delivered on board the ocean steamship) to the United Kingdom on that date. In these cases a decision as to the admission of the particular consignment should be obtained by the importer from the proper authorities before shipment can safely be made.

[Notices regarding prohibitions on specified products have appeared in **COMMERCE REPORTS** from time to time since February 15, 1916, and new provisions of this kind will be published without delay. As stated in **COMMERCE REPORTS** for June 13, 1916, a list specifying the articles which are subject to the import prohibition on hardware is on file in the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce.]

### **PLANS TO DEVELOP ITALIAN MERCHANT MARINE.**

[Consul General David F. Wilber, Genoa, June 10.]

Very active interest is manifested in the development of the Italian merchant marine. The present inadequate transportation facilities, the reduction in tonnage caused by the war, and the large demands for increased ocean carriage that will follow the war are contributing factors in the present movement.

It has been proposed that a limited company be organized for seven years, with capital of 500,000,000 lire (\$96,500,000), of which two-fifths would be subscribed by the Government and the remaining three-fifths be open for private subscriptions. The shares are to be divided into 500,000 of 1,000 lire each (\$193), and the name suggested for this company, which will be devoted to the transportation of goods, is "Societa del Naviglio Nazionale."

The projected company would purchase, construct, and renovate vessels of the Italian merchant marine, and the total tonnage proposed for the fleet is 1,500,000 tons.

#### **Terms of Payment for Subscribers to Shares.**

One-fifth of the normal value of the shares is to be paid for at the time of subscription, the remainder in four annual payments, i. e., one-fifth each year. The shares are to be in the names of the subscribers. Cargo ships in private hands may be acquired by the company, the value of which will be duly considered as an increase in the capital privately subscribed.

On closing the accounts at the end of each fiscal year there is to be no distribution of profit until the entire amount of the capital stock has been paid in. For the 200,000 shares subscribed by the Government no interest shall be paid until the private subscribers have received a dividend of 5 per cent. When all the shares have received a dividend of 5 per cent and there remains a surplus for distribution, this surplus will be so distributed among the shareholders that the private subscribers will receive double the amount per share that is received by the Government.

[An article relating to the prohibition of the transfer of Italian ships to foreign flags and giving the record of Italian shipbuilding for the past year was published in **COMMERCE REPORTS** for July 6, 1916.]

**FOREIGN TARIFFS.****AUSTRALIA.****Proposed Tariff Revision.**

The Commercial Attaché at Melbourne has transmitted a copy of the report of the Australian Interstate Trade Commission containing its recommendations as to tariff changes. It is stated, however, that no action will be taken on the report until the return of the Australian Prime Minister from England. As this commission has made an exhaustive study of various Australian industries with reference to their claims for tariff protection, it is to be expected that its recommendations will have great weight with the Australian Parliament.

The report recommends the restoration of the rates prescribed by the customs tariff of 1908-1911 on a large number of products. In very few instances are further increases proposed in the high duties imposed under the new tariff provisionally in effect December 4, 1914, although it is recommended that these higher rates be retained on many articles imported in considerable quantities from the United States. If the suggestions of the commission are followed, the new tariff law will, therefore, be in the nature of a compromise between the tariff of 1908-1911 and the high protective duties imposed under the temporary tariff now in effect. [For a summary of the provisions of the present tariff law, see Foreign Tariff Notes No. 15, p. 39.]

[The schedule of proposed duties is on file in the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, and information regarding rates on specified articles will be furnished upon request.]

**JAPAN.**

[Consul General G. H. Scidmore, Yokohama, Mar. 7.]

**Tariff Changes.**

A bill passed by the Japanese Diet and published in the Japanese Official Gazette for March 7, 1916, provides for a number of tariff changes which, according to later information, were put into effect April 15, 1916. The following articles have been added to the free list: Scrap iron; certain chemical products, including tanning extracts; nickel in ingots or grains and nickel waste and scrap; linseed, hemp seed, and castor beans. The reduced rates applicable to gas, petroleum, and hot-air engines under the former commercial treaty between Japan and Germany have been restored, as have the lower rates on dynamos combined with such engines of total weight exceeding 10,000 kilos, also in effect under that agreement. The duty on glass manufactures of fused silica has been reduced from 40 to 20 per cent ad valorem.

Among the products formerly subject to specific duties, which are now dutiable ad valorem, are vaseline in packages weighing not more than 1 kilo, metal construction materials (other than iron) not specified in the tariff, iron chains not more than 0.5 kilo in weight, and milling cutters, gear cutters, and saws for machinery. The increases in specific duty are limited to the following articles: Iron pipes, welded, not exceeding 0.5 centimeter in inside diameter; bars and rods of brass or bronze for steam turbines; citric acid and santonin.

Articles specified in the following tariff numbers (as shown in Tariff Series No. 28, published by the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce) have been affected by the new law: Nos. 26, 29, 71, 72, 78, 93, 113, 128, 131, 139, 141, 154, 160, 170, 181, 192, 208, 209, 211, 216, 220, 244, 258, 457, 462, 468, 471, 484, 489, 514, 530, 565, 577, 579, 580, 605, 612, and 621. Information regarding the new rates on such of the articles grouped under the foregoing numbers as have been the subject of tariff changes may be obtained upon application to the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce.

[An article regarding the recent changes in the Japanese drawback schedule was published in Commerce Reports for Apr. 13, 1916.]

#### SPAIN.

[Consul General Carl Bailey Hurst, Barcelona, Apr. 22.]

##### Postponement of Tariff Revision.

According to the Spanish law the customs tariff is to be revised every five years, and as such a revision took place in 1911 and the present tariff went into force January 1, 1912, the tariff should be revised during 1916, the new schedule becoming effective January 1, 1917. In April, 1915, it was provided by royal order that, owing to the complications arising from the European war, revision should be postponed and that the tariff commission should limit its work to collecting information regarding classifications before the end of 1915. In view of the continuance of the abnormal commercial situation, however, and the probability that even fundamental provisions may have to be modified at the close of the war, work on the tariff revision project has been formally suspended by a royal order published April 20, 1916.

#### UNION OF SOUTH AFRICA.

[Board of Trade Journal, Apr. 13.]

##### Continuance of Tariff Increase.

The budget law introduced in the Union Parliament March 31, 1916, continues in effect the increased duties on various articles which have been in force since March 5, 1915 (see Foreign Tariff Notes No. 17, p. 127). The new law provides for higher specific duties on perfumed spirits, liqueurs, cordials, and mixed spirits, and on medicinal and toilet preparations containing over 3 per cent of proof spirits, although the alternative ad valorem rates on these products have not been changed.

#### GRAIN ACREAGE IN CANADA.

[Monetary Times of Canada, Toronto, June 23.]

It is estimated by the Census and Statistics Office of Canada that the area devoted to oats for 1916 is 10,499,500 acres, as compared with 11,365,000 acres in 1915 and 10,061,500 acres in 1914. The area sown to barley is estimated at 1,317,500 acres, as against 1,509,350 acres last year. The areas sown to other crops are as follows: Rye, 109,000 acres, against 112,300 acres last year; peas, 159,200 acres, against 196,210 acres; mixed grains, 395,000 acres, against 466,800 acres. The acreage under hay and clover is reported as 7,963,000, as compared with 7,875,000 last year, and the acreage under alfalfa is 88,700, as compared with 92,600 last year.

[A forecast of the Canadian wheat acreage was published in COMMERCE REPORTS for June 27, 1916.]

**HONGKONG SHIPPING RECORD FOR HALF CENTURY.**

[Vice Consul A. E. Carleton, Hongkong, China, May 30.]

The Hongkong Harbor report for 1915 carries an interesting diagram of tonnage entered at Hongkong from 1867 to 1915, a period of 48 years. In 1867 the entire foreign trade of the port, including all foreign ships, junks, and steam launches, amounted to 2,375,000 tons; in 1877 it was 4,100,000; in 1887 it reached 6,325,000; in 1897 was 7,625,000; and in 1907 was 11,400,000. The highest tonnage ever reached in the history of the port was in 1913, when it rose to 12,825,000; in 1914 it dropped to 12,475,000, and in 1915 to 11,225,000, the lowest tonnage entered since 1907.

In respect to British shipping, the tonnage in 1867 was 700,000; in 1904, 6,600,000; in 1909, 5,675,000; in 1912 and 1913, 6,200,000; and in 1915, 5,700,000. The German shipping increased from 95,000 tons in 1867 to 1,300,000 tons in 1906. The first year the Japanese shipping appears in the Hongkong returns was in 1880, when the tonnage recorded was only 20,000. For three years the tonnage was below 20,000, but in 1889 it rose to 95,000, and in 1903 the record shows a tonnage of 925,000. It fell to 35,000 in 1905, during the Russo-Japanese War. From this date there has been a steady increase in Japanese shipping, and the maximum tonnage was recorded for 1915 with a figure of 2,275,000 tons.

The junk traffic in foreign trade fluctuates very little. The tonnage in 1867 was 1,400,000, and in 1915 it was 1,500,000. The highest tonnage record was 1,850,000 in 1883.

**PORTO RICAN PLANT USED BY NATIVES FOR DYEING.**

Samples of the fruit of the "vijao" plant, which grows wild over a large part of Porto Rico, have been forwarded by Special Agent Garrard Harris of the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce. He states that it is used by the natives as a source of dye and that an ink which is quite fast is made from it. The vijao plant has been identified by the United States Department of Agriculture as *Renecalmia exaltata* Linn. f. The Bureau of Plant Industry reports that the seeds of this or a very closely allied species, with the name "Papatinga" attached, were received in December, 1915, from Brazil, with the information that they were used for purposes similar to those noted in Porto Rico. Consul General Gottschalk, at Rio de Janeiro, also reported, in an article published in *COMMERCE REPORTS* for May 1, 1916, that the *Renecalmia exaltata*, known as fructos de pacova, and furnishing a red dye of exceptional fastness, was found throughout Brazil. The samples mentioned may be inspected at the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce or its district offices. Refer to file No. 905.

**District Offices of the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce.**

New York, Room 409 United States Customhouse; Boston, eighteenth floor United States Customhouse; Chicago, 504 Federal Building; St. Louis, 402 Third National Bank Building; Atlanta, 521 Post Office Building; New Orleans, 1020 Hibernia Bank Building; San Francisco, 306 United States Customhouse; Seattle, 848 Henry Building. Cooperative district offices: Cleveland, Chamber of Commerce; Cincinnati, Chamber of Commerce; Asst. Gen'l Frt. Agt., C. N. O. & T. P. Ry. Co., Cincinnati; Los Angeles, Chamber of Commerce; Detroit, Board of Commerce; Philadelphia, Chamber of Commerce; South American Agent, Southern Ry. Co., Chattanooga, Tenn.

### AMERICAN CONSULAR OFFICERS ON LEAVE OF ABSENCE.

The following American consular officers are on leave of absence in the United States and will be glad to confer with business men and commercial organizations relative to conditions in their respective jurisdictions. The consul's time is available primarily for personal interviews. He has limited facilities for correspondence, and except in urgent cases letters should be directed to the consulate.

Name.	Post.	Expiration of venue.	Address.
West, George N. ....	Kobé, Japan. ....	Aug. 15	Department of State, Washington, D.C.
Rasmussen, B. M. ....	Goteborg, Sweden. ....	July 14	Roland, Iowa.
Coake, A. B. ....	Patras, Greece. ....	Aug. 10	121 West Charlotte Street, Norfolk, Va.
Hale, F. D. ....	Huddersfield, England. ....		Lunenburg, Vt.
Fleber, Fred D. ....	Tientsin, China. ....	Aug. 5	Albany, Oreg.
Masterson, William W. ....	Durban, Natal, South Africa. ....	Sept. 1	Carrollton, Ky.
Seltzer, Harry G. ....	Breslau, Germany. ....		Gibraltar, Pa.
Baker, E. Carlton. ....	Nagasaki, Japan. ....	Aug. 30	Apartment No. 75, The Brunswick, Washington, D. C.

### SELLING PRICE OF BACTERIZED PEAT.

[Consul Ross E. Holaday, Manchester, England, June 1.]

The first supplies of "Humogen," or bacterized peat, manufactured by the municipal authorities of Manchester under the patents of Prof. W. B. Bottomley, have just been offered for sale. The selling price of "Humogen" has been fixed by the city authorities (who have sole control of the output) as follows: 25 cents for a 3-pound carton (postage paid), 60 cents for 28 pounds, 97 cents for 56 pounds, \$1.82 for 112 pounds, \$24.33 per ton (2,240 pounds), and \$19.46 per ton for 2-ton lots to 4 tons in bulk at the works.

Remarkable results have been obtained by the use of "Humogen," but the manufacturers for the present have stipulated that they are unable to give an analysis or guaranty of the fertilizer in any way. They are desirous, however, of distributing "Humogen" over as wide an area as possible, so that it may be tried under all conditions of soil and temperature.

[Previous reports on this subject were published in *COMMERCE REPORTS* for Nov. 27 1915, and Feb. 12 and 16 and Mar. 4, 1916.]

### MARKET FOR BELTING IN MARACAIBO.

[Consul G. K. Donald, Maracaibo, Venezuela, June 14.]

There is a market for leather belting in the Maracaibo district, where it is used by sawmills, oil mills, electric-light plants, etc.

The sizes kept in stock by the principal importers of this article are 2 inches, 3 inches, 4 inches, 5 inches, 6 inches, and 7 inches wide.

Imports for 1913 were valued at \$3,714 and for 1914, \$3,311. In 1913 the United States supplied belting to the value of \$1,813; the Netherlands, \$1,874; and Germany, \$27. In 1914 the purchases from the United States amounted to \$2,906 worth; from the Netherlands, \$224; Germany, \$47; and England, \$134. For the first six months of 1915 the United States was the only shipper, supplying \$2,024 worth.

[The names of the principal importers of belting in Maracaibo can be obtained at the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce or its district offices. Refer to file No. 77978.]

## FOREIGN TRADE OPPORTUNITIES.

Reserved addresses may be obtained from the Bureau and its district offices. Request for each opportunity should be on a separate sheet and state opportunity number. The Bureau does not furnish credit ratings or assume responsibility as to the standing of foreign inquirers; the usual precautions should be taken in all cases.

*Imitation leather*, No. 21757.—A manufacturer of traveling bags and leather goods in a foreign colonial possession informs an American consular officer of his desire to be placed in direct communication with manufacturers of imitation leather for traveling bags. Samples of the imitation leather may be inspected at the Bureau or its district offices. (Refer to file No. 77741.)

*Calculating machines*, No. 21758.—An American consular officer in Brazil reports that a firm representing a number of American manufacturers wishes to add to its lines a moderate-priced American calculating machine of the so-called rotary type.

*Books*, No. 21759.—A business man in Venezuela informs an American consular officer of his desire to represent an American publisher of Spanish books. Cheap editions of paper-backed novels are particularly desired. Correspondence should be in Spanish.

*Cotton goods, shoes, etc.*, No. 21760.—An American consular officer in South Africa writes that a man wishes to represent American manufacturers and exporters of cotton piece goods, prints, muslins, gabardines, and women's hosiery and shoes, etc.

*Chocolate, liquors, etc.*, No. 21761.—The commercial attaché of the Department of Commerce in Chile writes that a firm desires to be placed in communication with American dealers and exporters of liquors, chocolates, and articles usually handled by confectionery stores.

*Machinery*, No. 21762.—An American consular officer in the United Kingdom reports that a butter dealer in his district wishes to purchase a machine for blending, salting, and rolling butter. The butter should issue from the machine in one-pound rolls ready for marketing.

*Wire cloth*, No. 21763.—The commercial attaché of the Department of Commerce in the Netherlands cables that a firm in that country desires to place an order for wire cloth for paper makers, amounting to about \$30,000. Further information may be obtained from the Bureau or its district offices.

*Typewriters*, No. 21764.—A merchant in Spain, handling rebuilt typewriters, informs an American consular officer of his desire to enter into commercial relations with firms in the United States which make a business of exporting such machines.

*Gum khadaya and gum ghatti*, No. 21765.—The representatives in the United States of a firm in India desire to get in touch with importers and users of gum khadaya and gum ghatti from that country. Samples of the gum may be inspected at the office of the firm's New York office.

*Herring nets and canvas buoys*, No. 21766.—An American consular officer in Norway reports that a firm is in the market for herring nets and canvas "bladder buoys." The buoys, which are used to hold the nets on the surface of the water, should be 85, 80, 75, 70, and 65 inches in diameter. Catalogues and wholesale prices are wanted at once. Correspondence may be in English. Reference is given.

*Steel wire*, No. 21767.—A firm in France informs an American consular officer of its desire to purchase steel wire to be used for the manufacture of metal combs.

*Ginseng*, No. 21768.—An American consular officer in China reports that a firm desires to establish a direct trade with an American exporter of ginseng. Samples should be sent with quotations.

*Machinery, etc.*, No. 21769.—An engineering firm in Switzerland has requested an American consular officer to place it in touch with American manufacturers of iron and steel-working machinery for plane and circular grinding and cutting, revolving lathes and accessories, compressed air and steam hammers, etc., with a view to representing such manufacturers in Switzerland on a commission basis. Correspondence may be in English, but preferably in German or French. References are given.

# COMMERCE REPORTS



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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE



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1916

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## SHIPMENTS AND PRICES OF VALENCIA ORANGES.

[Consul John R. Putnam, Valencia, Spain, June 13.]

The total shipments of oranges for the season up to June 3, 1916, amounted to 4,267,055 cases, as against 4,459,446 cases during the corresponding period of last season.

There has been a marked improvement in prices in the British markets during the past month, with the result that local shippers are now receiving an estimated return of \$2.75 per case f. o. b. Valencia, or approximately \$1.75 after paying all packing and shipping charges.

## INCREASED SHIPMENTS FROM HONGKONG TO UNITED STATES.

[Vice Consul A. E. Carleton, Hongkong, China, May 22.]

The declared exports to the United States for the first three months of the current year have exceeded those of any previous similar period since 1912, the nearest approach to the 1916 figure being that of 1913, when the exports were valued at \$1,959,202. The three leading articles of exports to the United States are rice, tin, and cassia, these three amounting to \$2,004,658 of the total as regards the export valuation for 1916. The following table shows the trade in these articles during the first three months of the years given:

Articles.	1912	1913	1914	1915	1916
Cassia.....	\$25,754	\$66,446	\$25,746	\$26,717	\$201,455
Rice.....	350,180	578,099	490,853	548,799	1,080,535
Tin.....	306,644	704,092	538,720	157,494	722,648

The large increase in the cassia exports is explained by Hongkong dealers as due to New York houses buying heavily for subsequent rise in prices.

In 1915 there were no exports for the first three months of anti-mony, but for this year the value shipped was \$80,771. Fireworks

increased from \$3,694 in 1915 to \$18,212 in 1916, and meat and dairy products show an increase of \$11,000. In regard to oils, peanut has decreased 70 per cent, whereas aniseed oil has increased from \$35,878 for the March quarter of 1915 to \$46,709 for the March quarter of 1916. Cassia oil's valuation for the March quarter of 1915 was \$13,505 and for the corresponding period of 1916, \$51,364. As a general rule there have been increases in practically every article of export for the periods indicated.

The exports to the Philippine Islands have decreased by \$150,000 for the period under review, the most notable decrease being that of cleaned rice, amounting to over \$300,000. There have been increases in the exports of cotton yarn, eggs, preserved fruits, vegetables, and a number of articles not classified, but in general there has been but a slight variation in the exports.

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### **STRAWBERRY AND BLUEBERRY MARKET DEVELOPMENT.**

[Consul Henry H. Balch, Yarmouth, Nova Scotia, Canada, June 27.]

An effort is being made by the Dominion & Atlantic Railroad Co. and the Boston & Yarmouth Steamship Co. to increase the production of strawberries and blueberries in Nova Scotia by developing a larger market for these products in New England. According to a report on the berry situation by the agent of the Boston & Yarmouth Steamship Co. at Yarmouth, 118,000 quarts of strawberries, valued at \$12,000, and 800,000 quarts of blueberries, valued at \$75,000, were shipped from Yarmouth to Boston last season. It is estimated that about 215 acres were planted with strawberries last year, while blueberries are found extensively and grow practically uncultivated.

The strawberry season begins about July 5 and continues about six weeks. The season for blueberries begins about August 1 and continues until the last of September.

Berries are landed daily at Boston 16 hours after shipment at Yarmouth.

[The names of berry dealers in Yarmouth can be obtained at the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce or its district offices. Refer to file No. 78118.]

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### **Shipping Conditions at Aden.**

Vice Consul A. G. Watson reports from Aden, Arabia, under date of June 2, that the freight congestion has been relieved at that port and that more than sufficient space has been recently arriving. This relief is due largely to the fact that a merchant chartered a ship, which, with the regular tonnage, cleared out all cargo. Rates have consequently become weaker and the Italian Line has reduced its rate for skins to American ports from \$129.76 to \$103.80 per ton. The British India Agents have not as yet reduced their rates.

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The United States Geological Survey has available for distribution its annual statement on sand-lime brick. During 1915 the quantity of sand-lime brick sold showed an increase of 7,014,000 brick, or 4 per cent, and the value showed an increase of \$76,592, or 7 per cent, over 1914.



**BAY-RUM INDUSTRY IN THE DANISH WEST INDIES.**

[Vice Consul Luther K. Zabriskie, St. Thomas, June 19.]

The cultivation of the bay tree and the extraction of the oil from its leaves provides for the island of St. John, Danish West Indies, its most important industry; and the distillation of this oil and its subsequent manufacture into bay rum furnishes for the sister island of St. Thomas its only article of local manufacture and the most important of all its exports. Approximately 4,000 quarts of bay oil are produced in St. John annually, the greater part of which is sent to St. Thomas, from which it is estimated there is manufactured for export purposes about 60,000 cases of 12 quart bottles each of bay rum. The St. Thomas bay rum, which is considered the best on the market, is sent to all parts of the world. The greater part, however, is exported to Jamaica and to Panama, whence it is transshipped to the countries on the West Coast of South America.

The requirements for the extraction of the oil from the bay leaves, and its later manufacture into bay rum, are not of sufficient importance to warrant a special interest here on the part of manufacturers of this class of machinery, inasmuch as the only important appliance for which there might be a very limited market would be a still that could extract a greater quantity of oil from the leaves than is obtained at present by the crude methods employed, and one that would automatically separate the oil from the water. For the bay rum that is exported from St. Thomas, the cases, bottles, etc., are all imported from the United States, with the exception of the corks, which come from Spain.

**Cultivation and Yield—Prices of Leaves, Oil, and Rum.**

Although bay trees can be grown over the greater part of the island of St. John, only about 50 acres are devoted to its cultivation. The pickings of the first few years should yield about 25 pounds of leaves to a tree annually, but after the tree has reached its maturity at least 100 pounds can be counted on, providing weather conditions are favorable. A bay tree reaches its maturity when about 10 years of age and, under ordinary circumstances, will continue to bear leaves for 50, 60, and 70 years. According to the opinion of experienced growers, three pickings a year bring in the best yield and create conditions that favor the superior quality of the leaf.

At present bay leaves sell for 1½ cents per pound, but in normal times the price is 2 cents. The price of the oil (\$4.50 per quart) is considerably less than that ordinarily received, and, because of the slack market in St. Thomas, where the oil is usually sent, and the failure to find buyers abroad, large quantities of the leaves are being allowed to go to waste. The retail price of bay rum in St. Thomas is 25 cents a quart. No customs duty is levied on any article of export from these islands.

[A list of the principal operators in the bay-leaf industry in St. John and of the leading manufacturers of bay rum in St. Thomas may be obtained from the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce or its district offices. Refer to file 77898.]

The President of Cuba has sent a message to Congress asking for an appropriation of \$50,000 for a national exposition to be held during 1917.

## FOREIGN TRADE OF PHILIPPINE ISLANDS FOR APRIL.

[J. F. Boomer, correspondent, Manila, May 24.]

The total trade of the Philippine Islands for April, 1916, was slightly more than for the corresponding month of last year. The amount was \$7,926,762, compared with \$7,713,400 for April, 1915. Exports represented \$4,548,085, and imports \$3,378,677. The total increase was \$213,362.

Cotton goods still lead the import list, although the total quantity of cotton goods imported for the month was somewhat less than for April, 1915. The figures were \$604,666, representing a decrease of \$342,898 in comparison with last year's total.

Manufactured steel and iron goods were second in importance. Their value for the month was \$260,614. On account of a shortage of construction steel, and its consequent high price, resulting principally from the lack of transportation, many public and private construction projects have been delayed. Among these is the proposed new bridge over the Pasig, to replace the old Bridge of Spain.

### Other Important Imports—Trade by Countries.

The most notable increase for the month was in automobiles and parts. This item was \$188,912, an increase of \$140,610 over the amount for April, 1915. Other imports of special interest were: Chemicals, drugs, and medicines, \$135,610; rice, \$439,954; wheat flour, \$119,032; dairy products, \$103,467; meats, \$94,014; coal, \$82,424.

In the export trade, the chief fact noted for the month, as compared with the corresponding month of last year, is a drop in the exports of copra. It was due principally to the lack of transportation. The decrease was \$505,072—from \$827,580 to \$322,508.

Other leading exports for the month were: Hemp, \$1,217,782; sugar, \$2,067,192; tobacco products, \$402,683; coconut oil, \$81,440; maguey, \$51,600; embroideries, \$55,936.

The record for April shows the trade of the Philippine Islands to have been distributed among the countries as follows:

Countries.	Imports.	Exports.	Countries.	Imports.	Exports.
United States.....	\$1,761,132	\$1,429,386	Spain.....	\$23,284	\$115,203
Hawaii.....	8,129	11,016	Australia.....	103,285	5,667
Guam.....	.....	11,294	Norway.....	66,435	.....
United Kingdom.....	81,253	1,194,603	Siam.....	22,541	1,568
Japan.....	285,830	577,949	Switzerland.....	11,193	19,377
French East Indies.....	421,400	24,512	Netherlands.....	8,067	14,483
China.....	146,388	270,726	Denmark.....	4,163	.....
Hongkong.....	7,109	358,480	Japanese China.....	2,742	.....
British East Indies.....	250,529	62,518	Sweden.....	426	.....
Italy.....	1,181	293,280	Germany.....	353	.....
Dutch East Indies.....	148,694	5,453	Canada.....	.....	150
France.....	21,627	132,324	Other countries.....	1,926	13,046

### Production and Consumption of Hops in Denmark.

Consul General E. D. Winslow, at Copenhagen, Denmark, reports that the crop of hops in Denmark for 1915 amounted to 33,000 pounds and that the quantity of hops consumed in the country for the year was 851,613 pounds. The production of beer upon which no internal revenue tax was collected and which contains less than 2½ per cent of alcohol amounted to 35,604,703 gallons, and the production of beer upon which an internal revenue tax was collected and which contains more than 2½ per cent alcohol amounted to 28,451,096 gallons.

## TO INVESTIGATE COST OF LIVING IN SOUTH AFRICA.

[Consul Edwin N. Gunsaulus, Johannesburg, May 20.]

The Government Gazette announces that the Deputy Commissioner of Customs and Excise has been appointed a commissioner to make inquiries with the view to determining the extent and causes of the increased cost of foodstuffs and other necessities in the Union of South Africa, and also to suggest what legislative or administrative action should be taken. The points to be considered by the commissioner are:

1. The extent to which the cost of foodstuffs and other necessities of life and the standard of wages and rent within the Union have increased since the outbreak of war.

2. Whether such increase is due to economic causes beyond the control of the agents of production, supply, or distribution, or can be attributed to the exaction of unjustifiable profit by such agents.

3. The legislative or administrative action which should be taken in order to maintain the prices of foodstuffs and other necessities of life at a fair and reasonable level, having regard to the abnormal conditions now prevailing.

According to statistics prepared by the Johannesburg Chamber of Commerce, food prices on articles consumed by the average family in Johannesburg have risen almost 14 per cent within the past two years.

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## INDUSTRIAL STOCKS RISE IN HAWAII.

[A. P. Taylor, correspondent, Honolulu, June 19.]

In the year that has elapsed since June, 1915, market values of the stocks listed on the Honolulu Stock Exchange have increased more than \$49,000,000. On the list to-day are stocks that were not listed a year ago, and such securities are not included in the figures given. Neither are any increases in values of bonds. This gain of upward of \$49,000,000 has been made by 35 companies. It shows an average advance in values of nearly \$1,500,000 for each of these 35 listed stocks.

Ewa Sugar Plantation shows an increase of \$3,000,000; Hawaiian Commercial Sugar Co., \$6,800,000; Oahu Sugar Co., \$5,187,000; and Pioneer Mill Co. more than \$5,300,000. Other stocks, almost without exception have made advances.

At par values the stocks that are included in the figures given in this article represent an issued capitalization for the 35 companies of \$83,800,000 in round figures. This means that the gain in values in one year has been 60 per cent of such total capitalization. It signifies a growth in values of these island properties of nearly \$50,000,000.

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## ROAD MACHINERY SUPERSEDES HAND LABOR.

Consul Homer Brett, at La Guaira, Venezuela, reports that the policy of the department of public works in its road building hitherto has been to use hand labor exclusively, so as to give employment to as many persons as possible; but recently a number of wheeled scrapers were bought in the United States, and after they had been tested officially it was announced that one man with a scraper accomplished the work of 20 men under the old methods.

### NEW AMERICAN INTEREST IN FOREIGN CREDITS.

The great volume of new foreign business now coming to this country has created an intense interest in the subject of foreign credits. The recent convention of the National Association of Credit Men held in Pittsburgh gave special consideration to the problem of extending and safeguarding credits in foreign countries, and the committee on foreign credits in its report to the convention offered a resolution to establish a central bureau to supply members with foreign-trade information. This bureau will not limit its work to any one feature of foreign trade, but special attention will be paid to the credit status of foreign merchants and importers. Lack of information on just this point has been a serious handicap to many American exporters. It is information that the Government for fairly obvious reasons can not undertake to furnish, although it is vitally necessary that American exporters have it.

The resolution as reported by the committee on foreign credits and adopted by the convention is in part as follows:

*Resolved*, That this convention cordially approves the recommendation of its foreign credit committee that there be established at the national office a bureau through which may be obtained advice as to trustworthy sources of information upon the kinds of goods required in various foreign markets, the customs as to packing and shipping, the terms employed, the local merchant law, and credit status; and be it further

*Resolved*, That this convention express its appreciation of the efforts of the Federal Government to attract the attention of business men to the possibilities of foreign trade and instructs that there be forwarded to the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce of the Department of Commerce the special thanks of this convention, which realizes the efforts it has made to simplify the entry of American goods and American investments into those foreign countries with which we can with greatest profit and safety do business.

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### GINSENG-MARKET CONDITIONS IN MANCHURIA.

[Consul General P. S. Heintzleman, Mukden, June 1.]

The efficacy of the wild ginseng is held in such esteem by the Chinese of the Mukden district that the foreign cultivated product is not generally acceptable. They believe that the native ginseng has far more virtues than the best foreign, so that there has been little or no importation of the latter. During the past few years the American consulate has had many inquiries regarding this article, but no business has resulted.

The prevailing prices here for cultivated ginseng are from \$1.80 to \$3.60 gold per pound, while the prices of wild ginseng range from \$21.60 gold per pound to a very much higher figure in some instances. The demand for ginseng here is not brisk, and the supply generally exceeds the demand. Each year, after supplying the local market, the dealers have large quantities left for exportation to other parts of China. The terms granted to the dealers by the growers are 16 days' credit. The local dealers in ginseng are natives, who are unable to speak or correspond in English.

[An article on the Chinese ginseng trade was published in **COMMERCE REPORTS** for Feb. 24, 1913.]

**TOILET-SOAP MARKET IN DUTCH WEST INDIES.**

[Vice Consul Christoffel S. Gorsira, Curaçao, May 26.]

The declared imports of Curaçao during 1915 amounted to \$13,651 for soap and \$7,987 for perfume. No statistics are available to determine the quantity of toilet soap imported, but it is known that the figures are large, on account of the demand from passengers on steamers calling here. As a rule, these passengers when calling at this port buy the little things they need for several weeks in their own countries, as the import duties here are lower than on the Continent.

The import duty on toilet soap is 3 per cent of the value at port of shipment, the same rate being applied on the article if imported from any other country. There is no conventional or preferential tariff on any class of goods.

Toilet soap is now imported principally from France, although other sources were available before the war. The principal marks imported at present are: Parfumerie Lubin, Paul Prot & Cie., Succs. 11 Rue Royale, Paris; L. T. Piver, 10 Boulevard de Strasbourg, Paris; V. Rigund, 16 Rue de la Paix et 8 Rue Vivienne, Paris; E. Coudray, 13 Rue d'Enghien, Paris; Roger & Gallet, 38 Rue d'Hauteville, Paris.

**Neat Packing Important Requisite.**

A neat packing is an important requisite for the sale of toilet soap. Expensive soap is wrapped in paper and each cake, or sometimes three cakes, packed in a paper box or an imitation leather box. Even cheap soap is similarly packed. The packing has an influence on the price, as illustrated by the fact that soap of the same grade in different packing commands different prices. The weight of a cake varies from 0.1765 to 0.2645 pound.

In order to obtain a footing in this market for American toilet soap it will be necessary to bring the article into use by local means. Several individuals and firms in Curaçao might be interested in taking up the local agency.

[A list of persons and firms in Curaçao available for those seeking representation there may be obtained from the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce or its branch offices. Refer to file No. 77414.]

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**THE WHISKY MARKET OF BRAZIL.**

[Consul General Alfred L. M. Gottschalk, Rio de Janeiro, June 5.]

There is no market in Brazil for corn and rye whiskies. Brazilians of the poorer class drink cachaca (cane rum); and the better class as a rule do not care for any brand of whisky, light French and Portuguese wines and domestic Brazilian beers being preferred. Practically the only demand for whiskies is from resident foreigners, and it is almost invariably for Scotch, which has only a fair market in Rio de Janeiro and other large cities of the Republic.

Scotch whisky, however, can not be said to be popular among Brazilians, and the chief consumers of it are the foreign element—English, Americans, Germans, and other European residents.

**VENEZUELAN TRADE IN AMMUNITION.**

[Consul Homer Brett, La Guaira, June 19.]

Venezuela's imports of ammunition, excluding that for military purposes and loaded and empty shotgun shells, which are classed with firearms and accessories, were valued at \$85,326 in 1915, as compared with \$91,127 in 1914 and \$98,895 in 1913. Cartridges alone formed more than one-half of the total value for each year, being worth \$43,683 in 1915, \$61,158 in 1914, and \$56,345 in 1913. As imports of rifles and rifle ammunition are restricted, practically all of the cartridges were for pistols. The custom of carrying revolvers is almost universal, but firing them for target practice is not indulged in as freely as in the United States. American revolvers have the market almost exclusively, which fact probably explains why practically all the cartridges come from the United States; in 1913 it shipped \$55,407 worth of cartridges out of the total value of \$56,345. The United States also supplied practically all the powder, but in other munitions it was a poor second to Germany.

It may be said that there is a fair market here for powder and shot, a good one for pistol cartridges, and a trifling one for other sorts of fixed ammunition and for shotgun shells. Shipments to Venezuela are usually made by vessels of the Red "D" Line and the Royal Dutch W. I. Mail from New York and by the United Fruit steamers from New Orleans, with transshipment at Colon.

[A list of dealers in arms and ammunition in Venezuela may be obtained from the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce or its district offices. Refer to file No. 77977.]

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**WIRE DRAG DISCLOSES DANGERS NEAR SALEM HARBOR.**

Wire-drag work in the approaches to Salem Harbor, Mass., which was begun by a party sent out by the United States Coast and Geodetic Survey in May of this year, has resulted in the discovery of a number of uncharted and previously unknown pinnacle rocks and shoal spots with depths less than charted, some of which constitute serious dangers to navigation. The most important of these are a 20-foot rock in the main ship channel, where 7 fathoms were charted southward from Johns Ledge, and a 24-foot shoal east of Newcombs Ledge, where 7½ fathoms were charted.

As it was announced that the Navy Department intended sending the battleship *Vermont* to Salem on July 4, the results of the wire-drag work were furnished by the survey to the Navy Department, the dangers discovered were buoyed and a safe anchorage marked. The dangers discovered decrease the available width of the main ship channel considerably. The examination is not reported as completed, and additional information will be furnished, as soon as received, through the Notice to Mariners.

The importance of the complete development of the channel was shown on July 1, when the steamer *Gulf Stream* of the Gulf Refining Co. went through the channel, drawing 24 feet, very close to a 23-foot shoal north of Bowditch Ledge. It is stated by the chief of the wire-drag party that the dangers discovered are of such a nature that they could not have been found except by accident or with the drag.

**MINING CONCESSION IN RUSSIA.**

[Consul John A. Ray, Odessa.]

A communication, of which the following is a translation, has been received at this consulate:

A concession has been granted for the extraction of iron ore in the basin of the Yellow River, in the Bent Horn (Krivoi Rog) district near the station Zelonaya on the Kharkof-Nikolaief Railroad. The area of the land comprises over 16,000 acres. The concession is granted for 24 years on condition that  $\frac{1}{4}$  of a kopeck is paid for every pood of ore extracted and shipped (about \$0.17 per short ton), and that the holders of the concession must guarantee to extract enough ore to make the annual rent of the land amount to 6,000 rubles (\$3,000). Rent will be charged from the time of beginning of actual extraction and shipment of the ore.

Magnetite assays of the land which have already been made have given very good results. In the neighborhood of this concession are the French "Yellow River" mines, which produce annually about 364,000 tons of iron ore. Other mines in the same district produce similar amounts. Scientific assays of the land in the concession show the presence of ore in large quantities, and there is every reason to believe that this field will prove as rich as its neighbors.

The rent asked for the land of the concession is very low and the location is good, being near a railroad and a village of 12,000 inhabitants, mostly peasants who can be employed in the mines. The present holders of the concession had a contract with English capitalists who spent a considerable sum of money on assays but were unable to carry out their agreement after the outbreak of the European war. Capitalists who might take the place of the English concern could make further researches at much less expense than that incurred by the Englishmen. In case they were satisfied with their finds, they could buy out the present holders of the concession or work in partnership with them.

[The name and address of the sender of the foregoing communication may be obtained from the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce or its district offices. Refer to file No. 75894.]

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**FEW ARTIFICIAL LIMBS IMPORTED BY SWITZERLAND.**

[Consul Walter H. Schulz, Berne, May 26.]

The market for artificial limbs in Switzerland is limited. Since the beginning of the war Swiss manufacturers have been supplying the home demand and have exported their surplus to France. It is stated that American artificial limbs are considered too expensive and that persons using them, as a rule, send their orders to dealers in the United States. Some of the leading American articles, however, are on sale in Switzerland.

There has been no demand from Germany, as one might expect. Local dealers declare that the Germans are supplying the Austrian and home market. It is apparent that the outlook for the American article in Switzerland is not very attractive, especially in view of difficulties experienced by importers in bringing goods from abroad.

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**Railway Supplies Wanted in China.**

Consul General Edwin S. Cunningham, Hankow, China, reports that the Canton-Hankow Railway, Hupeh-Hunan Section, is in the market for the purchase of locomotive stores. Two reports giving detailed information may be examined at the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce or its district offices. [Refer to file Nos. 77562 and 77832.]

# THE TRANSVAAL'S PURCHASES OF MINE STORES.

[Consul Edwin N. Gunsaulus, Johannesburg, Union of South Africa, May 12.]

The mines of the Transvaal expended the sum of \$55,526,775 for stores during 1915, an increase of \$2,457,585 over the preceding year. Of this huge expenditure the purchases of the gold mines alone amounted to \$52,991,669, the balance being divided between the diamond, coal, and other mines of the Province. Of the total purchases by the gold mines, the Witwatersrand was responsible for all but \$2,210,131, showing the paramount importance of this district as compared with the other mining districts of the Transvaal.

In addition to the value of the stores purchased by the gold mines, the combined expenditures for supplies by the reef and alluvial diggings, metallurgical works, and tailing works of the Transvaal amounted to \$207,318, making a total expenditure of \$53,199,196 for stores for mines and diggings exclusively engaged in gold production.

## Stores Consumed Last Year.

The following is an official statement, furnished by the Department of Mines and Industries of the Union of South Africa, of the stores consumed by the mines of the Transvaal for the year 1915:

Articles.	Gold mines.	Coal, diamond, and other mines.	Total, Transvaal mines.
Bags .....	\$17,587	\$71,964	\$89,451
Belting .....	612,157	27,213	639,370
Bolts, nuts, washers, and rivets .....	208,636	14,152	222,788
Brattice cloth .....	5,455	1,776	7,231
Bricks .....	66,062	28,698	94,760
Brushware .....	54,280	2,575	56,855
Candles .....	1,065,116	60,563	1,125,679
Carbide .....	317,140	12,317	329,457
Castings:			
Brass .....	158,555	4,950	163,506
Iron .....	365,771	8,400	374,171
Cement:			
Casks .....	10,010	345	10,355
Bags .....	158,940	9,870	168,819
Charcoal .....	20,741	75,567	96,308
Chemicals and assay requisites .....	812,778	4,112	816,890
Coal-cutting machines .....		17,991	17,991
Coal-cutting machine spares .....		24,675	24,675
Coal:			
Smithy .....	134,252	4,438	138,690
Steam .....	4,609,125	180,975	4,790,100
Other .....	99,125	56,233	155,358
Coke:			
Imported .....	12,321		12,321
Local .....	25,490	326	25,816
Compressed air (purchased) .....	1,553,031		1,553,031
Cyanide .....	2,619,958		2,619,958
Disinfectants .....	78,929	5,314	84,243
Electrical machinery .....	1,013,711	38,280	1,051,991
Electrical machinery spares .....	247,120	22,824	269,944
Electric power and light (purchased) .....	5,245,532	968	5,246,500
Explosives:			
Blasting gelatine .....	3,190,078	33,827	3,223,905
Gelignite and gelatine dynamite .....	3,445,379	28,912	3,474,291
Dynamite .....	968	925	1,893
Lyddyn .....	13,903	129,928	143,830
Other explosives .....	3,693	15,086	18,779
Detonators .....	230,645	18,036	257,681
Electric detonators or electric fuses .....	723,911	57,614	781,525
Safety fuses .....	1,268	11,268	12,535
Lighting torches (Tyisa sticks) .....	72,340	740	73,080
Fencing and wire netting .....	10,803	4,492	15,295
Fodder for stables (bran, chaff, mealies, etc.) .....	131,147	15,082	146,179
Food and supplies for colored laborers:			
Beans .....	151,912	12,045	163,957
Rice .....	85,343	1,990	87,334
Meal .....	1,516,703	142,389	1,659,092



Articles.	Gold mines.	Coal, diamond, and other mines.	Total, Transvaal mines.
Food and supplies for colored laborers—Continued.			
Malt (oatmeal for beer).....	\$99,373	\$8,794	\$108,167
Meat.....	1,967,739	154,219	2,121,978
Fish.....	25,184	2,380	27,534
Salt.....	10,375	2,068	12,443
Groceries (coffee, sugar, oil, ghee, molasses, etc.).....	181,554	21,038	202,592
Sundry food, including bread.....	1,015,735	78,580	1,094,315
Vegetables.....	252,483	22,157	274,640
Medicines, etc.....	128,801	15,772	144,573
Clothing.....	59,181	760	59,941
Hose (steam, suction, and rock-drill).....	336,163	5,767	341,930
Hand tools (picks, shovels, hammers, etc.).....	419,210	29,004	448,214
Iron:			
Bar and angle.....	262,557	14,896	277,453
Galvanized.....	54,256	14,098	68,354
Sheet.....	7,625	1,421	9,046
Pig.....	8,779	1,148	9,927
Lamps and spares.....	69,381	2,682	72,063
Lead:			
Pig.....	9,056	98	9,144
Sheet.....	2,583	44	2,632
Lime:			
White.....	597,416	2,292	599,708
Dice.....	10,214	2,132	12,336
Lubricants:			
Oils.....	430,198	52,388	482,586
Grease and tallow.....	329,977	15,403	345,380
Machinery and tools.....	1,364,975	276,831	1,641,806
Machinery spares other than specified.....	1,157,657	67,460	1,225,117
Mercury.....	167,577		167,577
Miscs (antifriction).....	95,373	4,171	99,544
Mill screenings.....	101,125	5,062	106,187
Motor cars and accessories.....	60,125	7,426	67,551
Oils other than lubricating:			
Transformer.....	12,492	176	12,667
Other.....	6,297	2,638	8,935
Oilskin suits.....	41,657	778	42,435
Painting.....	175,447	8,784	184,231
Paint, tar, driers, etc.....	88,361	6,793	95,154
Paraffin.....	94,940	6,272	101,213
Petrol (gasoline).....	63,940	4,229	68,169
Pipes and pipe fittings.....	1,592,547	74,857	1,667,404
Rails, crossings, sleepers, etc.....	951,595	61,576	1,013,171
Rock drills.....	272,426	2,360	274,786
Rock-drill spares.....	975,947	4,331	980,278
Ropes:			
Wire.....	557,160	28,825	585,985
Cotton and manila.....	50,825	565	51,390
Screenings other than mill.....	24,712	2,997	27,709
Screws, nails, etc.....	108,561	4,161	112,722
Shoes and dies.....	776,459	2,789	779,248
Skips and spares.....	70,710	2,112	72,822
Stationery.....	251,325	18,946	270,270
Steel:			
Bar, tool, cast, etc.....	99,354	5,908	105,262
Sheet.....	530,015	14,419	544,434
Hand-drill.....	328,440	5,766	334,206
Rock-drill.....	468,736	3,197	471,933
Other.....	24,240	603	24,843
Timber:			
Building material (ceilings, floorings, doors, etc.).....	108,766	14,137	122,903
Oregon, pitch pine, etc.....	1,006,844	42,913	1,049,737
Mining poles and round lagging.....	1,761,658	24,230	1,785,888
Deals.....	456,550	43,740	500,290
Fuel.....	2,683	15,062	17,745
Tube-mill requisites:			
Pebbles and flints.....	5,348	496	5,834
Liners.....	239,003	330	239,333
Other requisites.....	78,593	30	78,623
Tracks and spares.....	459,548	53,570	513,118
Waste.....	53,667	4,550	58,217
Water (purchased).....	702,148	210	702,358
Zinc and zinc disks.....	1,140,366		1,140,366
All other.....	1,085,697	117,949	1,203,646
Total.....	52,991,669	2,535,106	55,526,775

Included in this table are such items as coal, compressed air, electric power and light, lime, and certain articles of food which are

locally supplied, but in the main the stores therein enumerated embrace imported materials which are almost entirely obtained from oversea.

#### Details of "Machinery and Machine-Tool" Supplies.

The various items that go to make up the total of \$1,641,806 for "machinery and machine tools" are enumerated below:

Articles.	Gold mines.	Coal, diamond, and other mines.	Total, Transvaal mines.
Water purifiers.....	\$851		\$851
Boiler plant, other than that of locomotives, traction engines, and steam wagons.....	24,245	\$11,515	35,760
Head-gear.....	36,596	12,691	49,287
Steam engines:			
For winding.....	39,950	10,365	50,315
For pumping, including pumps if directly driven.....	633	875	1,508
For compressors, including compressors.....	18,653	9,908	28,561
For other purposes.....	3,951	1,275	5,226
Pumps:			
Air-driven.....	22,930	930	23,860
Driven indirectly by steam.....	1,334	6,866	8,200
Driven indirectly by electric motor.....	114,430	11,281	125,711
Driven indirectly by gas or oil engines.....	1,168		1,751
Steam locomotives.....	27,660	32,392	60,052
Motor wagons:			
Electric.....	18,152		18,152
Oil.....	2,491		2,491
Gas or oil engines.....	12,995	2,025	15,020
Mechanical lifts and elevators, other than belt conveyors and elevators.....	11,154		11,154
Belt conveyors and elevators.....	6,667	14,035	20,702
Other mechanical haulage.....	29,715	5,222	34,937
Reduction plant, excluding engines and consumable stores, such as shoes and dies, screenings, etc.....	312,999	31,565	344,554
Washing plant.....		34,125	34,125
Treatment plant, including furnaces.....	80,631	3,435	83,966
Workshop plant, excluding engines and motors.....	75,679	3,641	79,320
Mine ventilation plant, excluding engines, compressors, and motors.....	19,588	3,002	22,590
Miscellaneous machinery n. e. s.....	502,213	81,100	583,313
Total.....	1,364,975	276,831	1,641,806

#### Electrical Machinery—Direct Imports.

The principal kinds of electrical-machinery stores consumed by the Transvaal mines in 1915—which, as shown by the first table, had a value of \$1,051,991—are enumerated below:

Articles.	Gold mines.	Coal, diamond, and other mines.	Total, Transvaal mines.
Electric generators and engines driving same if directly driven.....	\$12,005	\$11,250	\$23,255
Electric hoists, including motors.....	128,816	4,735	133,551
Electric locomotives.....	7,372		7,372
Electric motors driving pumps, including pumps if directly driven.....	139,327	2,434	141,761
Electric motors not included above.....	128,134	4,609	132,743
Power lines, transformers, etc.....	277,667	5,626	283,293
Electric bells, telephones, and other fixtures.....	105,043	1,859	106,902
Miscellaneous machinery n. e. s.....	215,347	7,767	223,114
Total.....	1,013,711	38,280	1,051,991

The Transvaal mines imported direct (as distinct from their purchases through South African merchants and middlemen) candles to the value of \$7,903; chemicals and assay requisites, \$7,553; cyanide, \$2,214,627; electrical machinery and fittings, \$7,971; machinery and machine tools, \$39,866; various machinery spares, \$4,871; mercury, \$205,254; rails, crossings, etc., \$46,519; skips and spares, \$4,385;

trucks and spares, \$1,518; tube-mill requisites, \$3,085; zinc and zinc disks, \$720,923; sundry other items, \$18,670; total, \$3,283,145. The value of the direct imports in 1914 was \$1,682,237.

**Stores Consumed by Entire Union.**

The importance of the Transvaal mines in their relation to the mining industry of the whole of the Union of South Africa is apparent from a study of the following table giving the value of the mine stores consumed within the Union in 1915:

Provinces.	Gold mining industry.	Coal, diamond, and other mines.	Total Union of South Africa.
Transvaal (Witwatersrand, \$50,781,747; outside Witwatersrand, \$2,210,131; reef and alluvial diggers, \$64,356; metallurgical and tailing works, \$142,963).....	\$53,199,196	\$2,734,058	\$55,933,254
Cape.....	457	1,391,499	1,391,956
Orange Free State.....	2,871	345,147	348,018
Natal.....	14,516	1,111,144	1,125,660
Total, Union of South Africa—			
1915.....	\$3,217,040	5,581,818	88,798,858
1914.....	50,013,444	9,477,256	59,490,700
1913.....	61,746,235	13,284,343	65,030,578

**NEW EQUIPMENT FOR WITWATERSRAND GOLD MINES.**

[Consul Edwin N. Gunsaulus, Johannesburg, Union of South Africa, May 22.]

Among the development work at present taking place on the Witwatersrand gold fields [see COMMERCE REPORTS for June 27, 1916] may be mentioned two most important deep-level shafts which are being sunk in the central area of the Witwatersrand, which will be equipped with hoisting, pumping, and other apparatus. One of these is to serve the deep-level section of the Crown Mines (Ltd.). This will require from three to four years for its completion, and will involve, in its equipment, electrical and mechanical apparatus to the extent of 25,000 to 30,000 horsepower.

The other shaft is being sunk on the property of the Robinson Deep Gold Mining Co. (Ltd.), not far distant from the Crown Mine's shaft. This will also be equipped with apparatus similar to that mentioned above, and of approximately the same total horsepower capacity.

The purpose of these shafts is to make available at an early date the large quantities of low-grade gold ore which, in the opinion of mining engineers, exists in the far-deep levels.

The mechanical equipment for this new construction will probably be purchased some time within the next 12 months.

[Consul Gunsaulus has transmitted a printed copy of the report of the Government Mining Engineer on the Far East Rand, which contains maps and other details in connection with the gold-bearing district of the Witwatersrand. This copy can be examined at the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce or its district offices. Refer to file No, 78064.]

Samples of the finest grade of cacao produced in Ecuador have been forwarded from Guayaquil by Consul General Frederic W. Goding. They may be inspected at the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce or its district offices. Refer to file No. 77872.

**EFFECT OF NEW TERMS IN CLOTH TRADE.**

[Vice Consul Hamilton C. Claiborne, Bradford, England, June 5.]

The recommendations of the general committee on trade terms, representing the Yorkshire, Scotch, and West of England associations of cloth manufacturers, have received the adherence of more than 250 firms. These concerns indorse the organized efforts to secure uniformity in terms of payment, measurement, and commissions, and to abolish the anomalies and variations in the trade to the end that competition may be reduced to a question of price and quality. It is contended that many of the customs in the cloth trade have been archaic and survived solely by reason of tradition and time-honored observance. The elimination of much unnecessary clerical work, the more accurate costing of goods, and a beneficial economy between maker and purchaser, it is claimed, will result from the observance of the new terms.

**Striking Survival of Custom in Textile Trade.**

Among the most striking survivals of custom and precedent in the Yorkshire textile industry is the cloth yard of 37 inches, which harks back to the time when measurement by yard was from the chest to the end of the extended arm, whereby allowance had to be made for the extra inch of cloth held by the thumb. With the advent of practical measurement, the rule of 37 inches was still retained and textiles are to-day computed in West Yorkshire on the basis of 37 inches. It is now proposed to measure every piece 36 inches to the yard.

The resolutions, which were to have been adopted July 1, 1916, by the adhering firms, are not to be acted upon until August, in view of the opposition of a large number of manufacturers and merchants, and it is probable that a compromise based on the recent resolutions will then be offered in an endeavor to secure the support of the dissenting firms.

The movement has been well supported by the woolen trade of Huddersfield, Dewsbury, Batley, and Halifax, while the dealers in fine worsteds in the Bradford district have not been generally desirous of a change in the prevailing credit terms.

[The new terms in full were given in an article published in **COMMERCE REPORTS** for June 15, 1916.]

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**New Steamship Service to Australia.**

Consul General George H. Murphy, at Cape Town, South Africa, reports under date of June 2 that the Orient Co. announces a new four-weekly steamship service between England and Australia via the Cape of Good Hope.

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A regular steamship service between Calcutta, India, and New Orleans, La., is to be inaugurated by the Transatlantic Steamship Co. of Göteborg, Sweden, offering facilities for direct shipments. The first steamer will load at Calcutta about September 10.

# AMERICAN CONSULAR OFFICERS ON LEAVE OF ABSENCE.

The following American consular officers are on leave of absence in the United States and will be glad to confer with business men and commercial organizations relative to conditions in their respective jurisdictions. The consul's time is available primarily for personal interviews. He has limited facilities for correspondence, and except in urgent cases letters should be directed to the consulate.

Name.	Post.	Expira- tion of venue.	Address.
West, George N.....	Kobé, Japan.....	Aug. 15	Department of State, Washington, D.C.
Rasmussen, B. M.....	Goteborg, Sweden.....	July 14	Roland, Iowa.
Cooke, A. B.....	Patras, Greece.....	Aug. 10	121 West Charlotte Street, Norfolk, Va.
Hale, F. D.....	Huddersfield, England.....		Lunenburg, Vt.
Fisher, Fred D.....	Tientsin, China.....	Aug. 5	Albany, Oreg.
Wasterson, William W.....	Durban, Natal, South Africa.	Sept. 1	Carrollton, Ky.
Seltzer, Harry G.....	Breslau, Germany.....		Gibraltar, Pa.
Baker, E. Carlton.....	Nagasaki, Japan.....	Aug. 30	Apartment No. 75, The Brunswick; Washington, D. C.

## PROPOSED MOTOR-BUS SERVICE IN BERMUDA.

[Consul Carl R. Loop, Hamilton, June 20.]

The legislative assembly of Bermuda has decided to repeal the present act prohibiting the use of mechanically propelled vehicles of all sorts, and has appointed a committee to draft a bill providing for "a restricted motor-bus service under the control of the local government." It is probable that a bill, drafted in accordance with the motion, will pass both the assembly and the legislative council, in which case a motor-bus service, under prescribed restrictions, will be inaugurated between Hamilton and St. George and between Hamilton and Somerset.

The coke made in the United States in 1915 amounted to 41,581,150 short tons, an increase, as compared with 1914, of 7,025,236 tons, and within 5,000,000 tons of the record output of 1913, according to the United States Geological Survey. The quantity of by-product coke made in 1915 was the greatest yet recorded.

## District Offices of the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce.

New York, Room 409 United States Customhouse; Boston, eighteenth floor United States Customhouse; Chicago, 504 Federal Building; St. Louis, 402 Third National Bank Building; Atlanta, 521 Post Office Building; New Orleans, 1090 Hibernia Bank Building; San Francisco, 306 United States Customhouse; Seattle, 848 Henry Building. Cooperative district offices: Cleveland, Chamber of Commerce; Cincinnati, Chamber of Commerce; Asst. Gen'l Frt. Agt., C. N. O. & T. P. Ry. Co., Cincinnati; Los Angeles, Chamber of Commerce; Detroit, Board of Commerce; Philadelphia, Chamber of Commerce; South American Agent, Southern Ry. Co., Chattanooga, Tenn.

**FOREIGN TRADE OPPORTUNITIES.**

Reserved addresses may be obtained from the **Bureau** and its **district offices**. Request for each opportunity should be on a separate sheet and **state opportunity number**. The Bureau does not furnish credit ratings or assume responsibility as to the standing of foreign inquirers; the usual precautions should be taken in all cases.

*Envelopes*, No. 21770.—An American consular officer in a foreign colonial possession reports that a firm is in the market for low-priced commercial envelopes. Samples should be sent with quotations, which should be f. o. b. port of shipment, or if possible, c. i. f. destination. The first order will be for 2,000,000 envelopes, it is stated, and if satisfactory, further orders will follow.

*Wire nails, screws, etc.*, No. 21771.—A firm of wholesale iron merchants in the Far East desires quotations from American manufacturers on wire nails, screws, wire fences, hoops and hinges, etc. Samples should be sent if possible. References are given.

*Sewing machines, etc.*, No. 21772.—An American consular officer in France reports that a firm desires to be placed in touch with American manufacturers of sewing machines and needles, etc. Correspondence should be in French.

*Safety razors, etc.*, No. 21773.—A special agent of the Bureau writes that an agent in Central America, who already represents a number of American manufacturers, desires to obtain the agency for a few additional lines. He is particularly interested in safety razors, flashlights, fancy candles, men's garters, automobile accessories, etc.

*Hoop iron*, No. 21774.—An American consular officer in Newfoundland reports that a merchant wishes to get in touch with American manufacturers of hoop iron for barrels, No. 16 gauge, 2 inches width, 61 inches long, splayed and punched at one end. First order will be for two tons, and if satisfactory, larger quantities later.

*Textiles, hardware, etc.*, No. 21775.—A man in South America informs an American consular officer that he desires to represent American manufacturers and exporters of textiles, silk goods, perfumery, small hardware, pharmaceutical preparations, paper, and other articles of stationery. References are given. Correspondence should be in Spanish.

*Rope and twine, etc.*, No. 21776.—A firm in the Far East desires to receive quotations on twine and 3-ply and cotton rope,  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch to  $1\frac{1}{4}$  inches in diameter. The firm also desires to be placed in touch with exporters of sizing materials, leather goods, mill machinery, and sundries for looms, carding, etc.

*Vegetable fat*, No. 21777.—A chocolate manufacturer in Spain advises an American consular officer that he desires to import vegetable fat used in the manufacture of chocolates. References are given. Correspondence should be in Spanish.

*Novelties and specialties, etc.*, No. 21778.—An American consular officer in South Africa writes that a man who has recently established an agency business desires to represent American manufacturers of office specialties, household conveniences, small tools, brushes, lamp chimneys, wire screening, cutlery, and cigar lighters with cutter attachments, etc.

*Fruit extracts*, No. 21779.—An American consular officer in Brazil writes that a firm wishes to obtain catalogues and price lists from manufacturers and exporters of fruit extracts. Correspondence should be in Portuguese.

*Cotton waste*, No. 21780.—A firm in Sweden informs an American consular officer of its desire to be placed in touch with American manufacturers and exporters of cotton waste (fly and strips).

PRINCETON, N. J.

# COMMERCE REPORTS



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## CURTAILMENT OF DANISH DRIED-FRUIT IMPORTS.

[Cablegram from American Consul General, London, July 7.]

The London representative of the Danish Merchants' Guild announces that, owing to heavy recent importations of dried fruit into Denmark, it is improbable that further shipments of this commodity to Denmark will be possible before the end of the current year.

## BRITISH IMPORT PROHIBITION ON WOODS.

[Cablegram from American Consul General, London, July 8.]

By interpretation of an earlier order, the Department of Import Restrictions decided on June 26 to prohibit the importation of cottonwood, chestnut, cypress, tupelo, and magnolia, and also wood grips for electric lamps. The prohibition does not apply to battens, slating, matchings, or sheetings, unplanned staves, and strips of woods not under prohibition.

## ADVANCE CROP STATISTICS IN SPAIN.

[Consul General Carl Bailey Hurst, Barcelona, June 15.]

According to forecasts by the chief engineers of the agronomical sections of Spain, it appears that an increase of 362,798 acres has been devoted to the cultivation of cereals in 1916 over the area seeded in 1915, and of this 259,637 acres more than last year are planted in wheat. Should no accident occur, the 1916 crops of cereals will be approximately 4,161,827 metric tons of wheat, 1,837,004 tons of barley, 798,531 tons of rye, and 507,270 tons of oats. If these results are obtained, the crops will show increases over those of 1915 by 370,725 tons of wheat, 35,036 tons of barley, 135,501 tons of rye, and a decrease of 29,046 tons of oats.

**INCREASED FOOD PRICES IN ENGLAND.**

[Consul J. S. Armstrong, jr., Bristol, June 19.]

The Board of Trade Labor Gazette, in an article on the retail food prices in the United Kingdom, states that they were higher by about  $2\frac{1}{2}$  per cent on June 1, 1916, compared with May 1. British and imported meat advanced about 8 or 9 per cent, and old potatoes 8 per cent. Fresh butter was 2 per cent lower, and bread and other articles were practically unchanged. Compared with June 1 of last year, the retail prices showed an average increase of 20 per cent, the greatest proportionate advances being in the prices of potatoes and granulated sugar, which amounted to 60 and 50 per cent, respectively. British imported beef and British mutton were 20 to 25 per cent and frozen mutton nearly 40 per cent higher. Eggs, cheese, fish, bacon, tea, and milk rose about 15 to 20 per cent, and butter and margarin 14 and 12 per cent, respectively.

Bread and flour prices showed little change compared with July, 1914. Better cuts of British meat showed a rise of between 50 and 60 per cent, and cheaper cuts of imported meat doubled in price.

Taking the country as a whole, the average increase in retail prices since the beginning of the war is put at 59 per cent, reducable to 53 per cent if the increased duties on tea and sugar are deducted. The average increase in the cost of living of the working classes is computed at about 40 per cent.

**REPORT OF THE SWEDISH MINT.**

[American Minister Ira N. Morris, Stockholm.]

No gold coins were made at the Swedish mint during 1915, but 9,304,841 silver and bronze coins, with a nominal value of 1,999,772 crowns (1 crown=\$0.268) were coined and issued. On the making of silver coins there has been a profit of 1,101,077 crowns, and on the making of bronze coins a profit of 27,371 crowns. On the other hand, there has been a loss of 20,532 crowns on the redemption of worn and damaged coins. The accounts of the mint show a net profit of 983,212 crowns.

During the period from 1873 to 1915 there was coined at the Swedish mint 20, 10, and 5 crown coins to the value of 85,383,095 crowns. It is not known how much of this money is left. The mint has redeemed only 15,635 crowns, but it is known that considerable sums are annually melted down and used in the industries. There has been coined during the period 2 and 1 crown and 50, 25, and 10 öre coins to a value of 41,776,210 crowns. Of this amount the mint has redeemed 1,558,210 crowns, leaving 40,218,000 crowns still in circulation. The value of bronze money coined in Sweden is 3,027,069 crowns. Of this 57,997 crowns has been redeemed, leaving 2,969,072 crowns in circulation.

**Increased Trade of New Zealand.**

Consul General Alfred A. Winslow, at Auckland, New Zealand, reports that of the total value of the imports into that country, valued at \$30,219,291, during the first three months of 1916 the United States supplied goods to the value of \$3,757,317, compared with \$2,842,712, out of a total of \$24,434,954, during the corresponding period in 1915.



**IMPORTS OF COAL AND COKE INTO CHILE.**

[Consul General L. J. Keena, Valparaiso, June 13.]

The Chilean Government statistics give the imports of coal into that country during 1913, 1914, and 1915 as 1,540,747, 1,257,559, and 411,317 tons, respectively, received from the following countries:

Countries.	1913	1914	1915	Countries.	1913	1914	1915
	<i>Tons.</i>	<i>Tons.</i>	<i>Tons.</i>		<i>Tons.</i>	<i>Tons.</i>	<i>Tons.</i>
Great Britain.....	924,430	527,576	201,718	Argentina.....			7
Germany.....	45,477	46,157	2,626	Netherlands.....	575	2,621	
Belgium.....	13,413	17,208	50	India.....		3,704	
Australia.....	457,873	516,880	155,541	Total.....	1,540,747	1,257,559	411,317
United States.....	98,979	143,404	51,375				

The imports of coke for the same three years, with the countries of origin, were:

Countries.	1913	1914	1915	Countries.	1913	1914	1915
	<i>Tons.</i>	<i>Tons.</i>	<i>Tons.</i>		<i>Tons.</i>	<i>Tons.</i>	<i>Tons.</i>
Great Britain.....	13,207	9,588	27,994	Netherlands.....	2,075	4,040	
Germany.....	23,746	20,031	25	Uruguay.....	1		
Australia.....		6,720	1,960	Total.....	46,337	46,911	50,151
United States.....	1,000	1,885	20,172				
Belgium.....	6,308	4,647					

The shortage of coal in Chile has been more or less severely felt since the beginning of 1915. The Government railroads have been seriously considering the use of wood for fuel to supplement this shortage.

The present price quotations on coal indicate the scarcity of that commodity. Quotations for Valparaiso and northern ports at present are: Australian, 85 shillings; American, 75 to 85 shillings; and Chilean, 75 to 85 shillings.

**PASSENGER SERVICE FROM AVONMOUTH TO NORFOLK.**

[Consul J. S. Armstrong, Jr., Bristol, England, June 19.]

The management of Messrs. Elders & Fyffes (Ltd.), Avonmouth, Bristol, has informed this consulate that their steamship department contemplates having its vessels call at Norfolk, Va., when on the outward voyage to Colon. Owing to difficulty in obtaining sufficient supplies of coal here, it will be necessary to stop over at Norfolk and take in sufficient coal to complete the voyage to Colon.

Although definite arrangements have not yet been made, it is possible that the company will carry passengers from Avonmouth to Norfolk, thus opening up a direct passenger service between England and a port in the Southern States. Passengers will also probably be taken from Norfolk to port in Panama and the West Indies.

The fleet of vessels owned by Messrs. Elders & Fyffes is at present engaged in the passenger and banana carrying trade, and maintains fortnightly sailings from Avonmouth to Colon, Panama, via Kingston, Jamaica, and Port Limon, Costa Rica.

The following steamers are engaged in this traffic: *Cavina*, of 6,539 gross tons; *Camito*, of 6,610 gross tons; and *Coronado*, of 6,537 gross tons.

**THE BRITISH SHOE INDUSTRY.**

[Consul J. S. Armstrong, jr., Bristol, June 22.]

**Bristol and the Russian Army Boot.**

The Russian army boot is being manufactured in large quantities at some 50 boot and shoe factories in Bristol and vicinity, and it is reported that this is the first time this class of footwear has been produced by local manufacturers. The result is that the majority of the factories are concentrating their activities on the military boot, and there is such a small percentage giving any attention to the civilian trade that there is already a noticeable shortage in children's footwear as well as in some grades of women's shoes. Owing to so many men having joined the army, the supply of boots and shoes for men is still adequate.

Workmen engaged in the manufacture of military boots are receiving a flat war bonus of 85 cents per week in addition to their day or piecework earnings, and the "clickers," i. e., the men who cut out the leather for the Russian army boots, receive a bonus of 53 or 55 cents, according to the labor involved.

[Consul Robert S. S. Bergh, Stoke-on-Trent, June 13.]

**Staffordshire Boot Operatives' War Bonus.**

The retail selling price of footwear has increased about 40 per cent since the beginning of the war and the leather used in its manufacture, at the present time, is inferior in quality.

The board of conciliation and arbitration for the boot and shoe trade of Stafford and district has given consideration to an application of the operatives for a reconsideration of the war bonus agreed upon on June 18, 1915. The board arrived at the following agreement:

That a war bonus of 3s. 6d. (85 cents) per week be paid to all male operatives of 21 years and upward, who are at present in receipt of up to and including 35s. (\$8.52) per week, and 3s. (73 cents) per week to those operatives in receipt of wages over 35s. (\$8.52) per week, other than those in receipt of the war bonus on Government work. The bonus to be payable for the duration of the war and no operatives to participate in the bonus who have not made a full week of 52½ hours, irrespective of overtime, when work is provided, unless he can show a satisfactory reason for absence.

This amended war bonus will become payable on the 23d or 24th of June, 1916.

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**TO DEVELOP SISAL PRODUCTION IN THE PHILIPPINES.**

[J. F. Boomer, correspondent, Manila, May 31.]

A determined effort is being made to develop the growing of sisal in the Philippines. Exporters of fiber are backing the project. It has been found that the plant does exceedingly well in the islands and that the fiber produced from it here is of excellent quality.

The officials of the Bureau of Agriculture of the Philippine Islands are also lending their support to the propaganda for the cultivation of sisal. Already considerable plantings have been made, especially on the island of Masbate, and it is expected that within a few years the United States will become more independent of tropical America in obtaining a sisal-fiber supply.

**BRAZILIAN TRADE IN PARAGUAY TEA.**

[Consul General Alfred L. M. Gottschalk, Rio de Janeiro, June 5.]

Not a little alarm is manifested here over the report reaching this country to the effect that Argentina proposes to encourage the planting of the herb known as yerba maté (Paraguay tea).

Until now practically the monopoly of this product has been with Brazil, whose southern States grow this particular crop in large quantities. Curytiba (State of Parana) is the center of the trade, and exports through its port of Paranagua. Argentina has been a profitable consumer of the product until now.

The drinking of maté has hitherto been confined almost wholly to Brazil, Argentina, and Uruguay, with a little consumption in Chile. In some of the other Latin Americas there is a belief in the remedial (tonic) properties of the herb, and it is occasionally to be seen there, but only as a pharmaceutical product.

Notwithstanding all that has been written and printed in Brazil concerning the headway which maté was making in Europe as a popular beverage, and the effort made to encourage its exportation, there is no evidence that the product has thus far achieved anything further than a limited and entirely local demand, and this only in the southern portion of this continent.

Considerable dissemination has been given here to a report transmitted by the Brazilian consul general at New York City regarding the possibilities of introducing maté on a large scale into the United States. The American market has never known much of the maté, except perhaps as a pharmaceutical product. Its imports of the herb have never been large, amounting to nine tons in all in 1914, and to only one ton in 1915.

**Destination of Paraguay Tea.**

The exports of yerba maté from Brazil during the past two years were as follows:

Country.	1914		1915	
	Metric tons.	Value.	Metric tons.	Value.
Total .....	59,354	\$8,037,025	75,885	\$8,959,006
United States .....	9	1,471	1	187
Argentina .....	44,381	6,052,332	58,617	6,981,467
Uruguay .....	12,576	1,720,709	14,071	1,669,280
Chile .....	2,227	243,158	3,145	299,965

**RUSSIAN PAPER-MILL PROJECT.**

[W. Reed Harrison, secretary to American commercial attaché, Petrograd, June 3.]

Offers are requested of capital and machinery to construct and equip a paper mill on property situated on the River Kama, a tributary of the Volga, in the Perm Government, Russia. In the district sawmills are already operating, from which could be obtained enough sawdust to make 20,000 tons of paper pulp per annum; this sawdust at present is wasted.

[The name and address of the firm in Klef, Russia, that will supply particulars as to the capital and machinery required may be obtained from the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce or its district offices. Refer to file No. 1545.]

**AMERICAN CARGOES ON INTERNED VESSELS AT RIO.**

[Consul General Alfred L. Moreau Gottschalk, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, June 5.]

The consulate general at Rio de Janeiro has on numerous occasions been called upon to serve the interests of American shippers of cargo, directed chiefly to African ports, and shipped from the United States via Hamburg or Antwerp upon German vessels such as the *Etruria*, *Gertrude Woermann*, and others now interned in Brazilian ports. These ships, which belong to the Deutsch Ost Afrika Linie, or the Woermann Line, did a considerable business in handling American cargoes transshipped at either Hamburg or Antwerp, and sometimes, it is said, even from English ports, for various places in West, South, and East Africa, and sometimes India. When the war began they voluntarily interned themselves in Brazilian ports, where a number of them now lie.

The problem of protecting the interests of American shippers of cargo upon these boats is complicated by the fact that the American claimant often has no knowledge of the particular ship that carried his cargo after transshipment was made in Europe.

**Methods of Getting American Cargo from Interned Vessels.**

In the beginning the German companies here allowed the withdrawal of cargo from interned ships only when it was stowed within very easy reach and upon payment of proper stevedoring charges. Later there was some talk of combining or pooling the interests of the claimants to the various lots making up the cargo. To-day a more practical solution, although one involving considerable expense, has been reached, as follows:

If the claimant can present his shipping documents (triplicate set of bills of lading) to the ship's agents here, the cargo may be landed upon payment to the company of 20 per cent of its invoice value. Any other legitimate expenses that the shipment may have incurred will also be charged to the shipper. In case the shipping documents are not available to the shipper, his only mode of procedure would be to communicate with the head office of the German steamship line that did the carrying, state his case, and request them to authorize their local agency at Rio de Janeiro to discharge the cargo and hand it over to some appointed person in this port, subject, of course, to the conditions above mentioned.

The consulate general at Rio de Janeiro is prepared in all cases in which it is addressed on such matters to hand over the claimant's papers to some reliable customs broker.

All that is written above refers to cargo still lying in the holds of interned German steamships. In some cases, notably that of the Deutsch Ost Afrika Linie's steamer *Muansa*, the vessel rid itself of its cargo partly by transferring it to other ships similarly interned, and partly by depositing it with the dock company (Compagnie du Port de Rio de Janeiro). Such portions of the cargo as are in the hands of the port company are subject to storage charges, to satisfy which they may shortly be sold at auction.

Consul John K. Caldwell, at Vladivostok, Asiatic Russia, reports that according to the Russian press the Achinsk-Minussinsk Railroad has been opened. On this line there are no restrictions nor prohibitions with regard to the acceptance and transportation of goods.

## NEW RUSSIAN RAILWAY PROJECT.

[Journal of Russian-American Chamber of Commerce, Moscow, April.]

The Russian Council of Ministers has approved the project of the Minister of Finance and the Minister of Ways of Communication concerning the construction of the Ob-Ural-Bielomorsky Railway. Starting from Archangel, this railway will be built to Pinega and will traverse the Ukhtinsky district, crossing the River Petchora in the vicinity of the village Troitzko-Petshersk, and will proceed to the port on the River Ob in the vicinity of the Chemashevsky settlement (the Novitsky works). After the line has crossed to the eastern slope of the Ural Mountains, a side line will be built from one of the stations to the station Nadeshdinsky Works of the Bogoslovsky Railway. The total length of this railway will be about 1,000 miles.

As this projected line will pass through the dense forests of the basins of the Mezen, Pechora, and Ob, it will facilitate the exploitation of these forests and will thereby increase the revenue of the Forestry Department as well as promote the export trade in timber. It will also provide a cheaper route for the exports of raw material from Siberia, chiefly Siberian grain. Moreover, it will connect the mining districts of the northeastern slopes of the Ural with newly discovered rich deposits of iron ore and mineral fuel. Finally, by creating the means of approaching a country rich in natural resources, but up to now almost inaccessible, this new railway line will make it possible to establish factories in this territory, so that many articles formerly imported may be manufactured within the district.

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## SWISS TIN PLATE IMPORTATION SYNDICATE.

[Consul Walter H. Schulz, Berne, June 17.]

The tin-can manufacturers of Switzerland have formed a syndicate to facilitate the importation of their raw materials, notably tin plate.

The raw materials to be imported by this concern include tin plate, white metal, and so-called Columbia plate. It is hoped in this way to ease imports directly from Italy or France, or in transit from these countries. The organization will form a medium by which individual members will be able to do business through the Swiss Import Trust. Shares are fixed at 1,000 francs (\$193), as no member may hold more than five. Members must also furnish bond to the trust, and are obligated to pass in advance the amount involved in their purchases, including freight tariff and other charges. In order to cover the running expenses of the syndicate, each member will be required to pay a commission on their respective purchases, the amount of which is to be fixed by a committee of directors. The syndicate also obligates itself to meet with the requirements of the Swiss Import Trust regarding the imports and exports of the wares and the purchase and sale of its wares. Membership may be terminated by giving three months' notice, by death, by bankruptcy, or liquidation, expulsion, or failure to pay the guaranties required.

The address is: "Syndicat des Fabricants de boîtes en fer blanc, Neuengasse 20, Berne, Switzerland."

### PRODUCTION OF SODA AND SODIUM COMPOUNDS.

In the production of soda and sodium compounds in the United States, figures reported by the United States Bureau of the Census show that the number of establishments was unchanged between 1909 and 1914. In each of those two census years the number was 68, although the output increased 41.7 per cent in quantity and 12.7 per cent in value.

The sodas, so called, to which the report relates, are the major sodas, comprising soda ash, including white alkali and refined alkali; sal soda, including natural soda, mild mineral alkali, soda crystals, washing soda, and crystallized sodium carbonate; bicarbonate of soda, including bread soda, saleratus, and sodium hydrogen carbonate; caustic soda, including soda lye and sodium hydroxide; and borax, including borax glass, lime and sodium borates, and sodium biborate.

Reports for 1914 showed the production of 1,371,105 tons of sodas, valued at \$22,616,696. The output of these sodas in 1914 comprised 90,169 net tons of bicarbonate of soda, valued at \$1,439,014; 212,539 tons of caustic soda, valued at \$6,657,514; 106,591 tons of sal soda, valued at \$1,510,449, including 34,335 tons of sal soda crystals, valued at \$600,240; 935,305 tons of soda ash, valued at \$10,937,945; and 26,501 tons of borax, valued at \$2,071,774.

At the census of 1909 there were soda products aggregating 967,730 tons, valued at \$20,061,505. The 1914 output thus exceeded that of 1909 by 403,375 tons in quantity, and by \$2,555,191 in value.

In addition to these sodas, there were manufactured in 1914 sodium products to the value of \$8,280,572, not including sodium chemicals, which latter—for example, chemicals used in the manufacture of photographic materials—are classified in connection with other industries. This production includes 169,049 tons of sodium silicate, valued at \$1,648,854; 11,824 tons of sodium bichromate, valued at \$1,125,398; 15,397 tons of sodium phosphate, valued at \$853,528; 20,263 tons of sodium sulphide, valued at \$516,644; 24,505 tons of Glauber's salt, valued at \$316,338; and concentrated lye, the product of compounders and packers, to the value of \$1,556,141.

### AMERICAN CONSULAR OFFICERS ON LEAVE OF ABSENCE.

The following American consular officers are on leave of absence in the United States and will be glad to confer with business men and commercial organizations relative to conditions in their respective jurisdictions. The consul's time is available primarily for personal interviews. He has limited facilities for correspondence, and except in urgent cases letters should be directed to the consulate.

Name.	Post.	Expira- tion of venue.	Address.
West, George N.....	Kobe, Japan.....	Aug. 15	Department of State, Washington, D.C.
Rasmussen, B. M.....	Goteborg, Sweden.....	July 14	Roland, Iowa.
Cooke, A. B.....	Patras, Greece.....	Aug. 10	121 West Charlotte Street, Norfolk, Va.
Hale, F. D.....	Huddersfield, England.....		Lunenburg, Vt.
Fisher, Fred D.....	Tientsin, China.....	Aug. 5	Albany, Oreg.
Masterson, William W.....	Durban, Natal, South Africa.....	Sept. 1	Carrollton, Ky.
Feltzer, Harry G.....	Breslau, Germany.....		Gibraltar, Pa.
Baker, E. Carlton.....	Nagasaki, Japan.....	Aug. 30	Apartment No. 75, The Brunswick, Washington, D. C.

**HUNGARIAN CITY'S PUBLIC-UTILITIES PLANT.**

[Consul Benjamin F. Chase, Fiume, May 9.]

The plant of the public service utilities of Fiume is in a compact form, situated at the extreme northern end of the city, between a steep hill and the river. Near it is an ever-flowing spring of sufficient capacity for the needs of a city of 800,000 inhabitants, according to the estimate of Mr. Giovanni Giordano, who has been director of public service utilities for the past 20 years. The water rises more than 50 feet from its exit. It is retained in a pool, and is of excellent quality and a uniform temperature.

The plant includes the center for electric lighting and street-car service, a rubbish incinerator, and pumps for raising the water to reservoirs. The buildings are all of brick and well arranged with extensive gardens.

The water supply was acquired in 1894, the electric lighting in 1907, the incinerator was erected in 1904, and the street-car service was taken over in 1906 from a private company. The plant consumes 30 tons of coal a day. American automatic stokers, water recorders, adding machine, and typewriters are in use.

No statistics as to the operation of the public works are yet obtainable for 1915. In 1914 a profit of approximately \$80,000 was shown in the account. There is but one street-car line, with no branches. This is being double tracked for a great portion of the way.

**Description Given by Utilities Director.**

The director, in a discussion of the features of this big city plant, described the various branches of the work in detail. He said in part:

The thermoelectric central is the heart of all the communal establishments and produces the energy which supplies all the other plants. It is composed of a boiler house, a machine room, and a location underneath for the condensing apparatus. In the boiler house are three water-tube boilers of the Babcock-Wilcox system and an automatic stoker. The stokers are operated by an electric motor of three horsepower.

The coal storage place has been constructed, taking advantage of the ramp which leads to the plane whereon the refuse destructors are situated, at such a height that the coal reaches the grate bars by gravitation. The clinker and ashes are extracted from the underground clinker channel by small cars which are raised by electric elevators. The service of the boiler house is completed by two feed pumps and a tank for the heating of the condensed water. Actually the feed pumps, as well as the tank, receive the necessary steam from the boiler in conjunction with the refuse destructor, utilizing, by such means, the heat produced by the burning of the refuse. This saves 6 per cent in the amount of coal required for the whole plant.

The machine room, in proximity to the boiler house, contains two turbine-alternating current dynamos and has room for a third. Condensers are operated by a 30-horsepower electric motor with belt drive.

The main switchboard is in the machine room, upon which is located the necessary apparatus for measuring and controlling the

alternating turbines and lines of distribution. For mounting and dismounting turbines there is a 20-ton bridge crane.

#### **Current for Pumping, Street Cars, Light, and Power.**

From the central station the current is conducted by three wire cables separately to the pumping station of the waterworks and also to the station of the rotating transformers of the street-car system. From the central itself four cables start. They form a double ring surrounding the city and serve, one for the distribution of light, the other for the distribution of power.

The pumping station of the waterworks consists of a single building, a machine room, in which are installed five centrifugal pumps of high pressure, directly coupled with two electric motors. Of these pumps, which make 1,200 rotations per minute, two are capable of lifting 150 liters (158 quarts) per second and another 100 liters (106 quarts) per second in the inferior zone (to a manometric altitude of 230 feet). The motors coupled to these pumps are 220-horsepower and 130-horsepower. One is always in reserve. The two other centrifugal pumps, which have a potential of 50 liters (53 quarts) per second each, raise the water to an altitude of 492 feet. Their motors have a potentiality of 590 feet. Of these two, one is always in reserve.

#### **Pumping Arrangements for Various Sections.**

From the pumping station the water is carried by pipes of 7.3 inches to a reservoir whence proceeds the pipe which conducts and distributes the water to the section of the city from 217 feet to 492 feet above the level of the sea. The piping for the inferior zone, proceeding from the pumping station, traverses the city by various branches and distributes the water to the section between sea level and 216 feet above the level of the sea, throwing off the excess in a reservoir which is about 2 miles from the pumping station. While this reservoir receives water when the capacity of the pumping exceeds the requirements of consumption, it automatically supplies it when needed.

To supply water to the highest section of the city, toward the west, a subsidiary pumping station has been constructed at this reservoir. It lifts the water to a reservoir situated 623 feet above sea level. This pumping station consists of two centrifugal high-pressure pumps, each capable of lifting 15 liters (16 quarts) per second to the maximum height of 492 feet. In order to avoid too great a pressure in the houses, it was necessary to couple to the distribution apparatus, for each of the two pipes of the hill upon which the reservoir is situated, a walled reduction reservoir, provided with automatic lever valves.

#### **Transformers and Accumulators.**

The transformer room of the electric car system is composed of two machines each provided with a triphase electric motor coupled directly to a continual dynamo and the switchboard. One of the machines is for reserve. Besides the transformers, there is a battery of rapid-discharge accumulators. This battery, besides suppressing any momentary overcharges of the transformer, renders the street car service practically independent of the electric-generating center



for some time, being itself sufficient to maintain the service for about two hours.

The tram lines, starting in the vicinity of the barn, run as far as the Istrian Confine, with a total course of 3.36 miles. The single track has a gauge of 36.38 inches. The aerial track is composed of double copper wires of 0.31 inch diameter. The service is kept by 8 trains, each composed of one regular car and one trailer, which start at 7½-minute intervals.

The plant of furnaces is supplied for the destruction of domestic and street refuse gathered daily in the city, of a medium quantity of 25 tons. It consists of the furnace room, the rubbish deposit, and place for the air compressor. There are four furnaces in a battery. Combustion is completed by the reverberation of the heat. Smoke channels carry the combustion gases along the steam boilers. These are finally drawn by natural draft into the chimney, 131 feet high, with a diameter of 4.6 feet at the top. The iron deposit for refuse is located at a considerable height on the foremost platform of the furnaces.

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### IMPORTING COLOMBIAN CATTLE AT CRISTOBAL-COLON.

[Consul Julius D. Dreher, Colon, Panama, June 27.]

For some time the supply department of the Panama Canal has been bringing cattle from Colombia to aid in meeting the demand for fresh beef in the commissary stores in the Canal Zone. The number of such cattle slaughtered at Cristobal, Canal Zone, is now more than 1,000 a month; and it is proposed to increase this number, as this beef, which is of good flavor and popular, is cheaper than that brought in cold storage from New York, from which port the supply department is receiving about 100,000 pounds a month.

Owing to pressing demands for carrying freight between Cristobal-Colon and New York, the Panama Railroad Steamship Line could no longer spare one of its six ships to bring cattle from Colombia, and hence it became necessary to transform the seagoing dredge *Caribbean* into a cattle ship. This vessel has already brought two cargoes of about 400 cattle each from Cispata Bay, Colombia, but its accommodations are to be increased to carry 600 cattle at a time. Meanwhile land has been cleared in the Canal Zone for pasturing imported cattle not in fit condition to be slaughtered for beef; some 10,000 acres near the Atlantic end of the Isthmus, 1,500 acres at Empire, 3,000 acres at Culebra, and 2,300 acres at Corozal where a Government farm is maintained. These practical measures for providing a cheap supply of fresh beef for the Canal Zone promises to be quite successful.

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### New Dutch Fertilizer Company Organized.

Commercial Attaché Erwin W. Thompson reports from The Hague that a cooperative fertilizer manufacturing company has been organized at Goes, the Netherlands, with a capital stock of about \$100,000. The factory will probably be built at Middelburg and will be driven by electric current furnished from the central station at Flushing. The secretary of the organization is G. van der Slikke, of Wolfaartsdyk, the Netherlands.

**RUBBER AND ITS VALORIZATION.**

[Translation from *Jornal do Commercio*, Rio de Janeiro, May 19, submitted by Commercial Attaché William C. Downs.]

The local press has again taken up the question of rubber valorization and the projected law of protection to articles made of Brazilian rubber which was vetoed by the President of the Republic. [See *COMMERCE REPORTS* for Apr. 9 and 30, May 22, and June 7, 1915.] It is pertinent to remark that this bill did not influence, as many suppose, the rise and fall in price of this our second most important export, as can be easily demonstrated.

According to latest advices, Para Fine Up-river was quoted in New York at 74.5 cents per pound, while a quality practically the same from the East was offered at 87.5 cents. At first sight it would seem that manufacturers would supply themselves with the former as its price is lower, but because of impurities in the Brazilian product the expense of cleaning and the tare aggregate from 20 to 25 per cent, which causes that favorable price difference to disappear. On the rubber from the East there is a loss of only 1 per cent and sometimes less.

Now, taking the first one (the Para) at 74.5 cents, and adding to the cost the expense for cleaning (20 per cent), or 14.9 cents, the real price to the manufacturer would be 89.4 cents. The one from the East, "smoked ribbed sheets," on the same date was quoted at 87.5 cents. Adding the cost of cleaning (1 per cent), or 0.87 cent, the total cost to the manufacturer would be 88.37 cents, or 1 cent per pound less than the Para. Aside from that, there are other grades from the East (such as "first latex crepes") which are considered as good as Para, and which on the same occasion sold for 84 cents a pound—5 cents a pound less than Brazilian.

**Plantations and Factories.**

All attempts to valorize Brazilian rubber have proved useless. The last one, in 1909, was a disaster, costing vast sums—and that when the total production in the East was 8,200 tons as against 42,000 in Brazil. Now the situation is reversed. Last year (1915) the production in the East was nearly 100,000 tons, and in Brazil the yield declined to 35,000. The production for the East this year is estimated at 120,000 tons, and in 1920 will be 300,000. While the production in the East, therefore, increases very rapidly, in Brazil the output decreases. [A review of the rubber industry of the Malay Peninsula appeared in *COMMERCE REPORTS* for June 21, 1916.]

The real valorization of Brazilian rubber can be accomplished by its cultivation and the establishment of factories to prepare it, the same as in the East, and thus obtain the same or perhaps better prices. It has to be planted near the cities where factories can be opened, instead of searching for new trees thousands of miles up the rivers, with great expenditure of money and the sacrifice of many lives, leaving the trees spoiled and ruined, thus decreasing the production. In the East the trees are treated with the utmost care, enormously increasing the output, while in Brazil they are drained to the last drop and devastated, thus diminishing the yield. Perhaps this idea may be considered as impractical. It will, however, materialize in the near future. There is no product so profitable as rubber, but it must not be obtained from such tremendous distances, with great

expenditure, where there are no facilities. It should be planted near the cities, where these facilities are readily obtainable, or close to factories where it can be conveniently prepared.

Only with the protection of heavy import duties could a rubber-goods factory be established, and it would also be necessary to exempt from duty scores of needed materials, among them Sea Island cotton, which is considered superior to any produced in Brazil for the manufacture of rubber hose and other articles, and regenerated rubber, which is employed in large quantities. The Government would be the loser, as it would be deprived of the duties on nearly 100,000 tires—which is the annual consumption of this article—not taking into account the inner tubes and other goods, and of the revenue from the materials exempt from duty. The people would also pay their share in the largely increased prices of rubber goods. And how could such a law be carried out when it is absolutely impossible to know the origin of the rubber in manufactured goods, except in a limited number of articles, and then only when they are of pure rubber without any mixture?

#### **Regenerated Rubber an Important Factor.**

The decline in the price of rubber is not due to the increase in the world's production of the raw material, but to the increase in the output of the regenerated, which is rubber extracted from old articles, from a shoe to tires and worn-out inner tubes. This old material is worth from  $1\frac{1}{2}$  to 30 cents a pound, and the regenerated rubber from 5 to 40 cents. The quantity employed is enormous, being estimated to be double the amount of the raw material. Rare indeed is the article that has not a goodly proportion of regenerated rubber in it, and there are many that are made exclusively of it.

There are no statistics of the production of regenerated rubber. The first estimate which appeared this year (in the *India Rubber World* of April 1) gives 90,000 tons for the United States. It can be easily seen that the estimate of 300,000 tons (twice the amount of the raw material) is not excessive for the world's consumption. What will be the oversupply of this material after the war?

### **IRON-TRADE CONDITIONS IN CANADA.**

[Consul Felix S. S. Johnson. Kingston, June 14.]

The Canadian iron trade is affected by delay in procuring skelp from which pipe is made and which is now wholly imported from the United States. It is expected that a shortage in pipe will occur before long; it is almost impossible to get seamless tubes in Canada, and mills are refusing new business on account of the surplus of old orders.

#### **District Offices of the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce.**

New York, Room 400 United States Customhouse; Boston, eighteenth floor United States Customhouse; Chicago, 504 Federal Building; St. Louis, 402 Third National Bank Building; Atlanta, 521 Post Office Building; New Orleans, 1020 Iberia Bank Building; San Francisco, 306 United States Customhouse; Seattle, 308 Henry Building. Cooperative district offices: Cleveland, Chamber of Commerce; Cincinnati, Chamber of Commerce; Asst. Gen'l Frt. Agt., C. N. O. & T. P. Ry. Co., Cincinnati; Los Angeles, Chamber of Commerce; Detroit, Board of Commerce; Philadelphia, Chamber of Commerce; South American Agent, Southern Ry. Co., Chattanooga, Tenn.

## FOREIGN TRADE OF PARAGUAY FOR THREE MONTHS.

[Consul Samuel Hamilton Wiley, Asuncion, June 3.]

There was an increase of \$547,795 in the value of the imports into Paraguay during the first three months of 1916 compared with the corresponding period in 1915, the total value being \$986,398, against \$438,603. This increase was shared in by all the principal countries shipping to Paraguay. The export trade, however, decreased in value from \$1,097,447 for the first three months of 1915, to \$858,533 for the corresponding period in 1916. The following table shows the value of the imports from and the exports to each country during these periods:

Countries.	January-March.		Countries.	January-March.	
	1915	1916		1915	1916
<b>IMPORTS FROM—</b>			<b>EXPORTS TO—</b>		
Argentina.....	\$145,357	\$378,053	Argentina.....	\$677,231	\$715,878
France.....	14,763	14,627	France.....	14,760	13,676
Great Britain.....	132,862	378,488	Great Britain.....	28,511	13,438
Italy.....	31,825	44,981	Netherlands.....	71,521	29,693
Spain.....	22,898	31,602	Uruguay.....	158,285	35,794
United States.....	32,492	110,624	United States.....	54,223	32,446
All other countries.....	58,406	28,023	All other countries.....	92,916	17,608
<b>Total.....</b>	<b>438,603</b>	<b>986,398</b>	<b>Total.....</b>	<b>1,097,447</b>	<b>858,533</b>

### The Principal Imports.

Textile goods, comestibles, and hardware are the principal imports into the country, as shown by the following table, which gives the leading articles imported with their value during the first three months of 1916:

Articles.	Values.	Articles.	Values.
Animals, live.....	\$20,684	Ready-made garments (includes hosiery, underwear, etc.).....	\$44,428
Beverages.....	22,781	Textiles.....	374,507
Chemicals and drugs.....	36,520	All other articles.....	39,549
Comestibles.....	206,793	<b>Total.....</b>	<b>966,398</b>
Furniture.....	44,946		
Hardware.....	159,928		
Mercury.....	36,262		

## GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS FOR SALE.

Among the publications received in stock for sale by the Superintendent of Documents at Washington during the week ended July 8 were the following:

*Government Aid to Merchant Shipping* (Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, Special Agents Series 119).—Describes merchant-marine subsidies, subventions, and other forms of direct and indirect Government aid to merchant shipping as practiced by the principal nations of the world. Price, 25 cents.

*Trust Laws and Unfair Competition* (Bureau of Corporations, Department of Commerce).—Historical account of antitrust laws dealing principally with the legislation and judicial decisions of the United States and foreign countries with respect to industrial combinations and unfair competition. Price, 40 cents.

**LIGHTNING DANGER OF TREES.**

[Consul Talbot J. Albert, Brunswick, Germany, June 17.]

Recently statistics have been collected in different parts of Germany as to the danger of different varieties of trees being struck by lightning. The result has been the following percentages: Oak, 32.1; larch, 9.5; fir, 3.8; pine, 1.8; scotch fir, 0.9; birch, 1.4; beech, 0.3; and alder, 0.0.

The character of the soil is an important factor among others as to the lightning danger. Trees growing in moist soils and along the courses of rivers and brooks and in the neighborhood of ponds are especially exposed to the danger. Trees with deep penetrating roots are more easily struck than those with shallow roots nearer the surface. As proof of this is the greater frequency of the apple tree being struck than the pear in the same orchard. It is also stated that the poplar stands first in danger before the oak, elm, ash, gum, and pear tree. Together with the beech the least attractive to lightning are chestnut, maple, alder, and mountain ash. Between these two groups stand the apple, cherry, linden, and walnut.

During thunder storms it is advisable therefore to avoid oaks, poplars, all varieties of pine, willows, elm, and pear. If shelter is taken under a tree, which is always dangerous, it should not be under one standing alone. The planting of trees which attract lightning is recommended in the neighborhood of houses, especially poplars, partly to prevent the possibility of the rebounding of the lightning. It is well to provide such trees with metallic rods to make them really effective conductors of lightning.

**COTTON SHIPMENTS.**

The cotton exported during the week ended July 8, 1916, at the 12 principal customs districts of the United States, was as follows:

Districts.	Bales.	Districts.	Bales.
Georgia.....	8,857	Virginia.....	5,081
Massachusetts.....	1,161	Galveston.....	13,209
Maryland.....	4,136	New Orleans.....	24,392
New York.....	18,343	San Francisco.....	908
North Carolina.....	.....	Washington.....	16,818
Philadelphia.....	654	Total.....	93,550
South Carolina.....	.....		

**NEW NAVAL RADIO SERVICE REGULATION.**

The Superintendent of the Naval Radio Service has announced that, effective after July 1, 1916, it will be obligatory on the part of a sender of radiograms to be handled by the Naval Radio Service to indicate in the address of the message the class of vessel it is desired to reach by this service, such as "SS" (steamship or steamer) or "USS" (United States ship), as the case may be. This order becomes necessary on account of the confusion in proper handling of such traffic, inasmuch as a large number of names of ships are the same as those of cities, towns, etc. The extra word will be charged for and counted in the check.

## FOREIGN TRADE OPPORTUNITIES.

Reserved addresses may be obtained from the **Bureau** and its **district offices**. Request for each opportunity should be on a separate sheet and **state opportunity number**. The Bureau does not furnish credit ratings or assume responsibility as to the standing of foreign inquirers; the usual precautions should be taken in all cases.

*Sheep and goat skins*, No. 21781.—An American consular officer in Greece writes that a firm in his district wishes to enter into commercial relations with American importers of sheep and goat skins. Correspondence may be in English.

*Cotton bags*, No. 21782.—A special agent of the Bureau reports a possible opportunity for the sale of cotton coffee bags in one of the West India Islands. Further information may be obtained from the Bureau or its district offices.

*Diving outfit*, No. 21783.—A firm in Canada advises an American consular officer that it is in the market for a diving outfit.

*Printing inks, and colors, etc.*, No. 12784.—An American consular officer in Spain reports that a merchant in his district is in the market for dry red coloring materials, and inks for printers and lithographers. References given. Correspondence may be in English.

*Instruments for the deaf*, No. 21785.—The commercial attaché of the Department of Commerce in England reports that an established firm in London wishes to represent an American manufacturer of instruments for the deaf.

*Plate and window glass, etc.*, No. 21786.—A firm in Brazil informs an American consular officer of its desire to communicate with American manufacturers of plate and window glass, beveled and fine crystal glass, glass for the manufacture of mirrors, colored and art glass, picture frames, and metal display frames for store windows. References given.

*Bookbinding machinery, etc.*, No. 21787.—An American consular officer in France reports that a firm is in the market for bookbinding machinery, paper cutters, perforators, etc. Printed matter and correspondence in French is preferred. References given.

*Cigarette paper*, No. 21788.—A firm in Russia informs an American consular officer that it is in the market, for immediate shipment, for rice cigarette paper, similar to samples which may be inspected at the bureau or its district offices. (Refer to file No. 76967.) Width and length of paper should be 22 and 22½ millimeters, respectively, and come in rolls of 4,000 meters.

*Bottlers' machinery*, No. 21789.—An American consular officer in the United Kingdom reports that a firm in his district is in the market for machines for putting on crowned corks for mineral waters and other bottles.

*Copper tubes and nails*, No. 21790.—The purchasing agent of a dock company in China informs an American consular officer of his desire to communicate with American manufacturers of copper tubes and steel wire nails. Correspondence may be in English.

*Agricultural machinery, etc.*, No. 21791.—An American consular officer in South Africa reports that a manufacturers' agent wishes to represent American manufacturers of hardware, agricultural machinery, fencing, pumps, and barrows. References given.

*Incubators, etc.*, No. 21792.—A man in Australia informs an American consular officer that he desires to be placed in direct communication with manufacturers of incubators and appliances.

*Machinery*, No. 21793.—An American consular officer in Denmark writes that a firm is desirous of representing American manufacturers of machinery. No particular line is specified.

*Dried bananas*, No. 21794.—A business man in Venezuela inquires of an American consular officer whether there is a market in the United States for dried bananas of the small variety, known as "fig," "apple," or "cambure" bananas. Correspondence should be in Spanish.

# COMMERCE REPORTS



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No. 163

Washington, D. C., Thursday, July 13

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## COMMERCIAL TRAVELERS' SAMPLES IN BRAZIL.

The consul general at Rio de Janeiro, under date of May 20, 1916, reports that American salesmen continue to arrive in Brazil without the documents required by the Brazilian customs authorities in order that their samples may be exempt from import duty. The provisions of the new Brazilian budget law authorizing the free admission under bond of travelers' samples were summarized in *COMMERCE REPORTS* for April 4, 1916, and it should be thoroughly understood that such exemption is allowed only when the traveler is provided with an invoice certified by a Brazilian consul in the country of shipment and with a memorandum in addition thereto, stating in detail the articles contained in the various packages. If the salesman can not produce these documents, the goods will be subject to the usual import duties and no refund will be granted.

The consul general also emphasizes the advisability of providing commercial travelers with a power of attorney from their firms, which should be translated into Portuguese and in all cases authenticated by a Brazilian consul. While a power of attorney is not required by the Brazilian regulations, its production might tend to facilitate customhouse procedure in some cases, and it would undoubtedly be valuable in connection with the soliciting of orders.

It should be understood that, even where import duties on commercial travelers' samples are remitted, such articles are subject to the "expediente" tax of 5 per cent of the official valuation of the goods and to the other supplementary charges imposed on all imports, namely, port tax, storage and handling fees, statistical and stamp taxes. All these supplementary charges are small, however, in comparison with the import duties applicable to most articles.

[Information concerning passports for Brazil and other countries may be obtained from the State Department.]

The names of the principal importers of belting, machine packing, oils, in Goteborg, Sweden, can be obtained at the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce by referring to file No. 77247.

## THE HONGKONG IMPORT TRADE.

[Vice Consul A. E. Carleton, Hongkong, China, May 22.]

The recent sharp advance in the price of bar silver has not stimulated imports into Hongkong and South China as might reasonably have been expected, for in normal times a slight advance in the market value of silver has encouraged foreign buying to a marked extent. The reason why the import trade has not improved with the advance in the silver market is due largely to political unrest in China and the moratorium which is a natural consequence of the former. These two factors have brought about, except on existing contracts, almost a stagnation of imports. It is evident that the native dealers are only buyers in the most limited way, and even the high rate of exchange—an increase of nearly 20 per cent since October last—has no apparent attractions for them. The banking people and brokers are of the opinion that there will be no serious depreciation of exchange, and whether a still higher level will be reached depends largely on the course of the war. The present condition of the silver market is apparently due to the strong demand and a short supply rather than to causes of speculative nature.

A strong point in favor of a large increase of foreign goods, particularly from the United States, is the greater freight space available as compared with two or three months ago, or even one month ago, and it is quite proper to assume that the situation will become easier still owing to the coming into the trans-Pacific trade of a large number of ships. The renewed shipbuilding in the United States has an important bearing on the lessening of transportation costs. The result will be, it is thought, a gradual reduction in freights, providing, of course, that the demand for bottoms from the allies does not increase. The key to the whole economic situation in China is centered around the political conditions of the country, and when these are settled it is fair to expect a renewed activity stimulated by the high exchange.

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## PHILIPPINE SHRUB SOURCE OF PERFUME.

[J. P. Boomer, correspondent, Manila, June 1.]

The perfume of commerce known as "cassie," manufactured for the most part in France, is found in abundance in the Philippine Islands in the *Acacia farnesiana*, a shrub which grows on hundreds of acres of land near Manila and throughout the dry parts of the Philippine Islands. This shrub has small spiny leaves and produces a short black pod. The flower from which the essence is obtained is a golden yellow and abundant. It is known locally as "aroma."

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## SPANISH LAW PROPOSED LIMITING FOREIGN SECURITIES.

American Ambassador Joseph E. Willard, at Madrid, Spain, reports that the Gaceta de Madrid of June 15 contains a royal decree authorizing the Minister of Hacienda to present to the Cortes a law prohibiting the introduction into Spain of foreign securities without the authorization of the Spanish Government.



## TO STUDY PAPER MARKETS IN SOUTH AMERICA.

Every country in South America is to be visited by a representative of the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce in a study of markets for paper, paper products, and printing supplies for the benefit of manufacturers and exporters in the United States. A complete report is to be made on the needs of the southern Republics in that branch of trade.

Robert S. Barrett, of Alexandria, Va., has been selected to make the investigation. He is the publisher of the Alexandria Gazette, president of the Virginia Press Association, and has had an experience of 20 years in the paper, stationery, printing, and allied trades, 12 of which were spent in Latin America. He was the president of La Compania del Libro Azul (The Blue Book Store), stationers, paper dealers and printers, Mexico City, and the president and editor of the Mexico City Daily Record and La Prensa de la Tarde, afternoon daily newspapers in Mexico City. He has traveled extensively abroad and speaks Spanish fluently.

The investigation has been under consideration by the Bureau for the past year and will be one of the most important and far-reaching of the 15 or more the Bureau will conduct this year in the interest of American trade abroad. The work will be divided into four principal sections—news-print, book, and writing papers, building and wall papers, and paper products. In the last mentioned are included more than 50 articles ranging from playing cards to paper towels. The printing supplies investigation will likewise be divided into four principal sections—printing presses, type and composing-room machines and equipment, bindery machinery, and printing inks.

Mr. Barrett expects to visit the principal cities of the United States during the next three months with the object of meeting the manufacturers and ascertaining how they are prepared to handle export business. He will be glad to arrange conferences with manufacturers and selling agents wherever possible, and the Bureau will be glad to receive suggestions from those interested. Correspondence should be with the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, Department of Commerce, Washington, D. C.

## STARTING A BEET-SUGAR INDUSTRY IN SIBERIA.

[Journal of Russian-American Chamber of Commerce, Moscow, April.]

The beet-sugar section of the Society of Siberian Engineers has started to organize trial sowings of sugar beet in Siberia to ascertain whether it is possible to develop a sugar industry in that country. It is planned to make the experiments cover three years. For this purpose the best grades of beet seeds have been obtained from European Russia and instructions have been drawn up with regard to the sowing of the seed, the care of beet plantations, the preparing of the soil for this purpose, etc. A specialist will be engaged to look after the trial plantations of sugar beet, which will be under the direct control of this expert beet grower and his assistants. The trial plantations will cover sections of 240 square sazhen (0.27 acre) each. The entire organization of such beet plantations will be under the supervision of S. W. Lebedeff, professor at the Tomsk Technological Institute.

**FOREIGN OWNERSHIP IN SPANISH MERCHANT MARINE.**

[Consul General Carl Bailey Hurst, Barcelona, June 15.]

The Spanish Government is considering the enactment of a law limiting foreign participation in Spanish maritime enterprises. According to the provisions of the bill laid before the Spanish parliament, all maritime joint-stock companies in Spain will be obliged to have their capital represented by nominative shares into which present holdings to bearer will be changed without revenue stamps or taxation. Whenever stocks of these companies are to be transferred the Director General of Commerce must be notified, and no sale can be made without his consent. The stock of a maritime joint-stock company held by foreigners shall not exceed 25 per cent of the whole capital. Partnership maritime companies will be obliged to submit to the Director General of Commerce the names of their members with the proportion each holds of the capital of the company; and that held by foreign members shall not exceed 25 per cent of the whole.

Pending the passage of the bill the Spanish Government virtually made its provisions legal by means of a royal order dated June 14, 1916. A period of two months from that date is allowed for the reorganization of the companies in question.

**The Joint-Stock Companies.**

Joint stock companies in Spain have had liberty to issue shares to bearer or nominatively, as they preferred. Inasmuch as both classes have the same value in the Spanish commercial code, those issued to bearer became generally adopted because easier to negotiate. With the exception of the Bank of Spain, the *Compañía Trasatlántica*, and very few others, all the joint-stock companies in Spain have their capital represented by securities to bearer. Many reasons make it desirable that the Spanish merchant marine should not pass into outside hands, and it is held imperative to adopt measures to prevent evasion of the existing legal prohibition to sell vessels of over 500 tons tonnage.

[A report on the prohibition of the sale of Spanish vessels of over 500 tons was published in *Commerce Reports* for Feb. 10, 1916.]

**INCREASED EXPENSES OF THE HOLLAND RAILWAY.**

[Consul Frank W. Mahin, Amsterdam, June 16.]

The report of the Holland Railway Co. for the year 1915 shows heavily increased expenses over 1914. Labor, fuel, taxes, and supplies generally were higher. But the total receipts were 20 per cent above those of 1914, largely due to fares of soldiers traveling to and from their homes when on leave. The net result, therefore, was a dividend to stockholders of 5 per cent, against 3 per cent in 1914.

**UNITED STATES PAPER MILL FOR CANADA.**

According to the *Monetary Times* of Canada, a United States paper company has made plans for the erection in Canada of a news-print mill of 200 tons capacity. This mill will produce news print, round-wood pulp, and a surplus production of sulphite pulp. Construction will be begun as soon as building material can be purchased advantageously.

**BRAZILIAN TRADE STATISTICS.**

[Commercial Attaché William C. Downs, Rio de Janeiro.]

There was an increase of \$11,800,000 in the value of the imports into Brazil during the first four months of 1916, compared with the corresponding period in 1915, but the total was far short of the figures for 1914 and 1913. In the exports from the country there was a decrease of \$6,900,000, compared with the first four months of 1915, and a still larger decrease compared with 1914 and 1913. The following table shows the trade for the first four months of the past four years:

Month.	Imports.			
	1913	1914	1915	1916
January.....	\$30,300,000	\$23,300,000	\$8,000,000	\$11,400,000
February.....	26,000,000	18,700,000	8,300,000	13,700,000
March.....	30,100,000	18,200,000	12,200,000	13,200,000
April.....	28,500,000	19,100,000	12,800,000	14,300,000
Total.....	114,900,000	79,300,000	41,300,000	52,600,000

Month.	Exports.			
	1913	1914	1915	1916
January.....	\$38,100,000	\$29,700,000	\$23,300,000	\$19,100,000
February.....	27,100,000	25,100,000	19,600,000	18,700,000
March.....	21,400,000	22,400,000	26,200,000	24,900,000
April.....	17,100,000	20,100,000	21,400,000	20,900,000
Total.....	103,700,000	97,300,000	90,500,000	83,600,000

The quantity and value of the nine principal exports from Brazil during the first four months of 1916, compared with the corresponding period in the preceding three years, are given in the following table:

Articles.	Quantity.				Value.			
	1913	1914	1915	1916	1913	1914	1915	1916
Cotton..... tons..	14,049	19,613	2,632	13	\$4,100,000	\$5,900,000	\$600,000	\$5,000
Sugar..... do.	4,937	7,762	31,561	7,149	300,000	300,000	2,000,000	800,000
Rubber..... do.	16,766	15,421	14,283	13,363	26,500,000	17,300,000	13,500,000	16,500,000
Cacao..... do.	8,324	16,229	16,944	13,989	2,300,000	4,000,000	3,500,000	4,100,000
Coffee..... 1,000 bags..	3,162	4,000	6,270	4,381	54,300,000	53,400,000	59,100,000	42,200,000
Ribes..... tons..	11,533	11,718	11,040	15,074	3,600,000	3,500,000	3,800,000	5,400,000
Tobacco..... do.	12,593	11,577	4,538	5,772	3,500,000	3,300,000	1,300,000	1,300,000
Matte..... do.	18,728	18,384	22,375	28,896	3,300,000	2,800,000	2,800,000	3,400,000
Skins..... do.	972	958	1,099	1,580	1,100,000	1,100,000	900,000	1,400,000
Total.....					99,000,000	91,600,000	87,500,000	75,105,000

**NEW CANADIAN TRADE COMMISSIONER AT BRISTOL.**

Consul J. S. Armstrong, jr., at Bristol, England, reports under date of June 23 that the Canadian Government has appointed Mr. Norman D. Johnston trade commissioner at Bristol and that he has entered upon the discharge of his duties at that port in the promotion of Canadian export trade.

## TO RAISE FARM VALUES IN PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND.

[Consul William A. Pierce, Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island, Canada, May 2.]

The Drainage Act, just passed by the Prince Edward Island Legislature, is the first provision of the sort the island has had. Experts claim that \$4,000,000 will be added to the farm values of the Province by the operation of the law. The experiences of other Provinces in Canada have been considered in framing the statute, particularly the Ontario Drainage Code, consisting of the Drainage Act, the Water Courses and Ditches Act, and the Tile, Stone and Timber Drainage Act.

At the western end of the island are 200,000 acres of "wet" land on which crops have practically failed for three seasons. This body of good land can be made by drainage to produce regular and larger crops without extraordinary outlay. No part of this land is far distant from the sea, on account of the narrowness of the island. Thus, very deep ditching and expensive outlets will be avoided. The soil is clay and sandy loam with hardpan bottom. The land now sells at \$25 an acre. Estimating the cost of tile drainage at \$30 an acre and taking the market value of land in no way superior to this in other Provinces, after tile drainage is put down, with values based on crop production, at \$75 an acre, a net increase in value of \$20 an acre is produced. This result of increased land values has always followed drainage.

### Land to Be Assessed—Loans to Farmers.

The Drainage Act carries the usual provisions for survey by engineers, cooperation among landowners in the district benefited, and assessment of charges on the lands affected, to reimburse the Government. Money will be loaned to farmers for specific drainage purposes at reasonable interest, funds so loaned to be raised by the sale of debenture bonds.

That the drainage project is earnestly supported is shown by the fact that a company with \$15,000 capital has been incorporated at Charlottetown to manufacture tile, brick, pottery, and kindred products. The lack of tile has heretofore been an obstacle to drainage operations. The cost of imported field tile was prohibitively high. Within the last few months a bed of clay has been found on the island, and when tested by the Mines Branch at Ottawa, it was found to be "exceptionally fine for field and drain tile" and "admirable for art-pottery" purposes. This company will have a plant in operation turning out tile and brick. Prices of drainage tile to the farmers are to be regulated by the Provincial Government. Instead of importing approximately 2,000,000 brick annually, Prince Edward Island will manufacture what is needed at home. This is in addition to the principal product, drainage tile.

### Educational Campaign on Drainage.

In the farmers' institutes and agricultural short courses conducted by the Department of Agriculture during the past winter throughout the entire Province, an effective educational campaign on drainage has been inaugurated among the farmers. Interest in the matter is very strong. The enactment of the drainage act was in response to public sentiment. Concerted effort, it is stated, will be made to

give it full effect. Demonstrations of drainage have been made, and the season will show concrete results in this forward movement in the agriculture of the island.

### YEAR'S FOREIGN TRADE OF THE UNITED STATES.

Exports for the fiscal year ended with June, 1916, amounted to \$4,345,000,000 and the imports were valued at \$2,180,000,000, making a total foreign trade for the year of over \$6,500,000,000, which is much larger than any previous total in the history of American commerce. These figures are announced by the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, with the explanation that the figures included for June are an estimate based on the final May statistics.

Thirteen great classes of exported articles yield a total estimated at \$3,024,000,000 for 1916, as against \$1,321,000,000 for all other articles. The following table shows the remarkable increases which have occurred in exports of this group during the last two years:

Classes.	1916 <sup>a</sup>	1915	1914
Iron and steel.....	\$618,000,000	\$226,000,000	\$251,000,000
Explosives.....	473,000,000	41,000,000	6,000,000
Raw cotton.....	370,000,000	376,000,000	610,000,000
Wheat and flour.....	314,000,000	428,000,000	142,000,000
Meats.....	270,000,000	206,000,000	143,000,000
Copper manufactures.....	170,000,000	109,000,000	146,000,000
Mineral oils.....	165,000,000	134,000,000	152,000,000
Brass and manufactures.....	126,000,000	21,000,000	7,000,000
Autos and parts.....	123,000,000	68,000,000	33,000,000
Chemicals, etc.....	123,000,000	46,000,000	27,000,000
Cotton manufactures.....	112,000,000	72,000,000	51,000,000
Refined sugar.....	80,000,000	26,000,000	2,000,000
Leather.....	80,000,000	65,000,000	37,000,000

<sup>a</sup> Estimated upon basis of 11 months.

### MARKET FOR HAY IN CUBA.

[Consul Edward A. Dow, St. Stephen, New Brunswick, Canada, July 6.]

The following extracts have been made from a report written by the New Brunswick representative in Cuba and published by the Canadian Government:

Cuba is increasing its hay imports, the total augmenting from 15,870 tons in 1912 to 23,331 tons in 1915. Nearly all of this comes from United States and Canada, and while in 1912 Canada supplied about the same share as the United States, in 1915 the latter country furnished 21,448 tons as against only 1,717 tons from Canada. The Canadian decrease is said to be due to the war.

Cuba favors hay grown in northern climates, where the product is said to have a better flavor when well cured. Most of the importation is good No. 2 timothy. Clover hay is not in demand, and if mixed with other kinds should not comprise more than 20 per cent of the mixture. Transportation companies prefer hay baled in 3-foot lengths, 17 by 22 inches, bales weighing about 170 pounds each. The bales should be tied with three No. 12 wires, with tags inserted showing weights and shipping marks. Due to shipping conditions, the price of hay in Cuba has gone up to \$34 per ton for No. 2 timothy, and \$40 for choice timothy.

The New Brunswick Department of Agriculture yesterday announced that the hay crop is exceptionally heavy, despite the recent heavy rains, which may have caused some damage.

## LOANS OF SECURITIES TO FRENCH TREASURY.

[Consul General A. M. Thackara, Paris, June 21.]

The conditions under which securities of neutral countries and of companies operating in such countries will be accepted as loans to the State are contained in a notice of the French Minister of Finance, and were published in the *Journal Officiel* of May 5, 1916. The conditions are briefly as follows:

1. Securities may be loaned to the State for use in its negotiations for the regulation of the exchange rate or for obtaining credit in foreign countries.

2. Only securities to "bearer" and of a par value of 500 francs (\$96.50) and over will be accepted.

3. The loans are for one year, dating from the 16th day of the month if the securities are delivered to the Government during the first 15 days, or from the 1st of the following month if they are delivered during the second half of the month. At the option of the Treasury the loans may be extended yearly to a maximum of three years. Lenders may demand certificates of the loan, which are negotiable in the stock markets subject to the conditions laid down in the loan agreement.

### Stocks May Be Sold—Interest and Allowance.

4. If the Treasury so desires, it may sell the whole or part of the loaned securities and pay the owner the prices fixed in the lists issued by the Minister of Finance, or, if the seller prefers, at the highest quotation reached during the three months preceding the notice given of the intended purchase.

5. Owners are entitled to the interest due on the coupons of their securities, together with the gain by exchange, if any. They will also receive each year an allowance equal to one-fourth (25 per cent) of the gross revenue from their securities, without any gain by exchange. This extra allowance is payable, for the first year, when the securities are handed over to the Treasury, and for each of the other two years when the first coupon of the respective years falls due. In the case of stocks, the extra allowance will be one-fourth (25 per cent) of the last dividend declared.

6. The loan may be liquidated before the expiration of the third year: (a) By the rescission of the contract, which the Treasury reserves to itself the right to do, for the whole or part of the securities involved upon one month's notice being given, the extra allowance paid remaining the property of the lender; (b) by purchase of the whole or part of the securities by the Treasury at the prices mentioned above and upon one month's notice being given; (c) by the amortization or reimbursement of the securities according to arrangements made therefor when they were issued. The Treasury will return the securities or their equivalent within three months. The securities may be received by the Bank of France, by brokers, by credit institutions, and by the principal banks.

7. No charges, taxes, or receipt stamps will be paid by the lender. Securities will be accepted bearing the revenue stamp or not, but the certificates can only be negotiated upon the payment of the tax due, note of the payment being entered on the certificate and when the securities are returned to the owner the missing stamp or stamps will be affixed free of charge.

### Lists of Acceptable Securities.

The Treasury reserves the right to refuse to accept further securities on the foregoing terms and to modify the list of securities acceptable, as well as the eventual purchase price. Such measures, however, will not be retroactive. The first list, issued on May 5, 1916, includes securities, bonds, etc., of Denmark, Norway, Sweden, Holland, Spain, Uruguay, Brazil, Argentina, Canada, Egypt, and the Suez Canal. On May 18 a list was issued giving the gross revenue, the amount of the allowance, and observations relating to the par values, exchange rate, etc.

On May 24 another list was published, which included about 150 American securities of various classes, comprising bonds of the prin-

cial American railroads and of a number of the leading industrial companies. This list gave merely the possible purchase price.

On May 28 a fourth list was issued, giving the securities listed on May 24, their dividends in dollars and francs, the allowance (25 per cent), and par values of the securities.

Full lists of all the securities that can be loaned to the treasury, together with the possible purchase price, and the amount of the allowance (25 per cent) made in each case, will be found in the issues of the *Journal Officiel* for May 5, 18, 24, and 28, 1916 [copies of which may be seen at the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce and its district offices upon referring to file No. 78189].

[Similar action on the part of the British Government was noted in *COMMERCE REPORTS* for Jan. 11 and June 29, 1916.]

### THE FERTILIZER TRADE OF BRISTOL.

[Consul J. S. Armstrong, jr., Bristol, England, June 25.]

The trade in fertilizers during the past season has fallen off considerably. This has been brought about by a shortage of labor on the land and, in a less degree, by the decreased transportation facilities. The demand was also adversely affected by the abnormally high prices that were made necessary by the scarcity of available raw material.

Modern machinery and the more up-to-date system of manufacture adopted by the local factories has, however, been of great benefit to the trade and has in some measure made up for the scarcity of labor.

It is reported that American phosphates are now practically prohibitive in price, and supplies from North Africa are also constantly becoming scarcer. Supplies of potash are almost entirely cut off.

Aside from the scarcity of raw materials used in the making of fertilizers and the shortage of labor, the output of local factories is further restricted by the increasing demands made on sulphuric-acid plants by the British Government, and it is predicted that British fertilizer manufacturers will not be in a position for some time to meet the demands of the farmers.

### PURCHASE OF INVOICE BLANKS FROM LATIN AMERICAN CONSULATES.

The consular officers of the following Latin American countries in New York have recently stated that invoice blanks may be prepared by the shippers or purchased from the consulates, at the option of the exporter: Colombia, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Haiti, and Venezuela. In the case of shipments destined for Bolivia, Chile, Costa Rica, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, Panama, Peru, and Salvador, however, the purchase of blanks from the consulates is obligatory. The charges for invoice blanks are set forth in Tariff Series No. 24 and 24A, published by the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, copies of which may be obtained for 10 cents from the Superintendent of Documents at Washington or from any of the district offices of that Bureau. It appears that the charges for invoice blanks specified in Tariff Series No. 24A should be amended as follows: Panama (6 copies) \$0.25, Peru (4 copies) \$0.30, and Dominican Republic (4 copies) \$0.10 or \$0.15, according to size.

**BOOM IN RUSSIAN COTTON-TEXTILE INDUSTRY.**

[Commercial Attaché Henry D. Baker, Petrograd, June 12.]

I have just returned from a visit to Oryekhovo, about 60 miles from Moscow, on the railway to Nizhni Novgorod. This town, with a population of about 70,000, is almost entirely given up to the manufacture of cotton textiles, being one of the largest centers of this industry in Russia.

Notwithstanding repeated advances in wages, which have amounted to 75 per cent since last October, the mills are making enormous profits, the net earnings for the last year having been nearly equal to the entire capital stock. The market values of cotton-mill shares have been rapidly soaring and are now in some instances double what they were a year ago. The great gain in profits has been accomplished notwithstanding continuous advances in wages and very much higher costs for fuel, which is three times what it was a year ago, and for dyes, which are about 16 times the prices at which they could be bought before the war.

**Increase in Wages.**

A proprietor of mills employing 17,000 people has given the following increase in wages during the last few months: October, 1914, 4 per cent; Easter, 1915, 5 per cent; August, 1915, 10 per cent; October, 1915, 16 per cent; March, 1916, 15 per cent; April, 1916, 15 per cent; total, 65 per cent, or, including increments compounding on the increases noted, about 75 per cent. A further increase will probably be made shortly. The mills could easily pay it with their large margin of profit, and it is desirable to keep the employees entirely satisfied in these times, when the mills could ill afford to lose any labor.

Although the employees are obliged to contend with the constantly increasing cost of living, their position as regards difference between cost of living and wages is 25 per cent better than before the war, and their savings have increased about 800 per cent since the war started. This huge gain in savings is attributable not only to the increase in wages but also to the prohibition of the sale of vodka.

**Labor Conditions.**

The loss of men employees of military age has been met by increased employment of women and children. The law forbidding the employment of children under 15 years of age has been relaxed, and many children are now being employed at the age of 14 years. Before the war only about half of the employees were women and children, who now constitute about 70 per cent of the employees. Notwithstanding the small proportion of men, the aggregate productivity of employees has increased, owing to the extinction of the vodka habit. Except for wounded soldiers, the hospitals at Oryekhovo now average only half as many patients as before the war. The mortality among children has dropped to half of what it was previous to the war. The general death rate of all classes of people at Oryekhovo, which before the war was 34 per 1,000, is now only 20 per 1,000. The birth rate has dropped from 46 to 34 per 1,000 since the war, but on account of the big decline in the death rate there is still a net increase in population.



**Prices at Company Stores.**

The largest mills maintain company stores, which try to keep down the cost of living by maintaining prices as low as possible, thus forcing outside stores to refrain from excessive advances. In selling food products, for instance, a store maintained by the management of the mills is now making losses of over \$10,000 per month in order to keep down the prices of food and thus lessen the necessity of advance in wages. The following table shows the present prices of various food products at the company stores and at outside stores and the prices of the same articles before the war. Conversions from Russian currency have been made at the normal rate of \$0.515 to the ruble:

Articles.		Prices before war.	Present prices—	
			At company stores.	At outside stores.
Eye flour.....	per pound..	\$0.026	\$0.086	\$0.057
White flour.....	do.....	.029	.043	.064
Butter.....	do.....	.228	.377	.455
Herrings.....	do.....	.097	.114	.171
Potatoes.....	per bushel..	.343	.642	.085
Rice.....	per pound..	.051	.08	.108
Salt pork.....	do.....	.091	.165	.228
Tea.....	do.....	1.026	1.141	1.235
Sugar.....	do.....	.053	.10	.131
Bread, black.....	do.....	.027	.027	.029
Tea biscuits.....	do.....	.043	.077	.086

The cost of clothing has about doubled since the war started, cotton trousers, for instance, having advanced from \$0.93 to \$1.80 per pair. Boots have experienced a still greater advance, being now \$11.85 per pair, as against \$3.35 before the war. Women's and children's shoes have about trebled in price. Considerable brass and metal work has gone up 150 per cent, stationery supplies have about doubled in price, and children's toys have gone up 50 per cent.

In considering the increase in the cost of living, it is difficult to estimate the relative part played by various causes, such as the declining purchasing power of the ruble, which, as compared with American dollars, has gone down from 51 to about 31 cents; the increased difficulties of transportation and importation of goods into Russia; and, finally, the increased spending power of the factory workers, due to their higher wages and the saving that has resulted from the vodka prohibition. The manager of the company stores at Oyekhovo stated that, notwithstanding the great increases in prices, the demand for the goods was larger than it had ever been in the history of this factory town, and that the greatest difficulty experienced was in securing sufficient supplies to sell.

**Rise in Prices of Textile Products.**

From the standpoint of the mills having their own products to sell, it may be mentioned that sewing threads (6-cord) which before the war sold at \$4.64 per gross now sell at \$10.30 per gross, and calico yarns (34 S twist) which sold before the war for 20.50 rubles per pood (\$29.23 per 100 pounds) now sell at 43.50 rubles per pood

(\$62.03 per 100 pounds) for Government purposes and 60 rubles per pood (\$85.57 per 100 pounds) for ordinary commercial use. Other cotton textile products are being sold at corresponding advances.

The mills producing textile goods are obliged to sell 42 per cent of their production to the Russian Government. The Government requires mainly khaki drills and flannelettes for soldiers' underwear. The mills are now working on military underwear for the next winter. There is also considerable manufacture of puttees, or cotton wrapping for the feet, which Russian soldiers use instead of socks; also aeroplane cloth and sewing threads, especially those used in reclaiming old boots.

#### **Analysis of Increased Cost of Production of Cotton Goods.**

The increase in costs incident to the production of cotton goods include labor cost, which has risen from about \$0.52 per day before the war to \$0.90 at present. Leather belting for rollers has gone up from 36 to 160 rubles per pood (\$51.34 to \$228.17 per 100 pounds). The cost of peat used for fuel for power purposes, formerly 10 kopecks per pood (\$2.85 per short ton), has risen to 35 kopecks per pood (\$9.98 per ton). The most serious advance has been in the cost of dyes, which before the war cost about 10 rubles per pood (\$285.20 per ton), but which can now be obtained only with difficulty at 160.30 rubles per pood (\$4,571.80 per ton). For khaki colors the mills are using locally made logwood dyes. They have abolished the use of aniline black dyes. For light gray, they are managing to get along with about 20 per cent less dye. Their blue dyes are being made from acorns. The mills would like to use Peruvian red cotton for their khakis, as this cotton, with which they have already successfully experimented, does not require dyeing, but they have not been able to obtain this cotton in commercial quantities.

The cost of cotton itself has not gone up proportionately to the advance in the textile products, and this fact accounts in chief measure for the increasing profits of the mills, notwithstanding the other heavy costs incident to production. The Moscow Cotton Committee has limited the selling price of Russo-Asiatic cotton to 24 rubles per pood (\$171.10 per 500-pound bale). American cotton sells in Moscow for about 30 rubles per pood (\$213.90 per bale); its cost depends upon the American market, plus the increased cost of freight and the increased duties. On application of the Moscow Cotton Committee to the Credit Chancellery at Petrograd, pounds sterling can be obtained for financing cotton purchases at Liverpool at specially favorable rates of exchange (at present 120 rubles for £10, or about 2.50 rubles to \$1). Every mill has the right to purchase American cotton to fill its reasonable requirement at this rate of exchange, which is much lower than that which can be obtained for less favored commodities. The Russian mills appear to be making a fairly liberal use of American cotton, in spite of the transportation difficulties incident to its importation. Practically all the American cotton used in recent months has come via Vladivostok, frequently in a somewhat wet condition, so that it has to be used immediately to prevent deterioration.

**Russian Cotton Crop—Imports from United States and Their Uses.**

It is anticipated that the Russo-Asiatic crop (including the Caucasus but excluding Persia), with the cotton harvested last September and October, can provide about 21,000,000 poods (1,516,700 bales) of cotton, as against 18,000,000 poods (1,300,100 bales) previously produced. The cotton department of the Merchants Bank at Moscow estimates that about 6,000,000 or 7,000,000 poods (433,000 or 506,000 bales) of American cotton will be imported this year into Russia, chiefly by way of Vladivostok. The cost of bringing cotton in by this route is estimated at about \$4.50 per 100 pounds. It was mentioned that a very serious loss of American and Egyptian cotton had occurred at Vladivostok on May 6, when about 4,000 bales were destroyed by fire.

The chief uses of American cotton were explained by the manager of mills at Oryekhovo, for the Russian textile industry, to be as follows: Texas and New Orleans cottons 28, 29, and 30 millimeters (1.10, 1.14, and 1.18 inches) in length of fiber, are used for warp yarns in calicoes, sateens, coarse plushes, linings, moleskins, and for filling in mixed silk goods. Uplands cottons are used for weft yarn (filling) for calicoes, linings, moleskins, and coarse sateens. Benders cottons 33/34 millimeters (1.30 and 1.34 inches) in length of fiber, are used for finer warp and weft yarns in handkerchiefs, muslins, sateens, nainsooks, etc. Peelers cottons are used for finer yarns in sewing thread and mixed silk goods. Sea Island cotton is used for fine sewing-thread yarns.

An interesting feature in the development of the Russian cotton textile industry is the tendency to manufacture finer grades of goods, to meet the constantly increasing standard of living. This tendency has been especially noticeable since the Russian peasantry has lost the opportunity to spend its earnings on vodka and consequently has been able to increase largely its expenditures on apparel. Millions of people in Russia to-day are beginning to dress better, and to make use of such articles as cotton handkerchiefs, collars, etc., which formerly had small use among the peasantry. The economic significance of this change is bound to be felt in the future with overwhelming force.

**American Opportunity in Development of Russian Cotton Industry.**

An investigation of the cotton situation in Russia, however, does not seem to warrant the conclusion that Russia will increase its purchases of raw cotton from the United States. In Turkestan, in districts north of the Oxus River, there is a greatly increased production of cotton. Large areas of new country are being opened up by irrigation, and the rapid extension of the Bokhara Railway system, which now has a terminus only about 500 miles away from British India, at Peshawur, has brought great additional tracts of cotton-producing country into easy communication with the Russian market. Leading authorities in the cotton trade in Russia estimate that within about 10 years Russia will not need to import any American cotton at all. American seed is being rapidly substituted for native seed, and improved American machinery for ginning, etc., has been extensively introduced. There is said, however, to exist a splendid opportunity for American capitalists familiar with the cotton industry of

the Southern States to go into cotton growing, cottonseed pressing, etc., by up-to-date American methods, and to reclaim by irrigation considerable areas of country in which cotton is not yet grown but which can easily be opened up by introducing water from the Oxus River or its tributaries.

There is also said to be a splendid opportunity for the erection of cotton mills at Bokhara and other parts of Turkestan to make cotton piece goods for Siberia and perhaps also for Mongolia, Manchuria, China, and Afghanistan. At present Siberia obtains its cotton goods chiefly from Moscow. This means that cotton grown in Turkestan has to be transported all the way to Moscow, or surrounding milling centers, to be manufactured into textiles, which in turn have to be transported back to Siberia, the transportation cost amounting to nearly 3 rubles per pood (about \$20 per bale), which could be saved if the cotton were milled in the districts in which it was grown. It is believed that Russian Turkestan, together with the Caucasus district, could, if fully developed, easily produce all the cotton that the Russian Empire would require for many years to come, notwithstanding the steady increase in population. This cotton, however, apparently could not compete with American cotton in western Europe, which has easy sea access to American supplies.

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### INCREASED AMERICAN LOBSTER IMPORTS.

[Consul William A. Pierce, Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island, Canada, July 7.]

The records of the Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island consulate show exports of 351,044 pounds of canned lobsters to the United States during the second quarter of 1916, valued at \$115,957, compared with 170,308 pounds worth \$55,575 during the same period in 1915.

The lobster "pack" for the season ended June 30 was 10 per cent larger than last year. Prices for lobsters at the canneries ranged 30 per cent higher.

There are 4,000 persons in this Province engaged in the lobster industry, and lobster canning represents 75 per cent of the total fisheries of the island.

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### SHIPMENT OF FOX SKINS FROM PRIBILOF ISLANDS.

The United States Bureau of Fisheries announces that the fox skins taken last winter on the Pribilof Islands were shipped late in June by Coast Guard cutter to Unalaska and thence by coastwise steamer to Seattle, consigned to Messrs. Funsten Bros. & Co., St. Louis, Mo. The shipment was as follows: From St. Paul Island, 211 blue and 18 white skins; from St. George Island, 209 blue and 2 white skins; or a total of 420 blue and 20 white skins. It is expected that these skins will be sold at public auction early next fall and the proceeds covered into the Treasury.

This year's shipment is larger than that of last year, which consisted of 173 blue and 39 white skins from St. Paul and 80 blue and 1 white from St. George, a total of 253 blue and 40 white skins.

**AMERICAN CONSULAR OFFICERS ON LEAVE OF ABSENCE.**

The following American consular officers are on leave of absence in the United States and will be glad to confer with business men and commercial organizations relative to conditions in their respective jurisdictions. The consul's time is available primarily for personal interviews. He has limited facilities for correspondence, and except in urgent cases letters should be directed to the consulate.

Name.	Post.	Expira- tion of venue.	Address.
West, George N. ....	Kobé, Japan. ....	Aug. 15	Department of State, Washington, D. C.
Rasmussen, B. M. ....	Goteborg, Sweden. ....	July 14	Roland, Iowa.
Cooke, A. B. ....	Patras, Greece. ....	Aug. 10	121 West Charlotte Street, Norfolk, Va.
Hale, F. D. ....	Huddersfield, England		Lunenburg, Vt.
Fisher, Fred D. ....	Tientsin, China. ....	Aug. 5	Albany, Oreg.
Masterson, William W. ....	Durban, Natal, South Africa. ....	Sept. 1	Carrollton, Ky.
Seltzer, Harry G. ....	Breslau, Germany. ....		Gibraltar, Pa.
Baker, E. Carlton ....	Nagasaki, Japan. ....	Aug. 30	Apartment No. 75, The Brunswick, Washington, D. C.

**TO DEVELOP BULGARIAN AND SERBIAN SILK INDUSTRY.**

Further companies are to be floated for the development of the Bulgarian silk industry, with the aid of German and Austrian capital, according to the Textile Mercury of Manchester, England. The Mercury states that in 1914 Southern Bulgaria alone exported 295,791 kilos of cocoons (kilo=2.2 pounds) valued at 1,051,895 leva (lev=\$0.193). It is now reported that in Serbia the cultivation of silk, which so far has yielded about 400,000 kilos per annum, is being taken in hand by the Austrians, and a central market for the sale of cocoons has been established at Belgrade.

**SHORTAGE OF LEATHER IN PHILIPPINE ISLANDS.**

[J. F. Boomer, correspondent, Manila, May 31.]

A shortage of leather has developed in the Philippines. It is due chiefly to the lack of ocean transportation. The local production can not supply the local demand, and manufacturers of leather goods are dependent upon imports. As a result, both of the shoe factories here are shut down temporarily, awaiting a supply of leather. The stocks here are practically exhausted.

[A descriptive article relating to leather production in the Philippine Islands was published in COMMERCE REPORTS for July 8, 1916.]

**District Offices of the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce.**

New York, Room 409 United States Customhouse; Boston, eighteenth floor United States Customhouse; Chicago, 504 Federal Building; St. Louis, 402 Third National Bank Building; Atlanta, 521 Post Office Building; New Orleans, 1090 Hibernia Bank Building; San Francisco, 308 United States Customhouse; Seattle, 348 Henry Building. Cooperative district offices: Cleveland, Chamber of Commerce; Cincinnati, Chamber of Commerce; Asst. Gen'l Frt. Agt., C. N. O. & T. P. Ry. Co., Cincinnati; Los Angeles, Chamber of Commerce; Detroit, Board of Commerce; Philadelphia, Chamber of Commerce; South American Agent, Southern Ry. Co., Chattanooga, Tenn.

## FOREIGN TRADE OPPORTUNITIES.

Reserved addresses may be obtained from the Bureau and its district offices. Request for each opportunity should be on a separate sheet and state opportunity number. The Bureau does not furnish credit ratings or assume responsibility as to the standing of foreign inquirers; the usual precautions should be taken in all cases.

*Machinery*, No. 21795.—An American consular officer in China reports that the manager of a carpet manufacturing plant is in the market for machinery for the manufacture of woolen yarn, and appliances for cleaning and scouring wool. Correspondence may be in English. Quotations should be c. i. f. destination.

*Paper*, No. 21796.—A New York commission house writes the Bureau that one of its clients in Argentina is in the market for writing and printing paper, similar to sample which may be inspected at the Bureau or its district offices. (Refer to Misc. No. 136.) Further information may be obtained at the Bureau or its district offices.

*Motors and air compressors*, No. 21797.—The Italian agent of an American manufacturer is interested in sets of small motors and air compressors, light enough to be transported on mule back. Shipment will be made to South America.

*Toilet preparations*, No. 21798.—A firm of wholesale jobbers in perfumes and toilet preparations in the Netherlands desires to communicate with manufacturers of tooth paste and shaving stick put up in tubes, also talcum powder. Correspondence may be in French or German.

*Cotton and woolen goods, etc.*, No. 21799.—The Bureau is informed that a firm in Norway desires quotations on dyed and printed cotton and woolen flannelets, coatings, serges, woolen yarns and hosiery, and cotton pants and vests. Samples should be sent.

*Fountain pens*, No. 21800.—The Far Eastern correspondent of an American firm desires to be placed in touch with manufacturers of low-priced fountain pens.

*Leather belts*, No. 21801.—Quotations are desired by a New York export agent on leather belts in 1-inch, 1½-inch, 3-inch, 3½-inch, and 4-inch widths, all 36 inches to 38 inches long.

*Mangrove bark and dividivi*, No. 21802.—An agent in the British West Indies writes the Bureau that he wishes to receive quotations on 8,000 quintals of dividivi, delivered f. o. b. Pampatar or Carupano, Venezuela; also a separate offer for 200 tons of mangrove bark, delivered f. o. b. Cristobal Colon, Venezuela. (A quintal is equivalent to 220.46 pounds.) Samples of dividivi may be inspected at the Bureau or its district offices. (Refer to Miscellaneous, No. 137.)

*Cotton twine for fish nets*, No. 21803.—The representative of a firm in Norway, now in the United States, is in the market for 10,000 pounds of cotton twine for fish nets. Terms, cash f. o. b. New York. Reference is given.

*Table salt*, No. 21804.—Price lists and samples of table salt are desired by a man in Canada, according to a report received from an American consular officer in that country.

*Wicker baskets*, No. 21805.—A man in Cuba requests the Bureau to furnish him the names of American manufacturers of fancy wicker baskets, especially of the variety used for confectionery.

*Knitting machines*, No. 21806.—A buyer from Russia, now in the United States, wishes to enter into commercial relations with American manufacturers of machines for knitting hosiery.

*Wearing apparel, paints, etc.*, No. 21807.—A business man from Spain, now in the United States, wishes to be placed in touch with manufacturers of men's and women's shoes, shoemakers' supplies, paints and varnishes, lubricating oils and greases, men's neckwear, metal novelties, small hardware, buttons for shoes and men's clothing, silk and woolen goods, and shoe laces.

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1916

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## EXPORTS FROM LONDON TO UNITED STATES.

[Consul General R. P. Skinner, London, England.]

The total value of declared exports from London to the United States during the six months ended June 30, 1916, amounted to \$90,317,801, as compared with \$70,616,024 during the first six months of 1915.

The following are the values of the principal articles entering into the foregoing figures:

Articles.	January- June, 1915.	January- June, 1916.	Articles.	January- June, 1915.	January- June, 1916.
Rubber.....	\$33,508,251	\$24,556,033	Tea.....	\$1,507,059	\$2,806,764
Precious stones.....	3,478,167	10,598,389	Indigo.....	205,128	2,213,798
Tin.....	5,285,902	5,842,328	Creosote oil.....	1,391,686	1,597,040
Hides.....	2,821,535	3,426,504	Platinum.....	80,200	1,354,129
Art.....	1,758,641	3,399,613	Wool.....	5,013,100	1,214,005
Fur skins.....	1,098,702	3,368,483	Copper.....		652,397

## VENEZUELANAS TO BUY NEW TELEPHONE EQUIPMENT.

[Consul G. K. Donald, Maracaibo, June 5.]

The local telephone company, a privately owned corporation operating under the name Teléfonos de Maracaibo, has a single equipment, of a capacity of 400 subscribers, but only 300 telephones are now in use. On account of increasing business the company will soon purchase another switchboard. The equipment now in use was made in the United States. The lines are single with a ground return. A battery system is used, but calling is done by magneto.

The rate for both business and private telephones is 16 bolivars (\$3.09) per month, unlimited. No telephone directory is issued; calling is by name, not by number. Private "inter-phones" are used to some extent by commercial houses and plantations. These are for sale by local firms.

[A list of the local firms mentioned dealing in telephones may be obtained from the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce or its district offices. Refer to file No. 77579. Correspondence with the Venezuelan houses may be in English, but Spanish is preferred.]

**NOTES FROM THE NETHERLANDS.**

[Commercial Attaché Erwin W. Thompson, The Hague, June 17.]

**Government Control of Feedstuffs.**

Since the beginning of the war the Government has had complete control of wheat and flour, but feeding stuffs for animals have been imported by private interests. On account of complaints of the unequal distribution and of high prices, the Government has now taken control of all imported grain for feeding, and of linseed cake. This caused some disturbance among the importers of these articles and they petitioned the Government to permit them to act as distributors under Government regulation. This petition has been granted, so that the distribution of these goods is now conducted by the same agencies as heretofore; but it is done under Government regulation and at prices fixed by the Government. The Government purchases these goods in America and elsewhere on f. o. b. terms and requisitions freight room from time to time according to the necessities of the case. The prices at which the goods are sold are supposed to be just sufficient to cover the cost.

**Scarcity of Sugar.**

For the past week or two sugar has been difficult to obtain in local grocery stores. In some cases only half pound would be sold to each purchaser and at about 12 cents per pound. The Netherlands produces about 250,000 tons of sugar and consumes less than 100,000, and usually has a visible stock of about 100,000 tons. The exports of all forms of sugar for the first four months of this year were less than for corresponding periods of previous years, and so there should be large stocks in the country; but they have become invisible. The Government assumes that there must be some hoarding of stocks for the purpose of forcing higher prices, and it has announced that it will seize all stocks of sugar for equitable distribution unless conditions are changed.

**The Dutch East Indian Loan.**

The second loan of \$32,000,000 at 5 per cent has been greatly oversubscribed. The original announcement stated that the intention was to raise \$20,000,000 in the Netherlands and the balance in the colonies, but the Netherlands alone subscribed about \$50,000,000. The first loan issued three months ago was for \$25,000,000 at 5 per cent, and for this loan the Netherlands subscribed \$26,400,000 and the colonies \$25,600,000.

**Dyestuffs for Holland.**

The Dutch minister at Berlin has recently arranged with the German Government to supply a greater amount of dyestuffs for the Dutch industries. During the past year Germany has permitted the export of dyestuffs for consumption in the Netherlands only to the extent of 75 per cent of the normal consumption of each factory in the year 1913. The present arrangements allow 120 per cent, which is not more than is strictly necessary for the existing textile industries, especially in view of the large demand for army uniforms.



**NEW SERVICE FOR TRANSPACIFIC TRADE.**

[Vice Consul A. E. Carleton, Hongkong, China, May 31.]

The steamship *Floridian* of the American-Hawaiian Steamship Co. has arrived in Hongkong, with about 8,000 tons of American cargo for distribution in the Far East, and the steamship *Georgia* of the same line is due in the course of a few weeks. This company has never entered the trans-Pacific trade before, and the trips of these boats are in the nature of an experiment. If the results of the two voyages and the general conditions of the Far Eastern trade warrant the establishment of a permanent line, the company proposes to place four of their ships in this service. These ships are oil burners with up-to-date equipment for handling cargo, and have a carrying capacity of 10,000 tons measurement each. These vessels do not carry passengers. They have a speed of 12 knots, which will give an average of practically five trips per year each. Assuming that the company will find that the Far Eastern market is sufficiently large to warrant the establishment of a line, the company will be in a position to transship cargo for the Atlantic seaboard on their own ships at San Francisco under the best conditions as to through rates and quickness.

In this connection it is of interest to note that a well-known exporter of rice and Chinese products to the United States, Habana, and the West Indies generally has gone to the United States to study the position of New Orleans as a transshipping point for Habana and elsewhere, particularly for rice, with the idea of shortening the length of time now taken in delivery of cargo to Cuba and the possibility of lessening the freight charges. The Hongkong dealer believes it possible to establish direct steamship connections from Hongkong with the Atlantic seaboard and making New Orleans a port of call for the purpose indicated. It is understood that this proposition has been favorably considered by steamship agents in Hongkong.

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**PRODUCTION OF 'WOLFRAM IN ARGENTINA.**

[Consul General W. Henry Robertson, Buenos Aires, May 26.]

The Director General of Mines, Geology, and Hydrology of Argentina has issued a report on the deposits of wolfram in this country. The writer states the growing importance of this mineral and the increased demand that has been noted in the past 10 years. The Buenos Aires Standard, in a review of this report, says:

Of all the prime mineral matters found in the soil of the Argentine Republic, those of wolfram (almost exclusively wolframite) have not only been able to be compared in the last few years with the other metals exploited, but temporarily (in the year 1910) attained the greatest valorization among them. This fact, also, makes the Argentine Republic appear in the international statistics, and, so far as relates to the production of the mineral of wolfram, as one of the producing countries of importance.

The wolframite is found in Argentina almost exclusively in veins of quartz with mica. The regions which present such veins or where they may be expected to be found belong to the geological group of the Pampean hills.

The most important of all the mines of wolframite in the Argentine Republic is situated on the east side of the Sierra of San Luis, west of the village of Dolores, near the Concarán station of the Pacific Railway. This mine belongs to a company which for more than 10 years has been exploiting the wolframite, including small quantities of scheelite.

# COMMISSION TO STUDY INDUSTRIES OF BRITISH INDIA.

The wish of the Government of India to foster Indian manufactures and industries and to aid in their expansion and development was voiced during a discussion in the Legislative Council in March last, when Sir William Clark announced that the Government had decided that the time had come when this matter should be taken up in a more comprehensive manner than had yet been attempted. He called attention to the fact that India already possesses two notably successful manufacturing industries (cotton and jute textiles) and that others also have reached some degree of importance, and stated that the Government of India had strong hopes of placing the industries of the country on a much firmer and more extended basis.

With this end in view a commission has been appointed, which will be instructed to examine and report upon the possibilities of further industrial development in India and to submit its recommendations with special reference to the following questions:

(1) Whether new openings for the profitable employment of Indian capital in commerce and industry can be indicated;

(2) Whether and, if so, in what manner, Government can usefully give direct encouragement to industrial development—

(a) By rendering technical advice more freely available;

(b) By the demonstration of the practical possibility on a commercial scale of particular industries;

(c) By affording, directly or indirectly, financial assistance to industrial enterprises; or

(d) By any other means which are not incompatible with the existing fiscal policy of the Government of India.

According to a statement in the Indian Gazette Supplement for May 20, the Government of India hopes to have the commission's report in hand within 12 months from the date of its assembling.

## YEAR'S RECORD IN YIELD OF FISH EGGS.

The United States Bureau of Fisheries has submitted to the Secretary of Commerce a comparative statement of the yield of fish eggs for the fiscal years 1915 and 1916. The total for the year ended July 1, 1916, was 6,933,805,606, an increase of 941,328,792 over the total of 5,992,476,814 for the year ended July 1, 1915. The figures by species are:

Species.	Year ended July 1, 1915.	Year ended July 1, 1916.	Species.	Year ended July 1, 1915.	Year ended July 1, 1916.
Blueback salmon.....	60,915,900	104,595,000	Lake herring.....	122,980,000	106,875,080
Humpback salmon.....	19,100,000	31,867,500	River herring.....	14,437	
Chinook salmon.....	107,734,705	108,087,990	Cod.....	387,475,000	442,899,000
Silver salmon.....	30,242,050	13,404,695	Haddock.....	37,994,000	36,720,000
Dog salmon.....	38,209,000	28,962,500	Flatfish.....	1,674,715,000	1,237,618,000
Atlantic salmon.....	2,014,400	1,953,407	Lobster.....	200,093,000	140,040,000
Lake trout.....	83,364,540	67,331,500	Pollock.....	855,020,000	1,713,730,000
Whitefish.....	597,934,000	480,611,000	Mackarel.....		4,725,000
Brook trout.....	20,015,573	19,185,393	Butterfish.....		609,000
Rainbow trout.....	8,239,649	8,504,278	Pike perch.....	1,014,265,000	1,040,186,000
Blackspotted trout.....	11,103,500	3,521,003	Yellow perch.....	247,908,000	313,147,000
Loch Leven trout.....	107,609	120,400	White perch.....	263,050,000	154,900,000
Steelhead trout.....	9,473,260	11,796,450	Shad.....	62,627,000	90,124,000
Scotch sea trout.....	87,000		Striped bass.....	11,295,000	13,315,000
Hybrids.....	26,400		Landlocked salmon.....	870,800	1,200,500
Smelt.....	21,590,000	51,590,000			
Grayling.....	3,143,000	6,490,000	Total.....	5,992,476,814	6,933,805,606

**CHANGING FASHIONS IN WOMEN'S DRESS IN RUSSIA.**

[Commercial Attaché Henry D. Baker, Petrograd, June 12.]

A prominent cotton-textile manufacturer states that the new fashions in wide skirts for women, approaching the crinoline styles of about 50 years ago, are resulting in the use of about two and one-half times as much cotton material in skirts and underskirts as before the new fashion started. Since the Russian textile mills are already finding extreme difficulty in keeping pace with all the extra demands for piece goods for army uses and are obliged to furnish for Government use 40 per cent of all the goods they manufacture, it is suggested, however, that the new fashion may materially increase the Russian market for American cotton.

Another interesting fashion that has become a feature of the summer trade in women's apparel is the wearing of bright-colored shawls, made usually of cotton, but sometimes of silk, and fringed at the ends. These shawls have their background colors in black, white, orange, red, or green, with picturesque flower patterns stamped on them, roses being the most common flower used for the purpose. The flower colors are usually red, pink, or blue, with green for the leaves and stems. The shawls are comparatively long in proportion to their breadth and may hang over the shoulders in graceful draping below the waistline. They are being especially used for outing purposes and are considered especially appropriate at the various country resorts. Their appearance is bright and picturesque, resembling somewhat the women's shawls in vogue in Spanish countries. It is understood that this shawl fashion has been adopted from the costumes worn by peasants in certain districts of Russia; the patterns are those long known to cottage peasant industries. The material, general finish, and prices are above those of any costumes used by peasants. The price of the shawls may vary from \$2 to \$7. The drygoods shop windows in Petrograd and Moscow are making attractive window displays of these new bright-colored shawls and report a brisk demand for them.

The shawl fashion is particularly well adapted for summer use in Russia, where the climate makes protection from chills necessary. In Russia the difference in temperature in the shade and in the sun is considerable, and toward evening there is usually a marked fall in temperature. Consequently, people provide themselves against sudden changes of temperature more than is necessary, in the summer time, in countries not so far north.

[Two of these shawls are on exhibition, for a limited period, at the New York office of the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce.]

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**BIRTH AND DEATH REGISTRATION IN UNITED STATES.**

The United States Bureau of the Census has issued in pamphlet form a paper entitled "The Federal Registration Service of the United States: Its Development, Problems, and Defects," prepared by Cressy L. Wilbur, M. D., formerly chief statistician for vital statistics, Bureau of the Census, and now director of vital statistics, New York State Department of Health. The publication sets forth many interesting and significant facts in reference to the growth of birth and death registration in this country.

**NEW PROGRAM OF IMPROVEMENTS FOR SAIGON HARBOR.**

[Consul Lawrence P. Briggs, Saigon, French Indo-China, May 17.]

By a decree dated May 2, 1916, the Governor General of French Indo-China has made it known that the following program of improvements of the harbor of Saigon has been approved by the Governor and Council:

<b>I. Improvements above the Arroyo Chinois:</b>	
1. Repairing Charner and Canton decks.....	\$13, 200
2. Constructing a floating dock for river craft between Charner and Canton docks.....	4, 850
3. Constructing and repairing river walls and quays.....	14, 000
Total.....	<u>32, 050</u>
<b>II. Improvement of the quays of Khanh-hoi:</b>	
(a) Improvement of the quays and surface—	
1. Improvement and repairs of inclined slip between Messageries Maritimes dock and the upper end of the quays.....	4, 800
2. Widening and improving the approach between the Nhabe road and the upper end of the quays.....	28, 950
3. Finishing the leveling and grading of the quays, especially filling in the Ban-don near the Canal of Derivation.....	53, 100
4. Stoning and paving the carriage and truck roads along the quay.....	12, 350
5. Improving the walls of the quay.....	5, 800
6. Installing water and electricity.....	11, 100
Total.....	<u>116, 100</u>
(b) Warehouses and accommodations for merchandise:	
1. Construction of warehouse for unloading ships.....	224, 650
2. Construction of bonded warehouses and storage.....	92, 650
3. Construction of baggage rooms, customs offices, etc.....	101, 350
4. Building a fence around quays and warehouses.....	19, 300
5. Constructing branch railway lines to the warehouses.....	43, 400
6. Purchase and installation of movable cranes.....	77, 200
7. Installation of electric arc lamps and telephone service.....	5, 300
Total.....	<u>563, 850</u>
(c) Works connected with the port service:	
1. Construction of a signal tower at the lower end of the quay.....	28, 950
2. Construction of quarters for the officers and masters of the port near the signal tower.....	19, 300
3. Construction of an office and watchtower near the signal tower.....	6, 750
4. Construction of a coal shed, storehouses, and yard for equipment.....	9, 250
5. Construction of a dock with a 5-ton hand crane, and slip for taking up anchors, chains, and buoys and transporting them to the yard, and a quay for the launches of the port service.....	19, 300
Total.....	<u>83, 560</u>
<b>III. Works of protection and improvement along both banks:</b>	
1. Works of protection along the left bank and along the right bank between the Canal of Derivation and the Tac-rol.....	20, 250
2. Construction and improvement of docks on the left bank.....	20, 850
3. Installation of mooring posts along both banks of the river.....	17, 400
4. Extending the road on the left bank up to a point opposite the Place Rigault de Genouilly.....	6, 750

III. Works of protection and improvement along both banks—Con.

5. Widening and stoning the road on both banks and replacing wooden foot bridges with bridges of concrete-----	\$23, 800
<b>Total</b> -----	<b>89, 050</b>

IV. Facilities for anchoring in the river:

1. Replacing 6 mooring posts on the right bank, 6 on the left bank, and 4 mooring posts for petroleum boats with works of approach-----	308,800
2. Construction of new works of approach between those already existing-----	67, 550
<b>Total</b> -----	<b>376, 350</b>

V. Acquisition of floating equipment:

1. Acquisition of a pump-boat tug-----	38, 600
2. Acquisition of a 30-ton floating crane-----	74, 300
3. Acquisition of 3 new launches-----	42, 500
4. Acquisition of 2 motor boats for the customs police-----	7, 700
<b>Total</b> -----	<b>163, 100</b>

VI. Various works:

1. Construction of a 300-meter (984-foot) dry-dock (part of the expense to be paid by the Administrative Council of the Port)-----	1, 544, 000
2. Establishment of a tugboat service for towing junks between Cholon and Saigon Harbor-----	96, 500
3. Construction of a motor ferry and transshipping service across Saigon River-----	636, 900
<b>Total</b> -----	<b>2, 277, 400</b>
<b>Grand total</b> -----	<b>3, 701, 450</b>

A part of this program has already been discussed in COMMERCE REPORTS for August 9, 1915, and in the annual report for French Indo-China, published as Supplement 54b on August 23, 1915. The latter gives a detailed description of the port of Saigon, which will enable one the better to understand the character of the proposed improvements.

**AMERICAN CONSULAR OFFICERS ON LEAVE OF ABSENCE.**

The following American consular officers are on leave of absence in the United States and will be glad to confer with business men and commercial organizations relative to conditions in their respective jurisdictions. The consul's time is available primarily for personal interviews. He has limited facilities for correspondence, and except in urgent cases letters should be directed to the consulate.

Name.	Post.	Expiration of venue.	Address.
West, George N.....	Kobe, Japan.....	Aug. 15	Department of State, Washington, D. C.
Cooke, A. B.....	Patras, Greece.....	Aug. 10	121 West Charlotte Street, Norfolk, Va.
Hale, F. D.....	Huddersfield, England.....	.....	Lunenburg, Vt.
Fisher, Fred D.....	Tientsin, China.....	Aug. 5	Albany, Oreg.
Masterson, William W.....	Durban, Natal, South Africa.....	Sept. 1	Carrollton, Ky.
Seltzer, Harry G.....	Breslau, Germany.....	.....	Gibraltar, Pa.
Baker, E. Carlton.....	Nagasaki, Japan.....	Aug. 30	Apartment No. 75, The Brunswick, Washington, D. C.

**SHIPBUILDING INTEREST REVIVED IN NOVA SCOTIA.**

[Consul Charles M. Freeman, Sydney, Nova Scotia, Canada, May 30.]

Although the fisheries here constitute one of the leading industries and water transportation is an important factor in the freight and passenger traffic, there are no shipyards in this consular district properly equipped to construct vessels of 100 tons and upward. There are several yards building fishing boats and small pleasure craft up to 25 tons.

In the past, when wooden ships were the rule, shipbuilding was an important industry, but the advent of iron and steel in ship construction closed those plants. After the establishment of the iron and steel industry in the district, several attempts were made to place shipbuilding on the list of local industries, but all these have failed.

**Marine Transportation of Vital Importance.**

To a small extent the subject is now being agitated again. Marine transportation has recently become a matter of vital importance to Canada, with the great transportation demands and conditions which caused tonnage rates for freight as well as the value of ships to jump as high as 5 to 15 times their ordinary values.

In 1911 those locally interested in reviving the shipbuilding industry here said: "Sydney has advantages for the establishment of a shipbuilding plant not exceeded by any other port in the world; it is in the heart of the largest coal-producing area of Canada; it has a great steel plant within its borders, with ores for its use right at hand, capable of rolling sheets of the largest dimensions, as well as rolling channels and ordinary sections required for the construction of steel ships, and a forging plant adapted to marine work; it is located on one of the best harbors on the Atlantic coast near great commercial centers of the United States, and is nearer Europe than any Atlantic port on the mainland."

**Negotiations with British Shipbuilders.**

Other advantages were set forth and an association of British shipbuilders entered into negotiations with the City of Sydney. These were carried on during the first part of 1912 with every indication that the hopes of the agitators would be realized, especially as on June 4, 1912, the voters confirmed the agreement entered into between the city and the company.

In brief, this agreement obligated the company to spend \$5,000,000 in building a graving dock to meet with the Dominion Government's specifications, 1,150 feet in length, 135 feet in width, and having a depth of water admitting the largest ships afloat. The company was also to spend \$1,000,000 on a fully equipped shipbuilding plant, having electric cranes, marine railways, shipways, channels, wood-working and boiler shops, pattern houses, and all other equipment necessary for a plant capable of constructing ships of 20,000 tons register, and when in operation to employ not less than 2,000 men.

**City Votes Large Amount to Assist Enterprise.**

The city voted the company \$1,000,000, to be paid in city bonds bearing 4½ per cent interest and running 50 years, with payments

in four separate installments. The first \$250,000 was to be paid upon completion of the shipbuilding plant and dry-dock, with proof that \$6,000,000 had been expended; the second \$250,000 to be paid upon the launching of the first ship built by the company. The two other installments were to be paid later, the last in 1930, and both subject to the condition that the plant had been in continuous operation. The city further agreed that the assessment valuation of the plant for taxing purposes should be \$500,000 for the first 10 years.

In addition to the bonus voted by the city of Sydney, the company, by building the graving dock agreeably to Government specifications, was to receive a yearly subsidy of  $3\frac{1}{2}$  per cent on \$4,000,000, to be given for 35 years by the Dominion of Canada. The agreement called for construction work to commence on or before July, 1913, and the plant to be completed before July 1, 1920. Work was never started, but with the renewed interest in shipping and shipbuilding, the project may be revived.

[A list of ship brokers and boat builders in the Sydney, Nova Scotia, consular district may be obtained from the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce or its district offices. Refer to file No. 76876.]

### NEW RECORD MADE IN PRODUCTION OF CHARTS.

During the fiscal year just concluded the United States Coast and Geodetic Survey printed 102,510 copies of charts for distribution. This exceeded the previous record of 143,668 copies in 1914 by 18,842. Notwithstanding the increased output, the survey is unable to keep pace with the demand.

The report for June shows that 12,450 charts, 390 coast pilots, and 260 tide tables were issued in the closing month of the fiscal year. In the preparation of publications for the assistance of mariners, one drawing for a new chart was completed; extensive corrections were made on 31 plates; 4 new charts and 3 new editions of charts were printed, and 66 reprints were made.

The survey also reports work on field revisions of coast pilots. The officer assigned to that duty, before taking up the field revision of the Pacific Coast Pilot, organized a temporary party and chartered a launch at Seattle, Wash., proceeding on June 5 to the entrance to Juan de Fuca Strait to make an examination of a reported break  $1\frac{1}{2}$  miles southwest of Tatoosh Island. The rock was located, and has a least found depth of 45 feet over it. This depth accounts for the break seen in heavy weather, while present information indicates that it is hardly a menace to any vessel entering Juan de Fuca Strait.

A nautical expert commenced the revision of the Alaska Coast Pilot at Ketchikan on June 1. In a letter this officer states that he has received reports of a great number of uncharted rocks and has already located some of them.

Wire-Drage Party No. 3 has continued wire-drag work in southeastern Alaska from Wrangell as a base. Several uncharted rocks have been found, and the information was furnished to navigators promptly by means of special notices in Alaska and at Seattle. Wire-Drage Party No. 4 has continued work in Sumner Strait, Alaska, during the past month. On June 1 the working grounds were changed from the northeastern to the southern end of the Strait.

**PRESS REPORTS ON ORIENTAL BUSINESS.**

[American commercial attaché, Peking, China.]

**Japan Makes Gains in Exports of Marine Products.**

Japan has made remarkable gains in the export of marine products in recent years, the amount exported last year, according to the Japan Advertiser, having been 22,310,000 yen (yen=\$0.4985). This is an increase of 45 per cent over the amount five years ago.

Of the exports of marine goods, 41 per cent go to China, 30 per cent to Europe, and 13 per cent each to the United States and South Sea Islands, says the Advertiser. Of the various kinds of marine goods the principal ones, the export of which amounted to more than 300,000 yen, are: Dried cuttle fish, 2,678,000; kombu (seaweeds), 1,950,000; dried tara (codfish), 401,000; salted tara, 387,000; dried awabi (abalone), 383,000; hashira (shell ligaments), 1,000,000; dried lobster, 481,000; namako (sea slugs), 580,000; isinglasses, 1,706,000; tinned fish, 2,733,000; iodide of potash, 900,000; fish oil, including whale oil, 2,236,000; shell buttons, 3,589,000; coral, 336,000; others, 2,851,000 yen.

**Opening of New Railway Line in China.**

The significance of the opening of the Hsuehowfu-Kaifeng section of the Lung-Hai Railway does not appear to have been fully realized, says the North China Daily News. Since April 20 last, trains have been running daily from Hsuehowfu to Chengchow without change of cars, and Nanking has replaced Hankow as the fastest route for Shanghai travelers to Kaifeng, Sianfu, Lanchowfu, etc. From Chengchow construction is being carried on toward Sianfu and trains are running regularly to Kuanyintang, a 9-hour journey from Chengchow.

It is well to know, says the Daily News, that an all-rail route exists from Shanghai to Hankow, little slower than the usual steamer journey. Passengers leaving Nanking at about 8 a. m. on the 1st reach Hankow ordinarily at about 9 a. m. on the 3d, the hour depending on freight en route, and naturally also on the speed of the particular steamer employed.

With closer train connections and good hotel accommodations at Hsuehowfu, the route should become a popular one. If the three railway companies concerned would agree to make schedules fit in more closely, the great saving in time over the steamer route would be an undoubted inducement to travelers.

**Government Paper Mill to be Established.**

The Minister of Finance, according to the Peking Gazette, is planning the establishment of a Government paper mill to meet the demands of the home market. The projected factory will be established at some place centrally located and will be known as the Central Model Paper Mill. It will be under the direct control of the Minister of Finance. A prospectus outlining the organization of the undertaking has been drawn up, according to which there will be a director, several chief engineers, and a number of other administrative officers.

The Peking Daily News says that it is intended that there shall be two sections for the factory—general and technical. The gen-



eral section is to have charge of documents, accounts, investigation, statistics and reports, the purchase and transportation of materials, the disposal of manufactured goods, etc. The technical section is to have charge of arrangements for the factory, the manufacture of paper, the management of the business, plans, and inspection work. The chief of the technical section is to be a technical expert.

### ALCOHOL-BENZOL MIXTURE AS FUEL FOR AUTOMOBILES.

[Consul J. E. Jones, Lyon, France, June 21.]

The following translation of an article appearing in *Le Progrès*, a daily newspaper published at Lyon, may be of interest in connection with the prevailing high prices of gasoline in the United States:

Among the many efforts made by Germany to counteract the effects of a blockade, one of special interest is the replacing of gasoline for automobiles by a mixture of alcohol and benzol. With the cessation of imports of gasoline into Germany the supplies of petroleum drawn from wells in Galicia proved inadequate for the needs of the Central States. For this reason the German Government instructed the technical department of the transportation service to seek a combustible that would effectively replace gasoline. The outcome of these experiments was the employment of a mixture of alcohol and benzol. A Mercedes car of the 1914 touring model, having an ordinary carbureter, was used for experimenting purposes, with the following results:

Fuel.	Speed per hour (miles).	Distance covered on 1 pint of fuel (miles).
Alcohol-benzol mixture:		
1 part benzol, 1 part alcohol .....	42	4.66
1 part benzol, 2 parts alcohol .....	41	4.47
1 part benzol, 3 parts alcohol .....	39	4.34
1 part benzol, 4 parts alcohol .....	38	4.10
1 part benzol, 5 parts alcohol .....	36	3.72
Benzol, pure .....	42	3.79
Gasoline, pure .....	44	3.60

#### Economy of New Fuel.

Even if the alcohol be figured at before-the-war prices the use of such a mixture is an economy. One pint of gasoline costs 8.55 cents, benzol 8.17 cents, and alcohol 7.79 cents.

There remained, however, a serious drawback in connection with this mixture, and that was the difficulty in starting the automobile. This was overcome by installing on each car a small supplementary reservoir containing gasoline, benzine, or ether, which is drawn upon when starting the car, and the alcohol-benzol fuel then substituted.

Germany now makes current use of this mixture, which is readily manufactured by distilling beets and coal tar, both of which products abound in that country.

[Earlier articles on this subject appeared in Daily Consular and Trade Reports as follows: "Alcohol versus Gasoline" (France), June 25, 1908; "Tests of Benzol as a Motor Fuel" (Germany), Oct. 30, 1913; and "Benzol as a Motor Fuel" (Germany), June 8, 1914.]

**GALVANIZED-IRON EXPORT TRADE OF BRISTOL.**

[Consul J. S. Armstrong, jr., Bristol, England, June 28.]

One of the most extensive plants for the export of galvanized iron in the United Kingdom is located at Bristol, and a large export trade is done in normal times with Canada, South America, Australia, and South Africa.

The value of iron and steel manufactures shipped from Bristol is more than that of all other exports combined. According to statistics obtained from local authorities, the total value of all exports from this port for the calendar years 1913 and 1914 was \$19,276,342 and \$17,341,079, respectively. The following table, enumerating the principal iron and steel products exported during the years mentioned, shows that the value of these goods alone aggregated \$11,424,713 and \$10,053,246, respectively. These statistics are sufficient to indicate the comparative importance of this industry to the city of Bristol.

Items.	1913	1914	Items.	1913	1914
Galvanized sheets (flat or corrugated).....	\$5,483,518	\$5,448,049	Chains (including tackle made of chain).....	\$22,522	\$29,404
Tinned plates and tinned sheets.....	4,372,758	3,497,163	Tubes, pipes, and fittings (unwrought).....	195,540	121,981
Netting (except torpedo nets).....	79,590	74,735	Pipes and fittings (cast)...	14,775	136
Strip, bridge, boiler, and other plates and sheets, not under $\frac{1}{2}$ inch thick..	23,111	8,935	Nails and rivets.....	118,679	65,513
Black sheets under $\frac{1}{2}$ inch thick.....	747,452	477,647	Cast iron, and manufactures thereof.....	11,251	23,038
Black plates.....	205,025	144,785	Iron wrought in bars, rods, angles, and shapes or sections.....	70,545	73,784
Hoops and strips.....	34,362	34,649	Iron and steel rails for railroad use.....	15,918	34,211
Anchors, grapnels, and cables.....	29,661	16,156	Total.....	11,424,713	10,053,246

**Sources of Steel Supply.**

It is reported that had not the local plants been in possession of their own steel works, the shrinkage brought about by the war in export trade would have seriously crippled the local industry as a whole. Foreign sources of steel supply, such as Belgium and Germany, were not available, and the supplies from the United States were considerably restricted.

Prior to the war this country obtained the bulk of the supply of spelter, also from Germany and Belgium, and now that these sources are cut off and the home production is of a negligible quantity, this country is dependent almost altogether on supplies from the United States. Consequently the supply has been inadequate and the price has risen from \$107 before the war to approximately \$486.65 per ton during recent months. It is understood that the British and Australian Governments have been in consultation with a view to diverting to this country the trade in Australian zinc ores, which formerly went to Germany.

**Loss in Export Trade.**

The reduction in the export trade of this port has been due to the largely increased cost of the material used, advanced freights, and the shortage of labor. The export trade formerly done with Canada, and perhaps in a less measure with South America, has been lost for the time being to the United States, and local manufacturers do

not anticipate an easy task in endeavoring to recapture this business after the war.

Owing to the shortage of steel in this country and the requirements of the British Government, the amount available for the production of sheet iron for export will most probably be still further reduced, and it is feared that a large number of Colonial and foreign customers will be lost to American and other competitors.

### USE OF PUMPING MACHINERY IN CHILE.

[Consul Thomas W. Voetter, Antofagasta, May 18.]

There is very little irrigation by pumping in the Antofagasta district. The wells in the pampa contain so much salt and other alkalies that they are not suitable for irrigation.

The market for pumps in this district is almost exclusively confined to the requirements of the nitrate plants. In this, the arid region of Chile, there are some 170 plants for the elaboration of nitrate of soda and each has a pumping installation complete. A nitrate plant uses from 300 to 900 tons of water per day, obtained usually at dug wells located several miles away from the plant.

#### Kinds of Pumps Used.

The classes of pumps and pumping machinery used by the nitrate plants are as follows:

*Wells.*—Power-driven deep well pumps, usually single acting, triplex, of bucket type. The depth of well varies from 60 to 500 feet.

Surface force pumps, power driven, for delivery of water from well to nitrate plants. Power is usually furnished from central electric power station at plant some miles distant.

*Plant.*—Boiler feed pumps, almost exclusively steam driven, as also the oil pumps for supplying fuel to the furnaces.

Steam or power driven pumps for transferring liquors (agua vieja) from crystallization tanks to elevated storage tanks.

From 2 to 10 centrifugal pumps, usually 6-inch suction and 6-inch discharge for circulating hot liquors (relave) between the boiling tanks. The average centrifugal pump handles from 200 to 400 gallons per minute against a head of 30 feet.

Miscellaneous fire pumps, internal-combustion engine cooling water pumps, fuel-oil pumps, etc.

The general terms of credit given by American manufacturers to importers are cash against shipping documents on arrival of shipment in Antofagasta. European manufacturers extend credit of 60 to 90 days after acceptance of draft against bill of lading on arrival of goods, and in exceptional cases 120 days. Prices should be c. i. f. Antofagasta and not f. o. b.

[A list of the principal importers of pumping machinery in the Antofagasta consular district can be obtained at the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce or its district offices. Refer to file No. 77066.]

The production of copper during the past six months has exceeded that of any equal period in the history of the industry. The United States Geological Survey states that the prosperity of the industry is well assured for the remainder of the year, so that 1916 will doubtless be its most profitable year.

**FOREIGN TARIFFS.****BRAZIL.****Increase in Consular Fees.**

A Brazilian decree of February 23, 1916, provides for an increase from 2 to 2.50 milreis in the consular fee for certifying bills of lading [milreis (gold), \$0.55]. The charges for legalizing ships' manifests have also been somewhat increased, the new fees ranging from 25 milreis for vessels of not more than 500 tons to 55 milreis for those of more than 3,000 but not more than 4,000 tons, with an additional charge of 5 reis (0.005 milreis) for each ton in excess of the latter figure. The fee of 3 milreis for the certification of invoices has not been changed.

**DOMINICAN REPUBLIC.****Registration of Medicines.**

The law governing the importation of pharmaceutical products into the Dominican Republic, which it appears has only recently been enforced, requires that all specifics shall be registered by the Superior Council of the Medical Board, the registration fee being \$20 for preparations not patented and \$10 for patent medicines. According to a report from American Minister William W. Russell, Santo Domingo, dated March 27, 1916, the Medical Board has now agreed to consider preparations guaranteed by the United States Food and Drugs Law of June 30, 1906, as patented, and such products will be registered upon the payment of the minimum fee. Simple medicinal products, not compounds, are not subject to the provisions of the Dominican registration law.

**GREAT BRITAIN.****Increase in Warehouse Charges at Liverpool.**

Consul Horace L. Washington, Liverpool, has transmitted a copy of a circular issued by the Mersey Docks and Harbor Board on March 23, 1916, providing for an increase of 20 per cent in the warehouse charges at Liverpool. The lighterage charges have also been slightly increased. [Information regarding the new schedule of rates may be obtained upon application to the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce.]

**ITALY.**

[Gazzetta Ufficiale, Mar. 31.]

**Sanitary Certificates for Canned Goods.**

It is provided by an Italian decree of March 29, 1916, that fresh meat, canned meat and fish, and other animal products must be accompanied by a sanitary certificate issued by the proper authorities of the country of exportation, as well as by a certificate of origin, for both of which consular certification is required. The foregoing products may be imported by sea only through the ports of Genoa, Livorno, Naples, Catania, and Palermo.

**MARTINIQUE.**

[Journal Officiel, Apr. 14.]

**Exemption of Heavy Oils.**

According to a French decree of April 4, 1916, heavy oils and residues of petroleum and of other mineral oils are to be exempt

from duty upon importation into Martinique. Such products were formerly dutiable at the rates prescribed by the French customs tariff.

### **SALVADOR.**

[Diario Oficial, Mar. 17.]

#### **Exemption of Water Tanks.**

A Salvadorian decree of March 16, 1916, provides for the exemption from import duty of wood or iron water tanks of capacity of not less than 2,000 liters (528 gallons). The free admission of such articles was originally authorized by a decree of February 19, 1914, but under the new customs tariff, in effect January 1, 1916, such tanks were dutiable, those made of iron being subject to a duty of \$0.02 per kilo.

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### **FULL INFORMATION WITH TRADE INQUIRIES.**

[Consul William Dawson, Jr., Rosario, Argentina, May 27.]

The consulate at Rosario has recently received requests for information from two firms which were already represented at this port and which, in addressing the consulate, made no mention of this fact.

The writer considers it highly important that, when writing to consular officers with respect to trade conditions in their districts, American firms include information concerning existing agency arrangements. In order to furnish a report of practical value it is frequently necessary to consult local business men, and it is often impossible to obtain a satisfactory opinion without showing the literature of the inquirer. Where the latter is already represented and has failed to note this fact in his inquiry, the investigation made by the consular officer may, through no fault of his, result in useless correspondence on the part of other local firms whose interest has been aroused, or the matter may come to the attention of and be resented by the agent. Unpleasantness, loss of time, and ill feeling could be avoided if the consular officer were properly advised.

The failure to inform a particular consular officer of agency arrangements in his territory is usually, but not always, due to the fact that circulars of exactly the same tenor—including at times a general invitation for correspondence from prospective agents—are sent to all or a large number of consular offices. This office endeavors to keep itself informed as to local representatives of American firms. It must, of course, depend very largely on the cooperation of the interested parties themselves.

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### **District Offices of the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce.**

New York, Room 409 United States Customhouse; Boston, eighteenth floor United States Customhouse; Chicago, 504 Federal Building; St. Louis, 402 Third National Bank Building; Atlanta, 521 Post Office Building; New Orleans, 1020 Hibernia Bank Building; San Francisco, 308 United States Customhouse; Seattle, 848 Henry Building. Cooperative district offices: Cleveland, Chamber of Commerce; Cincinnati, Chamber of Commerce; Asst. Gen'l Frt. Agt., C. N. O. & T. P. Ry. Co., Cincinnati; Los Angeles, Chamber of Commerce; Detroit, Board of Commerce; Philadelphia, Chamber of Commerce; South American Agent, Southern Ry. Co., Chattanooga, Tenn.

## FOREIGN TRADE OPPORTUNITIES.

Reserved addresses may be obtained from the Bureau and its district offices. Request for each opportunity should be on a separate sheet and state opportunity number. The Bureau does not furnish credit ratings or assume responsibility as to the standing of foreign inquirers; the usual precautions should be taken in all cases.

*Glass, boilers, and pipes*, No. 21808.—An American consular officer in New Zealand reports that a firm in his district is in the market for glass, boilers, and piping for greenhouses. Prices should be quoted f. o. b. port of shipment.

*Agricultural machinery*, No. 21809.—The Bureau is informed that a firm in France desires to have constructed in the United States finished agricultural machinery, particularly small motor plows.

*Pianos*, No. 21810.—An American consular officer in a foreign colonial possession reports that a man in his district desires catalogues and price lists of American pianos of medium to first quality.

*Machinery*, No. 21811.—An import and export agent in New York City writes that one of his clients in Central America is in the market for machinery for the manufacture of shoe buttons of colored paste; also for making excelsior and wood shavings.

*Paper*, No. 21812.—A firm in Cuba wishes to receive quotations on wrapping paper of cloth-like texture.

*Phonograph parts, etc.*, No. 21813.—A manufacturer of high-grade furniture and wood products in Canada desires to be placed in touch with manufacturers and exporters of motors and metal parts for phonographs and talking machines.

*Corrugated iron, furniture, etc.*, No. 21814.—A business man from Spain now in the United States desires to be placed in touch with manufacturers of galvanized corrugated sheet iron, trunks and bags, leather goods, jewelry and imitation jewelry, office furniture, shoe-making machinery, and shoe-makers' sundries, and hides. All business cash in New York.

*Hardware, chemicals, etc.*, No. 21815.—A commission firm in the Far East requests the Bureau to place it in touch with American manufacturers of hardware, including cutlery, wire nails, coffee and grain mills, etc.; heavy chemicals, such as aniline salt, lump alum, etc.; leather cloth; women's hosiery and dress goods, towels, handkerchiefs, etc.; glassware, paper and stationery goods, etc. References are given. The firm is also in a position to export kapok and other Far Eastern products.

*Road machinery*, No. 21816.—A Government official in Brazil informs an American consular officer that he is interested in receiving catalogues and price lists, including discounts, etc., of road machinery. Correspondence and literature should be in Portuguese.

*Paper, typewriters, etc.*, No. 21817.—An American consular officer in Russia has forwarded to the Bureau a letter from an import and export merchant in his district who desires to enter into commercial relations with American exporters of paper, old rebuilt typewriters, hosiery for women and children, medicines and chemical goods, printing and bookbinding machinery, etc. A complete list of articles desired by this man may be obtained from the Bureau or its district offices.

*Cold storage plant*, No. 21818.—The Bureau is informed that a firm engaged in the poultry business in Argentina desires to receive propositions for the installation of the requisite equipment and machinery for a cold-storage plant for 2,000,000 eggs. Correspondence should be in Spanish or French.

*Dry goods, cutlery, etc.*, No. 21819.—An American consular officer in South Africa reports that a firm in his district is desirous of representing American manufacturers of dry goods, women's shoes, novelties, cutlery and tools, etc. Catalogues and price and discount lists, etc., should be sent.

*Chrome*, No. 21820.—An American consular officer in Norway reports that a man in his district is in the market for chrome for tanning leather. Correspondence in Norwegian is desirable.

# COMMERCE REPORTS



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1916

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## AMERICANS GET MOTOR-LINE FRANCHISE IN CHINA.

[American Minister Paul S. Reinsch, Peking, June 13.]

Under the terms of an agreement for road construction just consummated with the governor of Peking and in return for furnishing a loan of \$100,000 Mexican (\$54,600 United States gold at present exchange in China), an American company has been granted an exclusive franchise for 20 years to operate motor freight and passenger services upon the road to be constructed. The highway will extend from the city of Peking to the Western Hills (Summer Palace) by way of the Marco Polo bridge, and it is expected that its construction, by making the Hills directly and readily accessible to Peking, will lead to the development of suburban residence areas in that region.

It is understood that the building of this highway is only the first step in an extensive plan of public-road construction in Chihli Province.

## ARGENTINE OFFICER POINTS TO AMERICAN TRADE GAINS.

[Consul General Thomas Sammons, Shanghai, China, June 15.]

Upon the arrival at Shanghai, on June 13, 1916, of the Argentine Republic's naval training ship *President Sarmiento*, Commander Jorge Yalour made a statement with reference to the increased American trade in Argentina. It was reported in the China Press (American), of Shanghai, on June 15, 1916. The officer said:

The foreign trade of the Republic has been affected by the war, as the Argentine can not obtain goods from Europe. But the United States is now covering the whole field that the European countries formerly covered. The friendly relations of the United States and Argentina are increasing day by day. Trade is pouring in from all parts of America, and during the last year and a half the number of branches and establishments of American firms founded all over the Republic has been large. The exports of Argentina have been very successful, Great Britain and France doing a great trade, with America also coming into prominence. The National City Bank of New York is doing a great business with its chief branch at Buenos Aires, and branches are also being established all over the country.

The greatest quantity of imports during 1914-15, as well as this year, has been supplied by the United States.

## COMMERCE THROUGH THE SAULT STE. MARIE CANALS.

The following tables show the quantity of each of the principal commodities and the number of passengers carried through the United States and the Canadian Sault Ste. Marie (Soo) Canals during June and for the season until June 30, 1915 and 1916:

[From a report of the United States engineer in charge of the United States Canal at Sault Ste. Marie, Mich.]

## FOR JUNE.

Articles.	United States Canal.		Canadian Canal.		Total, both canals.	
	1915	1916	1915	1916	1915	1916
<b>EASTBOUND.</b>						
Copper.....short tons..	13,216	16,684	1,938	700	15,154	17,384
Grain.....bushels..	1,246,871	5,120,526	1,494,512	5,180,888	2,741,383	10,301,414
Flour.....barrels..	539,574	686,606	288,320	364,760	827,894	1,051,366
Iron ore.....short tons..	5,628,268	6,941,174	125,706	2,513,492	5,753,974	9,454,666
Pig iron.....do.....		5,923				5,923
Lumber.....M. ft. b. m..	73,252	47,659	7,227	2,192	80,479	49,851
Wheat.....bushels..	2,807,562	15,456,845	2,119,229	10,471,326	4,926,791	25,928,171
General merchandise, short tons.....	24,530	19,227	16,328	11,935	40,858	31,162
Passengers.....number..	1,969	2,285	1,798	2,483	3,767	4,768
<b>WESTBOUND.</b>						
Coal:						
Hard.....short tons..	288,625	236,877	12,006	27,500	300,631	264,377
Soft.....do.....	1,588,235	1,670,847	36,300	120,200	1,624,535	1,791,047
Flour.....barrels..						
Grain.....bushels..		910				910
Manufactured iron, short tons..	23,800	16,525	4,504	3,628	28,304	20,153
Iron ore.....do.....		2,047		3,584		5,631
Salt.....barrels..	84,872	103,658		4,550	84,872	108,208
General merchandise, short tons.....	120,482	160,011	33,631	43,862	154,113	203,873
Passengers.....number..	2,365	1,754	1,261	2,302	3,726	4,056
<b>Total freight:</b>						
Eastbound, short tons.....	5,956,517	7,683,619	234,001	2,975,555	6,240,518	10,659,174
Westbound, short tons.....	2,033,873	2,101,871	86,441	199,424	2,120,314	2,301,295
Both ways, short tons.....	7,990,390	9,785,490	370,442	3,174,979	8,360,832	12,960,469
Vessel passages.....number..	2,150	2,647	431	1,037	2,581	3,684
Registered tonnage.....net..	5,846,330	7,777,476	684,871	2,229,043	6,531,201	10,006,519

## THREE MONTHS ENDING JUNE.

<b>EASTBOUND.</b>						
Copper.....short tons..	39,983	30,107	3,289	700	43,272	30,807
Grain.....bushels..	8,332,728	16,178,509	6,056,781	13,535,643	14,389,509	29,714,152
Flour.....barrels..	1,675,487	1,147,776	626,760	803,780	2,302,247	1,953,556
Iron ore.....short tons..	10,917,781	14,430,739	154,826	4,043,789	11,072,607	18,474,528
Pig iron.....do.....		11,215				14,215
Lumber.....M. ft. b. m..	118,350	81,300	19,395	4,598	137,745	85,898
Wheat.....bushels..	28,308,622	54,175,741	6,379,490	29,947,750	34,688,112	84,123,491
General mdse.....short tons..	41,047	28,107	53,203	27,329	94,250	55,499
Passengers.....number..	2,278	2,317	2,393	3,559	4,071	5,876
<b>WESTBOUND.</b>						
Coal:						
Hard.....short tons..	658,387	579,258	20,465	37,300	678,852	616,558
Soft.....do.....	2,941,462	4,125,197	80,975	247,000	3,022,437	4,372,197
Flour.....barrels..	100	205			100	205
Grain.....bushels..	31,250	1,010			31,250	1,010
Iron ore.....short tons..		2,047		3,584		5,631
Manufactured iron.....do.....	68,780	51,681	6,425	4,689	75,205	56,370
Salt.....barrels..	218,383	265,053	13,790	23,037	232,173	288,090



## THREE MONTHS ENDING JUNE—Continued.

Articles.	United States Canal.		Canadian Canal.		Total, both canals.	
	1915	1916	1915	1916	1915	1916
<b>WESTBOUND—continued.</b>						
General merchandise, short tons	247,848	306,074	78,421	90,812	326,269	396,886
Passengers.....number..	2,401	1,787	1,945	2,966	4,346	4,733
<b>Total freight:</b>						
Eastbound, short tons	12,389,822	16,671,208	616,311	5,307,369	13,006,133	21,978,577
Westbound, short tons	3,949,745	5,104,054	188,256	386,676	4,138,001	5,490,730
Both ways, short tons	16,339,567	21,775,262	804,567	5,694,045	17,144,134	27,469,307
Vessel passengers.....number..	4,486	5,616	1,090	1,981	5,576	7,597
Registered tonnage.....net..	12,293,202	17,153,263	1,518,090	4,372,104	13,811,292	21,525,367

The United States canal was opened on April 17, 1915, and on April 20, 1916. The Canadian canal was opened on April 13, 1915, and on April 18, 1916.

**PROFITS OF JAPANESE STEAMSHIP CO.**

The annual report of the Nippon Yusen Kaisha, transmitted by Vice Consul M. D. Kirjassoff, at Yokohama, announces net profits for the half year ended March 31, 1916, of 10,560,849 yen (\$5,259,303). The report continues:

The directors now propose that 480,712 yen (\$239,395) be added to the reserve fund and that 165,000 yen (\$82,200) be allowed as directors and auditors' fees, and 250,000 yen (\$124,500) for the employees as a special grant for their services in connection with the war. From the remainder the directors recommend a dividend at the rate of 8 per cent per annum, besides 2 per cent as special dividend and a further 10 per cent as extra special dividend, which three items together will absorb 2,635,600 yen (\$1,312,500), leaving a balance of 7,029,537 yen (\$3,500,710) to be carried forward to next account.

The large increase of earnings for the term under review is due to the abnormal condition of the shipping trade, consequent upon the great war. On the other hand, serious consideration should be given to the enormous risks which are being run by the company in operating its steamers during the war, and the competition on an unprecedented scale and business depression of a serious nature, which are sure to be experienced upon the restoration of peace. With these eventualities in view, and the end of the war being still far from sight, the directors deem it appropriate to carry the greater part of the profit to next account for suitable adjustment when an opportune time arrives.

**PLANS FOR CENSUS OF TRANSPORTATION BY WATER.**

The Bureau of the Census reports progress in the preliminary work for the census of transportation by water for the calendar year 1916. The Director of the Census and the Chief Statistician for Manufactures will meet with the American Steamship Association on July 18 to discuss this census and perfect arrangements to conduct it more rapidly and accurately than heretofore. This census will give full details of the facts concerning water transportation and industries related thereto.

**EUROPEAN MARKET SOUGHT FOR BRAZIL'S HARDWOODS.**

[Consul General Alfred L. M. Gottschalk, Rio de Janeiro, June 1.]

Dr. Affonso Costa, Director of the Bureau of Information of the Brazilian Ministry of Agriculture, recommends to the Government certain measures by which he thinks that it could develop the exports of Brazilian hardwoods to Italy, a country which finds Germany, Austria-Hungary, Switzerland, Finland, the Balkans, Sweden, and Russia, its old sources of supply, closed either because of being enemy territory or being unable to export largely on account of the war.

The Brazilian forests are of huge extent and traversed for the most part by inadequate channels of communication. The trees grow at irregular distances apart, so that it is quite impossible to assure the lumberman, even approximately, how many trees per acre or hectare he may fell. Dr. Costa recommends to the Government measures which are needed to increase the trade in hardwoods not only with Italy but with the rest of the world as well. Among these are:

1. To make the Brazilian hardwoods well known by advertising their merits and distributing samples abroad.
2. To decrease the freight rates now exacted by the Federal railroads of Brazil and by those subject to Federal control for the transportation of hardwoods from the forests to the centers of industry and the seaports.
3. To have the individual States of the Brazilian Republic take into account the necessity of profiting by this trade, and to induce them to decrease the State export taxes.
4. To strive to obtain from navigation companies favorable freight rates for the carrying abroad of lumber cargoes, a matter that should not be difficult in view of the need for return cargoes from Brazilian ports.

**Recommends Cooperation of Brazilian States.**

It is further recommended by Dr. Costa that the Federal Government use its influence with the Brazilian States of Parana, Rio de Janeiro, Bahia, and Espirito Santo, the chief seats of the business in native hardwoods, so that these States may cooperate to diminish the expense of production and transportation and avoid undue competition with each other.

The State of Bahia taxes exports of lumber at 20 per cent ad valorem, 10 per cent additional, 2 per cent for a statistical tax, and a few other additions, says Dr. Affonso Costa's report. In the State of Rio de Janeiro the tax is 15 per cent. Espirito Santo levies 4.50 to 13.40 milreis (about \$1.12 to \$3.35 U. S. currency) per ton on all exports of lumber, with a tax of 1 to 11.50 milreis per dozen on railroad ties. Parana charges 10 per cent on the official value of exported woods, plus an additional tax of 4 per cent.

Brazil's exports of hardwoods have varied in value since 1913 from approximately \$250,000 to \$500,000 United States currency in value, an insignificant amount when the natural wealth of the Brazilian forests is considered. The export figures, as given in the Official Gazette, with quantities in kilos of 2.2 pounds each and values in United States currency, are:

Kinds of woods.	1913		1914		1915	
	Quantities.	Values.	Quantities.	Values.	Quantities.	Values.
	<i>Kilos.</i>		<i>Kilos.</i>		<i>Kilos.</i>	
Acapu.....	6,886	\$986			452,085	\$7,101
Cedar.....	600	43			1,839,972	82,498
Rosewood.....	2,463,690	145,389	2,799,432	\$137,336	378,600	6,338
Massaranduba.....	104,542	3,669	24,000	706		
Pao Brazil.....					39,500	1,481
Pine (boards).....	414,900	219,630	297,258	154,173	1,217,132	399,755
Pine (planks).....					28,079	24,587
Sebastiao de Arruda.....	717,860	38,525	33,064	1,565		
Unspecified.....	2,298,837	44,668	2,322,334	60,375	1,480,929	15,011
	6,007,325		5,476,088		5,436,297	
Unspecified (pieces).....	10,935	124,300	5,121	29,960	485	4,473
		577,210		384,115		541,244

#### Wood Finds Particular Favor in France.

The wood known locally as sebastiao de arruda is exported from Bahia, chiefly to France, and is said to find particular favor there, as it is one of the easiest of all the hardwoods to work. A firm at Bahia does most of the shipping of this wood.

The American consulate general has been asked to find a purchaser in the United States for a tract of valuable timberland of large extent in the southern part of the State of Bahia, near the port where the first landing was made by Cabral, the discoverer.

[The name of the firm that exports wood from Bahia and the name of the New York representative of the owner of the timberland in Bahia which is for sale may be obtained from the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce or its district offices. Refer to file No. 77987. A previous report on Brazilian woods was published in COMMERCE REPORTS for Dec. 24, 1915.]

#### HOP MARKET OF TASMANIA.

[Consul W. A. Bickers, Hobart, June 2.]

Tasmania is the only State in Australia where hop growing has received any attention and its normal annual yield is about 1,600,000 pounds, which is about 60 per cent of the total consumption of hops in all Australia. This deficiency of 1,000,000 pounds annually is usually procured from England, the United States, and New Zealand, upon which imports there is a duty of 12 cents a pound. Under these conditions the growers in Tasmania have become accustomed to high prices for their hops and rarely have had to accept less than 30 cents per pound. The yield of hops this year was unusually heavy, being estimated at 2,000,000 pounds. This heavy yield, in conjunction with rather large imported stocks, had the effect of depressing the market to an extent never before experienced and prices rapidly fell from 30 cents to about 10 cents per pound, which quotation has been ruling for some time. As it costs between 15 and 20 cents per pound to get hops on the market here, this low price has been very hard upon growers and they are making strong efforts to prevent a recurrence of such a condition by inducing the Commonwealth Government to increase the import duty upon hops from 12 to 24 cents per pound, which would make it unprofitable for dealers to import hops beyond what is absolutely needed to supply the deficiency after the local crop is consumed.

**AMERICAN INTEREST IN CANADIAN ENTERPRISES.**

[Consul Edward A. Dow, St. Stephen, New Brunswick, June 13.]

**Capital Invested in Factories for Canning and Packing.**

A large proportion of the product of the fisheries of Charlotte County, in which St. Stephen is located, is either shipped to New England points in a fresh state or packed or canned at Canadian factories financed by American capital, and nearly all of the remainder goes to American factories like Eastport and Lubec, in Maine, for packing and canning. The condition of this county's fisheries, therefore, is of direct interest to American dealers.

Canadian authorities state that the value of the county's fisheries for April, 1916, was \$35,935, of which sardines represented \$21,584, lobsters \$8,582, and cod \$3,265. The county showed a production more than half that of the entire Province of New Brunswick, the latter's total value for the same period being given as \$67,580.

Scientific breeding is maintained by Dominion authorities. New stock is put not only in lakes and streams once well filled, but in waters hitherto barren of fish. There are now 65 Government hatcheries in Canada. They distributed during 1915 fish to the number of more than 1,600,000,000, an increase of more than 400,000,000, or about 34 per cent, over the previous year. This increase was largely in whitefish and lobsters, the latter coming in great part to New Brunswick and the other Maritime Provinces. Of the total distribution from the hatcheries, New Brunswick received 167,061,000, or more than 10 per cent. The hatcheries produced both commercial and sporting varieties.

An inventor connected with an American company which has a branch factory in this district is reported to have designed a machine for cutting and eviscerating herring preparatory to packing them.

**Building and Improving Water Systems.**

The Canadian Commission of Conservation has issued a new edition of a report on waterworks and sewerage systems in Canada. In 1867 Canada had only 7 waterworks systems; to-day there are 528. The total cost to date has been \$123,000,000, and the annual maintenance charge is \$4,500,000. The total daily consumption is more than 425,000,000 imperial gallons (510,000,000 United States gallons). About three-fifths of the plants get the supply from lakes or streams, and the remainder from springs or wells. Of these plants 396 are owned by the municipalities.

American engineers and contractors should have a fair chance to obtain some business in building and improving water systems in Canada. A Boston engineer planned the system installed in St. Stephen, some years ago, with excellent results. Water meters and similar articles of equipment are usually sent to the United States for repairs, and as evidence of a field for further business the new volume mentioned states that only 72 of the 528 plants have filtering systems, while meters are used partially in 141 cases and totally in only 20 plants.

**Opportunity for Sale of Municipal Supplies.**

The eleventh annual convention of the Union of New Brunswick Municipalities is to be held at St. Stephen on August 16 and 17, 1916. County and city officials will attend, and the usual discussions on

matters of local government are expected. Dealers in municipal supplies might interest such officials by sending representatives to the meeting. St. Stephen may be reached by overnight train service from Boston, either direct via New England lines and Canadian Pacific Railway or to the city of Calais, Me., directly opposite here, via Maine Central. American manufacturers desiring a list of officials or other information may address J. W. McCready, secretary of the union, Fredericton, New Brunswick.

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### VALUE OF JUTE PRODUCTION TO INDIA.

[Textile Mercury, of Manchester, England.]

Although jute provides one of the least of the staple crops, it is the most valuable in India. It has perhaps not received the attention it might have received, but efforts are now being made to extend the growth and improve the quality. The three pressing needs are said to be better cultivation, better transport, and unrestricted markets. Compared with rice, wheat, and cotton, the quantity of jute produced would appear to be insignificant. Usually about 75,000,000 acres of rice are sown annually, 32,000,000 acres of wheat, 26,000,000 of cotton, and only 3,000,000 acres of jute. But while jute is worth about 145 rupees per acre, the other values are: Rice, 52 rupees; wheat, 36 rupees; and cotton, 32 rupees. Hence it pays the farmer to devote as much land as he can to jute crops.

Besides being the most valuable crop per acre, jute also maintains a greater population per square mile. Jute districts in Bengal maintain a population of 580 to 1,066 per square mile; cotton growing varies in Bombay and the Central Provinces from 93 to 396, and wheat from 63 to 500. As a port Calcutta is very largely dependent upon jute.

It is felt by the cultivators that there will not be much encouragement to enlarge the area if prices remain as low as they have been during the past two or three years. The Indian Government now takes a closer interest in the industry; in fact, financially and industrially its support has never been stronger. Growers welcome the assistance. In jute production India has a valuable asset, and there is a desire not merely to maintain but also to increase this.

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### IRON INDUSTRY OF BRUNSWICK.

[Consul Talbot J. Albert, Brunswick, Germany, June 27.]

Since the outbreak of the war the demand for iron products has been so great that the industry in Brunswick district has been very prosperous. One of the greatest difficulties with which the manufacturer has had to contend is the scarcity of manganese, which is mostly imported. The ore used by the Ilseder Hütte, an iron foundry in this consular district near the city of Peine, is so rich in manganese that it is now shipped to other foundries in Germany as a substitute for the imported mineral. The demand has been so great that the greater part of the village of Adenstedt with its church has had to be demolished. The Ilseder Co. has just declared a dividend of 33½ per cent, which the annual report just published says was principally earned by the sale of this ore, as the sale of the manufactured products of the company has not been more than two-thirds of that in time of peace.

**YEAR'S RECORD IN TEXTILE INDUSTRY OF NETHERLANDS.**

[Extract from Gazette de Hollande, forwarded by American commercial attaché.]

The annual report for 1915 of the Enschede Chamber of Commerce, just published, deals with the textile industry of Holland. Despite the difficulties experienced throughout the year, the report says, the factories kept going, with a few temporary exceptions.

The weaving mills had to reduce their business for want of dyes. In some months of the year Germany allowed absolutely no dyes to pass, at other times only 50 to 75 per cent of the normal quantity. The necessary chemicals also were scarce. Spinning mills encountered great difficulties in obtaining their raw materials.

The chamber collected data as to the quantities of raw cotton normally consumed in the Netherlands. It appeared that Holland annually works 143,400 bales of 500 pounds each of American cotton, 16,500 bales of Indian cotton, and 60,000 bales of cotton by-products.

Some cotton brokers decided to send a representative to America with various orders to buy cotton. This proved to be a wise step and resulted in considerable imports into this country in November.

**Statistics of the Weaving Industry.**

The statistics of the weaving industry also show plainly the influence of the times, both as regards the exports and the home market. Sales for the year compare as follows with those of the year before:

Countries.	1914	1915
Netherlands India .....	\$4,396,600	\$3,966,500
Netherlands .....	4,966,400	7,024,900
Other countries .....	3,339,300	2,424,800
Total .....	12,702,300	13,416,200

It is seen from this list that sales in the Netherlands have increased considerably, while exports fell off. This increase was largely caused by the reduced productive capacity of foreign manufacturers. Further big orders were received for the Army, while the rise in prices did the rest. Imports of raw cotton for the manufacture of bleached and unbleached goods represented the following amounts:

From—	1913	1914	1915
Belgium .....	\$150,800	\$104,400	\$98,000
United Kingdom .....	4,802,800	3,222,400	1,892,400
Prussia .....	740,400	594,800	621,600
Other countries .....	29,600	16,400	93,600
Total .....	5,723,600	3,938,000	2,907,600

For dyed or printed cottons the corresponding figures were:

From—	1913	1914	1915
Belgium .....	\$595,600	\$410,000	\$382,800
United Kingdom .....	2,349,200	1,817,600	2,292,800
Prussia .....	2,168,800	1,748,400	1,600,400
Other countries .....	20,800	21,600	33,600
Total .....	5,134,400	3,997,600	4,309,600

**Netherlands India Showed Normal Demand.**

The position of the export trade was far from satisfactory for all countries save Netherlands India, which showed a normal demand and promises well for the current year. The British Indian markets proved a disappointment, and when by the end of the year there was some demand for prompt shipments the high cotton prices rendered transactions practically impossible. Exports to China were reduced to a minimum. Exports of printed cottons also remained far below the normal, which, so far as British India is concerned, was largely caused by the low rates of the pound sterling.

[An article presenting a discussion of Dutch textile industries as affected by the war was published in *COMMERCE REPORTS* for May 25, 1916.]

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**TOKYO LIGHTING COMPANY HAS SUCCESSFUL YEAR.**

[Extract from Japan Daily Mail, forwarded by Consul General George H. Scidmore, Yokohama, June 12.]

The Tokyo Electric Light Co. has decided on a dividend at the rate of 8 per cent per annum for the first half of the present year, as a result of a meeting held by the board on June 9, 1916. The president reported at the board meeting that the company had reaped extraordinarily good business results during the past term. The increase in receipts has been brought about, according to the president's report, principally by the temporary supply of power to the city electricity bureau when it was short of power on account of the breakdown of the Kinugawa Power Co. plant. Receipts from that sale of power were 200,000 yen (\$99,700). There was an increase in the general demand for light in the city, showing that the company can afford to reduce its lighting charges without much inconvenience.

The board carries forward almost the whole of the increased profit to the next term, together with the usual balance, which also is large enough to prove the fact that the business is very profitable. During the last term, 65,000 additional lamps were newly installed.

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**ECUADOR ESTABLISHES A COURSE IN AGRICULTURE.**

[Consul General Frederic W. Goding, Guayaquil, June 16.]

An earnest effort on the part of the intelligent and progressive element in Ecuador has resulted in the adoption of the following resolution by the council of public instruction:

Considering that the study of agriculture is of great importance, especially in Ecuador; and that the council so considered it last year when they received the petitions from the faculty of science and the Agricultural Society advocating the establishment of an agricultural class at the Central University, it is resolved:

- 1st. For the present to establish an agricultural class connected with the faculty of science.
- 2d. The professor shall be immediately appointed for this course and shall submit to the superior council of public instruction for their study and approval the course of study, the requirements necessary for the students, the list of elements indispensable for the teaching of agriculture, and the projects for the development of this course to be submitted to the next Congress.
- 3d. The professor of agriculture shall direct and edit an official bulletin to encourage the study of agriculture.
- 4th. This resolution shall be transmitted to the faculty of science of the Central University.

**ECUADOR DEVELOPING OIL INDUSTRY.**

[Consul General Frederic W. Godiag, Guayaquil, June 5.]

The development of the petroleum deposits of Peru has directed attention to those at other points on the west coast of South America, and the Ecuadorean oil fields have been studied in recent years by promoters and engineers. Bituminous seams bearing small quantities of petroleum occur in various places in the northern Provinces of Ecuador, where several claims have been located. The seepage there has been utilized by the Indians for cooking their food.

Petroleum is said to exist in marketable quantities in the Province of El Oro near Santa Rosa, not far from the oil fields of Peru. The district comprises an extensive portion of the flat lands of the Province, which is intersected by a number of streams navigable for vessels of considerable draft, with an abundance of growing timber in the neighboring mountains available for construction purposes.

**Known Deposits Located in Desert Peninsula.**

The known deposits, where outflows are frequently found, occur in the desert peninsula, near the port of Santa Elena, extending from Puntilla, the most western point of Ecuador, eastward at least to the town of San Vicente. This oil field is 90 miles southwest from Guayaquil and 740 miles from Panama. There are telephone and telegraph services, and a good automobile road between the former city and the oil field. The surface of the country is nearly level, with minor undulations, and slightly inclined toward the sea.

In this district the layer containing the petroleum, known by its black color, is blue shale of unknown thickness, superficial at some points, and elsewhere covered with marine debris; is very spongy and rests on a base of impermeable sandstone which prevents much filtration, although it is impregnated with oil. It is nearly horizontal, of variable thickness, about 3 feet at the center, and covers an area extending 6 miles north and south and about 20 miles inland. The presence of a small oil fountain, together with considerable gas, would indicate that deep drilling would produce flowing wells.

Prior to the arrival of the Spaniards on these shores the Indians utilized the product, hardened by exposure, in water proofing their water jars and other utensils. Since then it has been employed for calking the seams of coasting vessels.

The present method of collecting the oil is to excavate holes 10 by 10 feet square from 10 to 50 feet down to the impermeable sandstone; by seepage there is an annual yield of about 25,000 barrels. The output is limited to local demand. The wells produce from three months to three years.

**Deposits Similar to Those at Lobitos and Negritos.**

In 1910 a well had been sunk to about 150 feet and another in 1913 to a similar depth, passing through several small veins of oil and strong gas, while a third of 1,250 feet was nearly ready to begin operations, work with them being discontinued on account of lack of funds. Judging from the depths at which oil is found in the adjacent Lobitos field of Peru, it is believed that oil in commercial quantities will be reached here at about 1,000 feet. The deposits are similar to those at Lobitos and Negritos, which have yielded



about 70,000 tons annually for some years. The latter has been a steady producer for more than 30 years.

Drilling, including casing, costs about \$7.50 per foot to a depth of 1,500 feet, and about \$10 per foot to 2,500 feet. There is an abundance of native labor costing 50 to 75 cents per day; the drillers and mechanics must be brought from the exterior, with wages from \$100 to \$150 a month.

The petroleum produced in Ecuador near the surface has lost some of its volatile constituents, as a result of the method of collecting it. An attempt was made at Santa Elena to refine it, but was later abandoned. A small plant situated at the beach near there treats limited quantities for the asphalt only, no effort being made to save the lighter oils. An analysis made in London gave the following results, the specific gravity at 60° F. being 0.8798:

Distillation.	Percentage distilled over.	Specific gravity.	Distillation.	Percentage distilled over.	Specific gravity.
Below 150 C.....	2.85	0.778	250 to 270 C.....	9.01	0.864
150 to 200 C.....	13.37	.797	270 to 320 C.....	8.72	.873
200 to 250 C.....	17.49	.839			

#### Industries Making Use of Ecuadorean Petroleum.

The Ecuadorean petroleum is now used for fuel at the local brewery and the electric light plant, where about 25,000 barrels are burned each year. It is much more economical than wood or coal. The Guayaquil & Quito Railway requires about 32,000 tons of coal each year, at an average cost of \$10 per ton. One-third of each train is composed of cars loaded with coal for consumption by the locomotive; and as one ton of oil is equivalent to two tons of coal for producing steam, it is evident that with the same traction power used, much more freight can be handled. The price of crude petroleum at Guayaquil at present is \$12 per ton for the native product. On account of the great saving in the cost of traction to this corporation, its officials have decided to change the locomotives from coal to oil burners. A pumping and storing plant at Duran, with tanks at various division terminals, and tank cars, have been decided upon at a cost of \$75,000.

A number of other industries in Ecuador would use crude oil for fuel if the supply was sufficient and constant. In the near future the river steamers, gas works, pumping stations, and various local factories will use oil fuel exclusively for economical reasons. It is doubtful, however, if large refining plants will be erected in Ecuador unless American interests do so as a part of their systems.

Gas from the local petroleum is now being manufactured on a small scale at the local gas works, the yield being 1,000 cubic feet to the ton, as against 300 cubic feet from coal. The gas company is planning to provide for an increased use of the oil.

#### Exemption from Fiscal and Municipal Duties and Taxes.

Recently a law was promulgated here exempting from all fiscal and municipal duties and taxes the production and exportation of petroleum and its derivatives for a period of 20 years. Some mineral tar is exported each year.

The import duty on crude petroleum and kerosene, as given in the tariff list, class 7, is 5 centavos (nearly 2½ cents), and on gasoline, class 3, it is 1 centavo (nearly ½ cent) per kilo, g. w., with 125.5 per cent surcharges. The properties are freehold subject to the payment of an annual tax of 8 sucres (\$3.85) per 20 hectares, equivalent to about 6.5 cents per acre.

The imports of petroleum into Ecuador during the past five years were:

Countries.	Crude.	Gasoline.	Kerosene.
1911.	<i>Pounds.</i>	<i>Pounds.</i>	<i>Pounds.</i>
Peru .....	593,043	693,708	20,688
United States .....		400,325	4,215,551
All others .....		688	99,004
Total .....	593,043	1,354,811	4,335,243
1912.			
Peru .....	793,664	1,001,395	85,517
United States .....		131,208	5,451,788
All others .....		176	188
Total .....	793,664	1,132,779	5,537,493
1913.			
Peru .....		1,684,133	4,178
United States .....		43,041	3,903,096
All others .....			62,242
Total .....		1,727,174	3,969,506
1914.			
Peru .....		1,495,558	6,554
United States .....		30,794	4,790,373
All others .....		549	139
Total .....		1,526,901	4,797,066
1915. <sup>a</sup>			
Peru .....		1,745,918	1,323
United States .....	15,840	20,029	4,743,917
All others .....	20,709		
Total .....	36,609	1,765,947	4,745,240

<sup>a</sup> Returns not yet received from a few small ports.

During the period covered, the importation of crude petroleum has nearly ceased, while the source of gasoline has been practically transferred from the United States to Peru, and the United States has absorbed the entire trade in kerosene. American concerns have large interests in the Peruvian oil field and use that source of supply when such a course seems best.

The Ecuadorean oil-bearing properties are owned and controlled by local syndicates, but the proprietors are endeavoring to interest American capitalists in the development of the industry, with prospects of ultimate success.

### Imports into the Union of South Africa.

Vice Consul John W. Dye, at Cape Town, South Africa, reports that the imports into the Union of South Africa during May, 1916, were valued at \$17,580,411, compared with \$17,669,303 for the preceding month. These totals show a large increase over the same months of 1915. The port of Durban leads, with imports valued at \$5,982,486 for May and \$5,988,574 for April.

**WOODWORKING MACHINERY IN THE NETHERLANDS.**

[Consul Frank W. Mahlin, Amsterdam, Apr. 22.]

The sawmill and woodworking machinery used in Amsterdam and vicinity has usually been obtained from England, Sweden, and Germany, though the war has changed conditions somewhat. In saws, the preference is evidently for circular and solid tooth. The bandsaw machinery on sale is of two general classes—upright and horizontal. Gangsaws are used to some extent. Many other varieties of woodworking machinery are in use.

Before the war, conditions were not considered favorable for the sale of American-made machinery. Reasons given were: The market was too small; the distance from the United States was too great; extra parts for repairs and improvements could not be supplied quickly when desired, and the field was not large enough to warrant carrying full stocks for such purposes; American sawmills cut less economically than European, as wood was plentiful in the United States and machines were made large and fast, sacrificing wood to save time.

**Prejudice Against Light Construction.**

There was a prejudice against the alleged lightness of construction of American machines, and the complaint was heard that American makers refused to send samples of their machines, and they could not be bought from catalogues; that American machines were not on exhibition in public sample rooms as other makes are; that the American system was absolute sale, while the preference here was for consignments.

Machinery sales are usually made through general agents, who buy and sell on their own account, without commission. They have the agency for the whole country, usually including the colonies. Some German agencies have also had the Netherlands in their territory, and generally whatever American woodworking machinery is used has come through them. The usual credit is three months, by note, with security when deemed necessary. Generally  $2\frac{1}{2}$  per cent discount is allowed for cash.

**Dutch Importers Turning to United States.**

The war has had the effect of practically eliminating the belligerent countries as present sources of machinery supplies for the Netherlands. This may in some measure offset the objections to importing from the United States. The opportunity is certainly more favorable than before the war for woodworking machinery. All Dutch importers are turning to the United States for supplies which they formerly received from countries now at war.

Besides noting the objections mentioned, and the usual terms of sales here, it is desirable to quote prices in Dutch currency, c. i. f. Amsterdam or Rotterdam, when sale is proposed. Freight rates may be learned from the American offices of the Holland-American Line.

[A list of the users of woodworking machinery in the Amsterdam consular district may be obtained from the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce or its district offices. Refer to file No. 76244.]

**METHODS FOR EFFECTIVE WOOL SCOURING.**

[Extract from Yorkshire Observer, forwarded by American consulate, Bradford, England.]

The materials used in wool scouring need some consideration, as upon their effective and skillful use the success and economy of scouring depend. Water, soap, and alkali are the agents employed for cleansing wool. The quality of water is of the utmost importance, as water is used for getting the other substances into solution, as a vehicle for carrying them to the wool, and also for washing away the impurities. The most common impurities in water are salts of lime and magnesium. Carbonates of these bases are soluble in water which contains carbonic acid, and sulphates as well as chlorides of the same bases are of frequent occurrence in water. The presence of these salts causes hardness in varying degrees according to the quantity present.

The basis of water testing for hardness is the "number of grains of  $\text{CaCO}_3$  per gallon," carbonates, sulphates, and chlorides both of magnesium and calcium being reduced to this base in expressing hardness. Waters containing less than 5 degrees of hardness are termed "soft," and those above 5 degrees are termed "hard." Waters containing these salts have a destructive action on soap, because the fatty acids in soap readily combine with calcium and magnesium, producing insoluble soaps of no value in scouring. They are difficult to get rid of when once they are formed, and may easily be the source of a number of defects in later processes. The destructive action of calcium and magnesium salts will be fully realized when it is appreciated that water of 1 degree hardness will destroy one ounce of soap per 44 gallons, approximate. In other words, soap is destroyed according to the degree of hardness of the water, and insoluble soaps are produced in the same proportion. It is, therefore, obvious that measures should be considered for preventing the waste of soap, and at the same time obviating to some extent the production of defects later.

**Both Hard and Soft Soaps Employed.**

Hard and soft soaps are both employed. The former is said to have a deleterious effect compared with soft soap. It is claimed by some that the potash in the soap, being similar to the larger mineral constituent of the wool yolk, is an indication that it is more suitable than hard soap. The fact that glycerin is present in the soft soap has also been offered as an explanation. Another is that soft soap is more soluble and consequently its cleansing properties are greater, yet at the same time it has not that keen, harsh effect on wool produced by the soda base in hard soap.

The alkalies most largely employed are the carbonates of potash and soda. The former is generally preferred. Good quality alkalies of guaranteed purity should always be employed in scouring wool. Lower grade alkalies contain more or less caustic alkali. This has a very destructive action even in weak and hot solutions. It makes the wool rough and harsh and impairs its luster and "handle." Soaps and alkalies should always be tested for composition and particularly for the amount of caustic alkali present. The tests are not difficult to make, and the information obtained will enable the scouring to be better controlled.

Soap and alkali should be skillfully employed. Soap may be employed in all the bowls of a set in diminishing quantities; in some cases the last bowl of a four-bowl set of machines may have only about 6 or 7 per cent of the weight of soap in the first bowl. Alkali generally is used in the first two bowls, the quantity in the second being considerably less than in the first. This is due to the fact that the wool is less subject to the action of alkali in the first bowl, owing to its coating of yolk, etc., but when this is removed the alkali needs to be much reduced in quantity to avoid damaging the wool.

### AMERICAN CONSULAR OFFICERS ON LEAVE OF ABSENCE.

The following American consular officers are on leave of absence in the United States and will be glad to confer with business men and commercial organizations relative to conditions in their respective jurisdictions. The consul's time is available primarily for personal interviews. He has limited facilities for correspondence, and except in urgent cases letters should be directed to the consulate.

Name.	Post.	Expiration of venue.	Address.
West, George N. ....	Kobé, Japan .....	Aug. 15	Department of State, Washington, D. C.
Cooke, A. B. ....	Patras, Greece .....	Aug. 10	121 West Charlotte Street, Norfolk, Va.
Hale, F. D. ....	Huddersfield, England .....		Lunenburg, Vt.
Fisher, Fred D. ....	Tientsin, China .....	Aug. 5	Albany, Oreg.
Masterson, William W. ....	Durban, Natal, South Africa .....	Sept. 1	Carrollton, Ky.
Seltzer, Harry G. ....	Breslau, Germany .....		Gibraltar, Pa.
Baker, E. Carlton .....	Nagasaki, Japan .....	Aug. 30	Apartment No. 75, The Brunswick, Washington, D. C.

### COTTON-GOODS OPPORTUNITY IN SOUTH AFRICA.

Consul General Murphy, stationed at Cape Town, South Africa, has transmitted a letter received from a business man formerly connected with the American consular service in South Africa, from which the following extract is taken:

Several trial orders of American cotton goods have been placed by an important firm of manufacturers' agents in South Africa. If American cotton mills have the foresight to make the comparatively slight changes absolutely necessary to capture the native trade in cotton goods, and to do this with the utmost promptness before the former sources of supply now cut off are reopened, a very large volume of business may result. If this opportunity is passed by and the time frittered away in useless efforts to make the native alter his tastes and preferences to meet the weights, sizes, and patterns standardized by many American manufacturers, the chance is not likely to recur.

### District Offices of the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce.

New York, Room 409 United States Customhouse; Boston, eighteenth floor United States Customhouse; Chicago, 504 Federal Building; St. Louis, 402 Third National Bank Building; Atlanta, 521 Post Office Building; New Orleans, 1020 Hibernia Bank Building; San Francisco, 308 United States Customhouse; Seattle, 848 Henry Building. Cooperative district offices: Cleveland, Chamber of Commerce; Cincinnati, Chamber of Commerce; Asst. Gen'l Frt. Agt., C. N. O. & T. P. Ry. Co., Cincinnati; Los Angeles, Chamber of Commerce; Detroit, Board of Commerce; Philadelphia, Chamber of Commerce; South American Agent, Southern Ry. Co., Chattanooga, Tenn.

### FOREIGN TRADE OPPORTUNITIES.

Reserved addresses may be obtained from the Bureau and its district offices. Request for each opportunity should be on a separate sheet and state opportunity number. The Bureau does not furnish credit ratings or assume responsibility as to the standing of foreign inquirers; the usual precautions should be taken in all cases.

*Machinery, etc.*, No. 21821.—The purchasing agent of a Far Eastern trading company, with headquarters in the Netherlands, who is now in the United States, informs the Bureau that he contemplates a trip to Europe, and possibly to the Far East, and desires to form business connections with American manufacturers interested in extending their trade in those territories. He is interested in machinery for the textile industry, and iron and wood working machinery, such as lathes, planers, cutters, drills, presses, etc.

*Cotton piece goods and yarns*, No. 21822.—A commercial agent of the Bureau writes that a firm in the Orient is in the market for colored cotton yarns and cotton piece goods. Annual requirements of yarn 10,000 bales of one hundred 5-pound bundles to the bale. Samples and further information may be obtained from the Bureau or its district offices. (Refer to file No. 948.)

*Steel*, No. 21823.—An export commission agency in the United States wishes to secure for one of its clients in the Orient steel suitable for enameling and sufficiently soft to be stamped into various shapes of household utensils. The thicknesses desired are gauges Nos. 26, 28, 29, and 30. Requirements 20 to 50 tons monthly. References given.

*Office supplies, drugs, etc.*, No. 21824.—The Bureau is informed that a firm in Chile wishes to be placed in touch with American manufacturers and exporters of equipment for clubs and bars, hardware, tools, stationery, office supplies, notions, drugs, and alcoholic liquors.

*Machinery*, No. 21825.—A firm in Cuba requests the Bureau to place it in touch with manufacturers of machinery for extracting the oil from the ricinus, or castor-oil plant.

*Thermometers, hardware, etc.*, No. 21826.—A manufacturer's agent in the United Kingdom wishes to enter into commercial relations with manufacturers of garden and bath thermometers, household and floating dairy thermometers. He also desires to represent manufacturers of kitchen utensils, hardware, domestic woodenware, cutlery, novelties, etc. Pages from illustrated catalogues showing class of goods now handled may be inspected at the Bureau or its district offices. (Refer to Miscel. No. 138.)

*Portable houses*, No. 21827.—The commercial attaché of the Department of Commerce in France writes that a man in that country wishes to represent American manufacturers of portable houses.

*Machinery*, No. 21828.—The commercial attaché of the Department of Commerce in Brazil writes that a match manufacturer desires to receive catalogues and quotations on machinery for making wooden matches, particularly machines for drying and polishing the splints after they have been cut. Correspondence may be in English.

*Oil*, No. 21829.—A trading company in Australia desires to represent an American oil company located on the Atlantic seaboard or on the Gulf of Mexico, according to a report received from a commercial attaché of the Department of Commerce. Reference is given.

*Wearing apparel, toilet articles, etc.*, No. 21830.—A firm in the Philippine Islands requests the Bureau to place it in touch with manufacturers and exporters of shoes, hats, hosiery and neckwear, hardware, razors and notions, perfumes, soaps and toilet articles, dry goods, cotton textiles, and gold and silver plated jewelry. Medium priced goods suitable for the Philippine and Oriental trade are desired. References given.

*Turbines and motors*, No. 21831.—The Bureau is in receipt of a letter from an importer and manufacturers' agent in Spain requesting it to place him in touch with manufacturers of steam and water turbines, and gasoline, gas, and crude oil motors. References given.

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Washington, D. C., Monday, July 17

1916

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## DUTY ON ALCOHOL IN FRANCE.

[Cablegram from American Consul General, Paris, July 12.]

A French decree of July 11 provides that the duty on alcohol to be denatured shall be 80 francs per hectoliter. Alcohol, for which the contract was made before April 6 and for which the importer's declaration was filed at the Ministry of Commerce prior to June 2, is to be admitted at the reduced rate of 300 francs per hectoliter, if imported before January 1, 1917. [The rates quoted are those of the French general tariff, which are applicable to alcohol imported from the United States. A notice regarding the prohibitive rates imposed on alcohol by the decree of June 24, 1916, was published in **COMMERCE REPORTS** for June 30, 1916.]

## BARCELONA INCREASES ITS PORT CHARGES.

[Consul General Carl Bailey Hurst, Barcelona, Spain, May 27.]

The Board of Harbor Works of Barcelona announces that owing to the continued rise in the cost of maintaining the local floating dock and tugboats that the hitherto prevailing port charges will be increased on and after June 1, 1916, by 22 per cent for vessels up to 1,000 tons displacement and 14 per cent for vessels of 1,000 tons displacement and above; 25 per cent extra will be charged for towing in addition to the existing tariff.

## American Correspondents of Brazilian Banks.

In order to facilitate the exchange of credit information between Brazilian and American firms Consul General A. L. M. Gottschalk, of Rio de Janeiro, has compiled a list of the banks in that southern capital, with their New York correspondents where such connections exist. This list may be had upon application to the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce or its district offices; ask for file No. 78136.

**CORPORATIONS MAY OWN LAND IN HAITI.**

[Special Agent Garrard Harris, June 15.]

The Council of State of 21 members, created by the President of Haiti from among the progressive public men of the country upon the dissolution of the Congress in April, has reached a conclusion upon the matter of Article VI of the constitution. The chief duty of the council, which has been in session continuously since Congress was dissolved, has been the revision of the constitution and the recommendation of legislation to the next Congress, which will convene about the last of August or the beginning of September. The recommendation of the Council of State will undoubtedly be sanctioned by the new Congress.

Section 6 of the constitution is an inheritance from the first charter of Government evolved by the Haitians more than 100 years ago. The present constitution was adopted in 1889. In brief, the section provides that no foreigner shall own land in Haiti.

The decision of the Council of State maintains that time-honored principle as to individuals. Even the proposal to allow foreigners five years resident in the country to acquire land, or permitting those who had married Haitian women to become landowners, was voted down overwhelmingly in the Council; but the section was so amended as to allow foreign corporations, formed for the purpose of agriculture, mining, manufacturing, or allied industries, to acquire such lands as may be necessary for their purposes and to hold the title to same and to transfer same, but not to individuals.

**Provisions Likely to Be Adopted.**

The details of legislation making provision for carrying out this constitutional concession will be attended to by the next National Congress. The requirements will probably be that any corporation formed for any of the above-mentioned purposes will be required to present its evidences of due creation, corporation, and organization, by way of certified copies, to the Department of State of Haiti, accompanied by a petition or application to be listed and recognized for business in the Republic, such application to be accompanied by such registration or other fees as may be required by law. The application will then be considered by the State Department and the legal department, and if the organization is bona fide and its object of probable benefit to the country, it will be admitted for business and permission be extended to acquire and utilize such lands as may be necessary. The corporation can alienate lands to other corporations, but not to individuals.

This concession is believed to be sufficient, as it is hardly likely that individuals would care to reside in the country or to own land except for the purposes of business, and this can be handled through the medium of a corporation. It is hardly possible that section 6 will be given a further modification than that mentioned.

**Cause of Laws Forbidding Alien Ownership.**

More than a hundred years ago, when the Haitians achieved their independence, they placed an inhibition against foreigners living in the country or owning any land there. This was modified somewhat and foreigners were admitted finally, but not as landowners. For-



eigners came in, and some of them acquired land by taking title in the name of a Haitian citizen and then having that citizen execute a mortgage for far more than the land was worth.

In support of the antilandowning feature it is argued that Haiti is a small country; it has nearly 2,000,000 people now, and in 20 years the question of overcrowding will become a live one. It is believed that not allowing foreigners to acquire the land will prevent large tracts from falling into the hands either of speculators, or of absentee landlords who might oppress the people, or who might withdraw it from settlement or cultivation, and thus make more difficult the proposition of furnishing small holdings for the natives. It is the desire of the leaders of the country that it shall be a nation of small landowners and home owners. The fertility of the soil and the climate make it possible by intensive and intelligent cultivation to grow an astounding amount of produce on a small area. Some of the far-sighted men of the country see that by thus preserving the land in reach of the poor people, the question of overcrowding will not be one to vex the governing powers inside of 50 years or more.

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### CENSUS OF MANUFACTURE OF PAINTS AND VARNISHES.

A report on the paint and varnish industry of the country by the United States Bureau of the Census shows that the number of establishments was smaller in 1914 than it was in 1909, but that the output for the latest census year was 16.9 per cent greater in value than that of 1909. The paint industry embraces the manufacture of colors or pigments in dry form as well as in paste form and already mixed for use, and under varnishes there are included japans, dryers, and lacquers.

Reports were received from 855 establishments engaged in the industry in 1914, the total products of which for the year were valued at \$149,049,820. In 618 establishments, with a total paint and varnish output valued at \$113,953,084, a greater value of paints than of varnishes was produced; and in the remaining 237 establishments, with a total output of \$35,096,736, the value of varnishes produced was greater than that of paints.

The products in 1914 comprised colors or pigments valued at \$17,407,955; oil paints, \$70,582,461; water paints and kalsomine, \$2,202,281; varnishes and japans, \$36,061,203; fillers, including putty, \$3,239,174; bleached shellac, \$1,806,802; and other products to the value of \$17,749,944.

At the census of 1909 there were reported 863 establishments, with products valued at \$127,472,819.

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### INSPECTION OF PASSENGER VESSELS.

The Bureau of Navigation, Department of Commerce, reports that during the first week in July in the case of 65 vessels involving 66,900 passengers the navigation inspectors stopped the embarking of an excessive number of passengers over and above the lawful limit provided for the vessels concerned. These incidents took place in Baltimore, Boston, Buffalo, Chicago, Cleveland, Detroit, Indianapolis, Duluth, Louisville, Rochester, and Providence.

**NEWFOUNDLAND'S INTEREST IN SPORTING GOODS.**

[Consul James S. Benedict, St. John's, June 2.]

Fishing rods and tackle and all kinds of sporting and athletic goods are on sale in various shops throughout Newfoundland. Previous to the war, a large proportion of these goods was imported from England, and some from Germany, but since the outbreak of hostilities merchants have been looking to the United States to supply the demand. Most of the athletic goods displayed in the shops are of the higher grade, but it is probable that cheaper lines, to meet the requirements of the boys and girls, could be introduced to advantage.

Athletic sports of all kinds, together with hunting and fishing, are popular in this country. Quantities of salmon are taken in the bays and rivers practically all around the Newfoundland coast. These run in weight from 5 to 25 pounds, and are of an excellent quality. Fine trout are caught in the numerous lakes and rivers, including several lake varieties and sea trout, the latter running from  $\frac{1}{2}$  to 5 pounds in weight. The sea trout are found in the mouths of rivers during May and June; in July and August, in immense numbers, they seek deep pools far up the river, remaining there until late in the fall.

**Features of Value to Hunters and Fishermen.**

The sea trout, next to the salmon, is the gamiest fish, and is found in large numbers between Port aux Basques and Placentia, on the south coast; at Gambo, North Harbor, and in many of the rivers on the northeast and west coasts, and also at Battle Harbor, and in various bays and rivers of Labrador.

The ouananiche may be taken from many of the lakes, but it is said that the best place is at the head of Gambo River and Terra Nova Lake. The tuna also comes to the coast of Newfoundland to feed upon the herring, abundant at all seasons.

The grouse, partridge, black bear, caribou, deer, fox, hare, and rabbit are hunted here.

St. John's has fine athletic grounds, baseball, tennis, football, and golf being the principal sports. Other towns in Newfoundland also have athletic grounds. There is a rifle club in St. John's with excellent ranges for target practice.

Up to four years ago baseball was not played to any extent in this Colony, but through the efforts of several Americans and Canadians it has developed into a leading sport to such an extent that a baseball league has materialized and clubs have been organized in several towns elsewhere on the island. This game, as in the United States and Canada, is played by boys wherever there is a vacant lot.

There are several dealers in fishing tackle and athletic goods in St. John's. These firms probably would be able to supply the demand of the outport merchants and individuals, as some of them have branch establishments, and all have traveling salesmen who visit various towns of the island.

[A list of the firms mentioned may be obtained from the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce or its district offices. Refer to file No. 77240.]

### PROGRESS OF AMERICAN SHIPBUILDING.

Steel merchant vessels building or under contract to be built in private American shipyards at the beginning of the new fiscal year, July 1, 1916, according to builders' returns to the Bureau of Navigation, Department of Commerce, numbered 385 of 1,225,784 gross tons. Since the publication of the statement for June 1 (COMMERCE REPORTS No. 143, June 19, 1916, p. 1064) the Senate Naval Committee on June 30 reported the naval appropriation bill, now under discussion in the Senate. The bill provides the largest naval building program in our history. The new battleships, battle cruisers, scout cruisers, and other types of warships and auxiliaries number 157 of approximately 855,000 tons displacement, to be built at an estimated cost of \$588,000,000. Of these 66 of about 382,000 tons displacement are to be begun as soon as practicable, and the remainder before July 1, 1919. For comparison on June 30, 1914, British shipyards were building 90 war ships of 592,545 tons displacement, of which 76 of 458,175 tons displacement were building at private yards.

#### Growth During Twelve Months.

The usual growth of steel merchant shipbuilding in the United States during the past 12 months is shown by the following summary of (a) steel merchant ships building or under contract to be built in private American shipyards on July 1, 1915, and on July 1, 1916, and on the first day of the past five months, (b) new contracts for steel merchant ships entered into during the past five months, and (c) steel merchant ships built in the United States and officially numbered during those months.

Period.	Built or under contract.		New contracts.		Vessels completed.	
	Number.	Gross tons.	Number.	Gross tons.	Number.	Gross tons.
July 1, 1915.....	76	310,089				
Feb. 1, 1916.....	230	901,371	20	61,138	6	31,329
Mar. 1, 1916.....	244	945,798	107	151,296	5	23,394
Apr. 1, 1916.....	360	1,067,856	20	51,011	6	12,915
May 1, 1916.....	368	1,129,014	20	81,470	13	53,840
June 1, 1916.....	372	1,147,534	39	114,530	10	39,940
July 1, 1916.....	385	1,225,784				
Total.....			206	459,443	40	161,418

For comparison, on March 31, 1916, private shipyards in the United Kingdom had under actual construction 423 steel merchant ships of 1,423,335 gross tons. As British shipyards are almost wholly engaged in naval construction and the manufacture of war munitions for the allies, merchant ship construction is slow, and during the first three months of 1916, only 67 steel steamers of 80,161 gross tons were launched. For further comparison, the entire world during the calendar year 1915, according to Lloyd's Register, launched 743 merchant ships of 1,201,638 gross tons, of which 84 of 177,460 gross tons were launched in the United States.

#### Two Years' Work.

The following table shows first the distribution of steel merchant shipbuilding among the private shipyards of the United States and,

separately, the number and gross tonnage of the ships building or under contract which the builders expect to launch during the current fiscal year, ending June 30, 1917, and those which will not be launched before the fiscal year ending June 30, 1918. These dates are subject to the usual allowances for delays due to the several causes which affect steel industries. The urgency of the naval construction program may also prove a factor in the situation. Barring delays builders expect to launch 327 steel ships of 927,893 gross tons during the current fiscal year and 58 ships of 297,891 gross tons during the following fiscal year.

Shipyards.	Merchant construction, July 1, 1916.		To be launched during fiscal year ending—			
			June 30, 1917.		June 30, 1918.	
	Num- ber.	Gross tons.	Num- ber.	Gross tons.	Num- ber.	Gross tons.
American Bridge Co., Ambridge, Pa., and Trenton, N. J. <sup>a</sup>	105	49,394	105	49,394		
American Shipbuilding Co., Cleveland, Ohio	23	82,200	18	56,800	5	26,400
Baltimore Dry Docks & Shipbuilding Co., Baltimore, Md.	7	24,509	7	24,500		
Bath Iron Works, Bath, Me.	3	1,600	3	1,600		
Charles Barnes Co., Cincinnati, Ohio	2	375	2	375		
Chester Shipbuilding Co., Chester, Pa.	11	53,600	11	53,600		
Clinton Shipbuilding & Repair Co., Phila- delphia, Pa.	1	560	1	560		
Cowles Shipyards Co., Buffalo, N. Y.	2	56	2	56		
Ellicott Machine Corporation, Baltimore, Md.	2	500	2	500		
Fore River Shipbuilding Corporation, Quincy, Mass.	12	76,400	9	54,944	3	21,456
George Lawley & Sons Corporation, Nepon- set, Mass.	1	75	1	75		
Great Lakes Engineering Works, Detroit, Mich.	15	58,940	11	43,830	4	15,110
Great Lakes Towing Co., Cleveland, Ohio	4	360	4	360		
Harlan & Hollingsworth Corporation, Wil- mington, Del.	15	63,969	9	40,144	6	23,815
Howard Shipyards Co., Jeffersonville, Ind.	6	3,400	6	3,400		
James Rees & Sons Co., Pittsburgh, Pa.	1	300	1	300		
Manitowoc Shipbuilding & Dry Dock Co., Manitowoc, Wis.	8	10,700	6	6,200	2	4,500
Maryland Steel Co., Sparrows Point, Md.	10	58,705	8	47,546	2	11,159
Merrill-Stevens Co., Jacksonville, Fla.	4	2,500	4	2,500		
Moore & Scott Iron Works, Oakland, Cal.	5	18,000	2	10,000	3	8,000
Newport News Shipbuilding & Dry Dock Co., Newport News, Va.	16	111,947	10	66,699	6	45,248
New York Shipbuilding Co., Camden, N. J.	24	121,538	18	79,835	6	41,703
Pusey & Jones Co., Wilmington, Del.	16	12,906	10	3,386	6	9,600
Seattle Construction & Dry Dock Co., Seat- tle, Wash.	7	42,600	5	30,300	2	12,300
Skinner & Eddy Corporation, Seattle, Wash.	6	35,720	6	35,720		
Spedden Shipbuilding Co., Baltimore, Md.	3	730	3	730		
Standard Shipbuilding Corporation, New York, N. Y.	6	28,800	4	19,200	2	9,600
Staten Island Shipbuilding Co., Port Rich- mond, N. Y.	5	5,241	5	5,241		
Tampa Foundry & Machine Co., Tampa, Fla.	1	2,000	1	2,000		
Tank-Ship Building Corporation, New- burgh, N. Y.	3	1,500	3	1,500		
Texas Steamship Co., Bath, Me.	4	26,000	2	12,000	2	14,000
Toledo Shipbuilding Co., Toledo, Ohio	9	22,620	6	17,230	3	8,400
Union Iron Works Co., San Francisco, Cal.	31	201,153	25	149,953	6	51,200
Willamette Iron & Steel Works & North- west Steel Co., Portland, Ore.	5	28,500	5	28,500		
Wm. Cramp & Sons Ship & Engine Build- ing Co., Philadelphia, Pa.	12	78,400	12	78,400		
Total	385	1,225,784	327	927,893	58	297,891

<sup>a</sup> Detailed statement of new contracts not received.

<sup>b</sup> Incomplete.

## Details of New Contracts.

The following table shows the details of new contracts for building steel ships entered into during June, 1916, so far as reported by shipbuilders:

Vessels.	Gross tonnage.	Speed, knots.	Owner.	Trade.	Probable date of launch.
Great Lakes Towing Co.: No. 41.....	90	9	Builder's account.....	Towing.....	
No. 42.....	90	9	.....do.....	.....do.....	
Manitowoc Shipbuilding and Dry Dock Co.: No. 84.....	300	10	F. M. Dyer.....	Trawler.....	
No. 80.....	2,500	9	Berghansen.....	Cargo.....	
No. 81.....	2,500	9	.....do.....	.....do.....	Oct. 1, 1916.
No. 82.....	2,250	.....	Hannevig & Johnson.....	.....do.....	
No. 83.....	2,250	.....	.....do.....	.....do.....	
Merrill-Stevens Co.: No. 92.....	300	7	Boston Molasses Co.....	Molasses.....	
Moore & Scott Iron Works: —.....	1,000	.....	Wilson Bros.....	.....do.....	
—.....	1,000	.....	.....do.....	.....do.....	January, 1917.
Pusey & Jones Co.: No. 1336.....	300	.....	Christoffer Hannevig.....	Cargo.....	
No. 1336.....	300	.....	.....do.....	.....do.....	
No. 1336.....	300	.....	.....do.....	.....do.....	
No. 1336.....	300	.....	.....do.....	.....do.....	
No. 1337.....	1,600	.....	.....do.....	.....do.....	
No. 1337.....	1,600	.....	.....do.....	.....do.....	
No. 1338.....	1,600	.....	.....do.....	.....do.....	
No. 1338.....	1,600	.....	.....do.....	.....do.....	
No. 1339.....	1,600	.....	.....do.....	.....do.....	
No. 1339.....	1,600	.....	.....do.....	.....do.....	
Standard Shipbuilding Corporation: No. 4.....	4,800	10½	Builder's account.....	.....do.....	
No. 5.....	4,800	10½	.....do.....	.....do.....	
No. 6.....	4,800	10½	.....do.....	.....do.....	
Texas Steamship Co.: No. 1.....	6,300	11	.....do.....	Bulk oil.....	March, 1917.
No. 2.....	6,300	11	.....do.....	.....do.....	May, 1917.
No. 3.....	6,700	11	.....do.....	.....do.....	October, 1917.
No. 4.....	6,700	11	.....do.....	.....do.....	December, 1917.
Union Iron Works Co.: No. 148.....	7,200	11	Not given.....	.....do.....	June 1, 1917.
No. 149.....	7,200	11	.....do.....	.....do.....	July 1, 1917.
No. 150.....	5,950	11	.....do.....	Cargo.....	May 20, 1917.
No. 151.....	5,950	11	.....do.....	.....do.....	June 20, 1917.
No. 152.....	6,200	11	.....do.....	.....do.....	July 31, 1917.
No. 153.....	6,200	11	.....do.....	.....do.....	Oct. 1, 1917.
No. 17.....	3,600	9½	Willy C. Gilbert.....	.....do.....	Mar. 30, 1917.
Willamette Iron & Steel Works & Northwest Steel Co.: John Er- land.....	5,700	10½	John Erland.....	.....do.....	April, 1917.

## Completed Ships.

The following table shows the details of steel ships completed during the month of June, 1916, by the builders named, all of which are steamers, except the *Moonlite* and *Starlite*, schooner-rigged, with auxiliary gasoline engines:

Vessels.	Gross tonnage.	Speed, knots.	Owner.	Type.	Trade.
American Shipbuilding Co.: D. G. Kerr.....	7,756	10	Pittsburgh Steamship Co...	Cargo.....	Coasting.
Ellicott Machine Corporation: P. R. R. No. 6.....	191	11	Pennsylvania R. R. Co.....	Towing....	Do.
Fore River Shipbuilding Cor- poration: Sucrosa.....	5,788	10½	Cuba Distilling Co.....	Molasses...	Foreign.
Great Lakes Engineering Works: Maitland.....	2,757	13	Toronto, Hamilton & Buf- falo Ry. Co.	Car ferry..	Do.
Harlan & Hollingsworth Cor- poration: George E. Paddle- ford.....	4,787	11	Pan American Petroleum & Transport Co.	Bulk oil...	Do.
Manitowoc Shipbuilding & Dry Dock Co.: George A. Wallace.....	112	9	City of Cleveland, Ohio.....	Fire boat.....	.....
New York Shipbuilding Co.: Standard Arrow.....	7,794	11	Standard Transportation Co.	Bulk oil...	Foreign.
Toledo Shipbuilding Co.: Moonlite.....	1,930	7	Standard Oil Co. of N. J.....	.....do.....	Do.
Starlite.....	1,930	7	.....do.....	.....do.....	Do.
Union Iron Works Co: Acme.....	6,896	11	Standard Transportation Co.	.....do.....	Do.

**RADIOTELEGRAPHIC TARIFF FOR SOCIETY ISLANDS.**

[Consul Thomas B. L. Layton, Tahiti, May 17.]

By a decree of the governor the radiotelegraphic tariff for the Society Islands was proclaimed on May 6, 1916.

The tariff now in effect fixes the local rate at 12 cents a word (10 cents radio charge and 2 cents telegraphic charge from Papeete to the station at Mahina). There is an additional charge of 1 shilling (24 cents) a word for relaying via the radio stations at Apia, Samoa, and Awanui, New Zealand (6 pence (12 cents) per word for each station). To these rates must be added the charges of other systems for the delivery of the message at its final destination. The cost per word from Tahiti to Washington works out at \$1.11.

**Communicating with Vessels at Sea—Registration of Cable Addresses.**

The tariff also fixes the rate between the colony and vessels at sea. The cost per word in direct communication with a vessel within call of the station at Mahina is: Local charge 12 cents, plus ship's charge of 8 cents. The cost per word in communicating with a vessel by relay through Apia, Samoa, is: Local rate 12 cents, plus 12 cents for transmission by latter station, plus 8 cents vessel's charge, or 32 cents a word. When the communication reaches a vessel through two relaying stations (Apia and Awanui) the charge is: Local rate 12 cents, plus 1 shilling (6 pence for each station), plus 4 pence ship's rate, or 44 cents a word.

The rate of exchange from French to English currency, and vice versa, is fixed by decision of the colonial governor whenever required and in conformity with the international telegraphic regulations.

Under the newly established radio service, the registration of cable addresses in the colony is not provided for. Communications must be fully or sufficiently addressed to permit of the complete identification of the addressee. During the continuance of the war the strict censorship in New Zealand, through which all messages for Tahiti must pass, will not permit the transmission of communications whose mode of address leaves in doubt the addressee's identity, or if the language of the message is other than English or French. Communications in code (private or international) will, therefore, not be accepted at New Zealand or at Tahiti.

[Previous reports on the radio station in the Society Islands were published in *COMMERCE REPORTS* for Nov. 11, 1915, and Mar. 14, 1916.]

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**BUOY LISTS FOR CALIFORNIA AND MASSACHUSETTS.**

A buoy list for California (Eighteenth Lighthouse District) has been published by the United States Lighthouse Service, corrected to June 1, 1916. The list includes all aids to navigation maintained by or under the authority of the service in that district. These aids are lighthouses, lighted beacons, light vessels, lighted buoys, fog signals, and unlighted beacons and buoys of all descriptions.

A buoy list for the coast of Massachusetts (Second Lighthouse District) also has been published by the Lighthouse Service, corrected to May 1, 1916.

Copies of these publications may be obtained free of charge by any shipmaster or pilot on application to the Division of Publications, Department of Commerce, Washington, D. C.

**SUBSTITUTE FOR RENNET IN CHEESE MAKING.**

[Consul G. R. Taggart, Cornwall, Ontario, Canada, June 23.]

Persons interested in cheese making in this dairying district have been trying to solve the problem of the shortage of rennet. Before the war, calves' stomachs, which are used in the preparation of rennet, were obtained largely from European countries with which communication now is cut off. The Ontario Department of Agriculture is sending out circulars advising that the stomachs of all calves slaughtered in Ontario be saved, and that those who slaughter communicate with managers of cheese factories or representatives of the Department of Agriculture. The best results are obtained with rennet from the stomachs of calves that have been fed wholly on milk; other calves ought to have one or two feedings of milk before being killed.

Not only is home production of rennet being encouraged, but a substitute is sought. At the Government model cheese factory and creamery of Finch, Ontario (in this district), experiments have been conducted in the hope of securing a substitute which will have the same effect as rennet. The experiments were conducted with pepsin. The Government dairy instructor for this district announced to the Cornwall Cheese Board on June 16 that the pepsin worked well, the scale pepsin giving better results than the powdered variety.

**Difference Between Rennet and Pepsin Very Slight.**

The pepsin can be dissolved as required in water at a temperature of 90 degrees, although an expert at the Guelph (Ontario) Agricultural College recommends 110 degrees. At the Finch, Ontario, factory, 4 ounces of pepsin were used to 1,000 pounds of milk. While in all the tests at Finch the rennet showed superiority over the pepsin, yet the difference was so slight as to be scarcely noticeable. The pepsin can be used alone or in conjunction with the rennet.

Pepsin is quoted in this district at \$3.50 a pound. This is said to correspond to a gallon of rennet. The price of the rennet ranges from \$7.50 to \$10 a gallon. Pepsin is declared to give as good results as rennet, at about half the cost.

[An article on the scarcity of rennet in Canada was published in **COMMERCE REPORTS** for June 13, 1916. Other articles on Canadian cheese were printed in the issues of May 24 and June 2, 1916, Apr. 5, June 28, and Aug. 24, 1915.]

**HIGH-GRADE ALCOHOL FOR HONGKONG.**

[Vice Consul A. E. Carleton, Hongkong, British China, June 3.]

Great Britain formerly supplied practically all of the alcohol used in Hongkong in the hospitals, drug stores, and in trades where a good alcohol was required. When the English supplies were cut off, recourse was had to the Java alcohol, which, however, was not a pure rectified product and therefore not acceptable for hospitals and druggists. Small quantities of the American 94 per cent proof alcohol has already been imported, and numerous inquiries have been made of the American consulate general at Hongkong for a list of American producers. This market can use approximately 3,500 gallons a year, shipments being desired in barrels of 42 gallons.

[A list of alcohol importers in Hongkong may be had from the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce or its district offices upon referring to file No. 78275a.]

**COST OF BROAD-GAUGE RAILWAY SYSTEM IN JAPAN.**

[Far Eastern Review, May, 1916.]

The plans for making the railway system of Japan a broad-gauge system, recently announced by the railway board, it is estimated will take until 1943 for completion and will be carried out at a cost of approximately 1,408,000,000 yen (\$701,184,000). The outlines of this comprehensive project have been sketched in a report submitted by a committee which has made estimates of the outlays necessary and has even worked out the figures and measurements in connection with the tracks and rolling stock for the new system.

The expenses of changing the main line are estimated as follows: For the period to 1926 the outlays for railways, 192,625,784 yen; for machine shops, 5,393,500 yen; for cars, 59,978,565 yen; for electricity, 1,639,191 yen; for expenses connected with the railway tracks after the change, 4,806,000; for cars in that connection, 12,090,000; a total of 276,533,040 yen (\$137,713,454). The disposition of disused rails, bridges, sleepers, and cars is expected to bring in 44,272,770 yen, and when this amount is deducted the expenses will amount to 232,260,270 yen (\$115,665,614). Between 1926 and 1943 the expenses of the change, after deducting the sale of disused property, will be 297,162,450 yen (\$147,986,900). In the business department the entire amount needed will be 50,078,713 yen (\$24,939,199).

[In a report from Peking, published in *COMMERCE REPORTS* for June 26, 1916, it was stated that \$5,000,000 would be expended in connection with the change to the broad gauge on the Japanese railways. The writer evidently referred to some limited portion of the work and not to the entire project.]

**INCREASED AMERICAN PURCHASES OF OLIVE OIL.**

[Consul General Carl Bailey Hurst, Barcelona, Spain, June 3.]

Owing to the efforts of Spanish exporters and the diminished shipments of olive oil from certain belligerent countries, heavy sales of Spanish olive oil have been made abroad, particularly in the United States. On the first three voyages of the new Spanish steamship line to New York, nearly 1,000,000 gallons of refined Spanish olive oil will be billed to American consignees. Unrefined Spanish olive oil is now in demand in other countries, where, presumably, it will be refined and blended to be disposed of under non-Spanish labels. A movement is on foot, however, to restrict exports of the crude oil so far as practicable, because of the ultimate benefit to Spanish olive-oil exporters in selling the refined product under their own names.

During 1915 some 326,000 metric tons, of 2,204.6 pounds each, of olive oil were produced in Spain, an increase of more than 118,000 tons over the preceding year. This oil is not of uniform grade, being influenced by latitude, soil, and climate, but in general the olive oil of the Peninsula is considered by Spanish experts to excel in fragrance, transparency, and flavor.

**POPULATION OF THE CANAL ZONE.**

Consul Julius D. Dreher, at Colon, Panama, reports under date of July 3 that according to a census just taken by the police and fire division of the Panama Canal the population of the Canal Zone is now 31,018, of whom 14,876 are Americans.



**BRAZIL IMPORTS FEW PAPER BAGS.**

[Consul General Alfred L. M. Gottschalk, Rio de Janeiro, May 26.]

The paper bags used in Brazil appear to be distinctly of a home-made type. There is almost an utter absence of the ornamental and handsomely made paper bags that are seen in so many business establishments in the United States.

The import duties are almost prohibitive, so that paper bags of foreign make may not, except under unusual conditions, be imported into the country with profit. Only one American concern ships paper bags to Brazil. I am informed that the quantities it sends are insignificant, and that the bags are of white paper of the self-opening type and usually striped in colors.

Used Only by Grocers and Confectioners.

Paper bags appear to be used here only by the grocery and confectioners' shops, although the usual Brazilian style of making up a small retail package is to tie it in a paper bundle with string, making a handle or loop.

The native paper-bag industry consists of about a dozen larger factories and 15 or 20 smaller ones in the neighborhood of Rio de Janeiro. No official figures have been published since 1912 concerning the development of any of the native industries of Brazil, but I am informed that the paper-bag industry here has been adversely affected by the scarcity of paper since the beginning of the war. There appear to be no paper-bag factories in northern Brazil, and merchants in that part of the country who desire to use bags make them up in the back of their stores.

Common bags, very small, are said to sell here at 30 reis apiece (about  $7\frac{1}{2}$  mills, United States currency). Stout or heavy manila bags holding from 10 to 20 kilos (22 to 44 pounds) cost about 120 reis apiece (3 cents). I can not find that any European bags have ever been upon the market here.

**IMPORTS INTO MALAGA BY SEA.**

[Consul Percival Gassett, Malaga, Spain.]

Statistics of the total amount of foreign goods imported into Malaga can not be given, as many articles come overland or by coastwise vessels after having been first entered at some large distributing center as Barcelona or Madrid.

An idea of the foreign trade can be obtained from the following table showing the quantities of merchandise over 100 tons entering Malaga by sea in 1914 and 1915.

Articles.	1914	1915	Articles.	1914	1915
	Tons.	Tons.		Tons.	Tons.
Coal.....	48,782	49,240	Coffee.....	1,048	983
Phosphate of lime.....	10,154	27,311	Cotton, raw.....	709	786
Cocoa.....			Coke.....		830
Wheat.....		7,404	Iron and steel manufactures except machinery.....	7,825	519
Maize, barley, chick-peas.....	3,424	2,852	Superphosphates.....		255
Fertilizers.....	4,782	6,575	Machinery of all kinds.....	984	324
Cement and lime.....	4,325	2,588	Hides and skins.....	115	161
Codfish.....	3,061	2,683	Brick and tiles.....	251	
Potash and mineral oils.....	1,154	1,200	Glass, manufactures of.....	141	
Salt.....	3,386	1,066			

**JAPANESE TEXTILE INTERESTS MAKE LARGE GAINS.**

[Consul General George H. Scidmore, Yokohama, June 17.]

**Spinning Companies to Pay Increased Dividends.**

All the spinning companies, except the Kanegafuchi Spinning Mill Co., have finished their accounts for the first semiannual business term, and practically all the mills have decided to pay larger dividends. The decisions of the boards of directors regarding the payment of dividends for the term under discussion, and a comparison with the preceding term, as reported by the Japan Advertiser, are:

Companies.	Previous term percentage.	Present term percentage.	Companies.	Previous term percentage.	Present term percentage.
Kanegafuchi.....	16	20	Wakayama.....	16	20
Fuji.....	12	16	Izumi.....	10	14
Nisshin.....	8	12	Sanyo.....	8	10
Carico.....	8	12	Ehime.....	10	12
Amagasaki.....	30	40	Temma.....	10	12
Fukushima.....	30	35	Toyo.....	16	20
Settsu.....	30	35	Godo.....	18	20
Kishiwada.....	30	35			

The increases in the percentage of dividends range from 2 to 10. Such a showing is unprecedented, even in the days of the spinning prosperity that followed the Russo-Japanese War. Not only have the mills decided to pay increased dividends, but they are also in a position to carry over sums larger than the dividends to the next term.

**Woolen Trade Reaches Unprecedented Mark.**

The woolen mills in Japan have had the best time enjoyed by them since the initiation of this industry in the country, on account of the ever-increasing orders from Russia and other European countries. The Nippon Keorimono Kaisha's earnings for the term just concluded have amounted to more than 7,700,000 yen (\$3,838,450). The Japan Times says that this is a record-breaking figure in the woolen trade of Japan. It states that the company decided to call an ordinary general meeting of shareholders on June 26.

**Abnormal Mousseline Prices Affect Sales.**

Mousseline was until recently one of the most important items in the stocks of dry-goods stores in Japan, because of its comparative cheapness and general use. The outbreak of war and the high prices of dyes, the Japan Chronicle says, sent up prices of mousseline to such an abnormal extent that there was a large falling off in demand. As a result, prices declined to some extent, but they still exceed normal and are also very high in comparison with other dry goods.

Prospects of an unrestricted importation of tops, says the Chronicle, prohibit optimism regarding the future, while weaving companies are firmly refraining from making sales at any lower prices. There are forward speculative transactions among dealers, which are being carried on without any regard to the actual condition of supply and demand, with the result that quotations are being forced up. Mousseline has been one of the cloths most widely used in Japan, but it is feared that if such abnormal prices continue, popular patronage will be irrecoverably lost.

### WOOL SALES IN NEW ZEALAND.

[Consul General Alfred A. Winslow, Auckland, June 12.]

At the last wool sale at Wellington, New Zealand, there were offered 19,000 bales, being a very large quantity for any one sale in this Dominion. Prices ranged about the same as in February in some lines, while some of the better grades made good gains, as shown by the following table of prices:

Kinds.	Feb.	June.	Kinds.	Feb.	June.
	Cents.	Cents.		Cents.	Cents.
Merino.....	24-27½	24-31	Crossbred pieces and bellies...	18-31	18-33
Halfbred:			Halfbred pieces and bellies...	20-23	18-21
Superior.....	25-28	(a)	Locks.....	14-16½	8-14
Medium.....	22-25	22-27	Crutchings.....	(a)	24-30
Inferior.....	27-31	28-31	Crutchings, seedy.....	(a)	12-23
Crossbred:			Lambs:		
Superior.....	33-37	32-38	Best.....	32-37	32-39½
Medium.....	29-35	29-32	Medium.....	30-31	24-29
Coarse.....	20-23	26-29	Inferior and seedy.....	14-24	(b)
Inferior, seedy.....	22-29	20-25	Southdown.....	32-37	32-36

a None offered.

b No bids.

The last sale of the season in this Dominion was held in Auckland a few days after the Wellington sale. Offerings were comparatively light and the prices ruled about as given above. So far as I am able to learn there were no American buyers in the market at either of the sales, practically all of the supplies going forward to British destinations.

### PROSPECTING FOR COAL IN ICELAND.

[Consul General E. D. Winslow, Copenhagen, Denmark.]

It has been discovered that outcroppings of coal deposits are plentiful on the west coast of Iceland at Staalfjeld Sound in Patriksfjord. The fields lie near the water, and at this part of Iceland open water is found throughout the year.

The owner of the mining rights to this property has formed a combination consisting of Director H. Hendriksen, Hon. I. H. Sveinbjørnson, and Carl Zeylner, who have furnished the necessary capital to make a complete and satisfactory investigation of the deposits. If the coal is in plenty and it shows good quality the mining of same will be carried on extensively.

American dealers in mining machinery should correspond with any of the persons named above.

### CANAL RECORD AS AID TO BUSINESS MEN.

The Panama Canal issues a weekly publication called The Canal Record, which contains general information concerning conditions on the Isthmus, the passage of vessels through the canal, their ports of departure and destination, nature and quantity of goods carried, etc., which would seem to be of special interest to companies concerned with the shipment of goods via the canal, as well as to others who are interested in the canal generally.

Sample copies of the Record and information regarding subscription rates may be obtained by communicating with the Chief of Office, The Panama Canal, Washington, D. C.

**INDUSTRIAL NOTES FROM CHOSSEN.**

[Consul General Ransford S. Miller, Seoul, June 16.]

**Projected Enterprises.**

Several proposed new industrial undertakings are reported in the local press, among the more important being a paint manufacturing company, a new engineering company, a paper mill, and a porcelain factory.

The paint manufacturing company is to be a Chemulpo enterprise, capitalized at \$150,000. The company will manufacture a paint which has been invented by the Central Laboratory of the Government General, the rights of manufacture having been transferred to the proposed company.

The engineering company is styled the Toyo Shoko Kaisha (The Oriental Civil Engineering Encouragement Co.) and will have its offices in Seoul. It is a combination of some 20 of the leading civil engineers in Seoul, and will undertake general engineering work. The capital of the company will be \$500,000, divided into 20,000 shares.

The paper mill is to be erected by the Suzuki firm of Kobe, Japan, and will be located at a place near Chinhae in south Chosen. It is reported that the plant will be an extensive one and that it holds out every prospect of being a great success.

Any revival of the formerly well-known pottery industry of Korea will naturally be very welcome; and the proposed establishment of a porcelain factory at either Fusan or Masan by a prominent porcelain manufacturer of Japan is of interest. All the materials for the industry are available in large quantities in Chosen.

**Mining Notes.**

It is reported that the firm of K. Okura and Co., of Tokyo, Japan, has decided to establish an ore refinery at Shinanju, on the Seoul-Shingishu line. The estimated cost of the installation will be \$50,000, and the work will be commenced within the current calendar year. This will be the second large refinery of the kind to be erected in Chosen, the previous one having been built at Chinnampo by Messrs. Kuhara and Co. of Osaka, last year.

Since the commencement of the European war, and the consequent increased demand for tungsten, there is unusual interest over the deposits of that ore which have been discovered here. It is now projected, according to local reports, to form a company of the leading tungsten interests in the country, in order that the work may be carried on to better advantage. The new company will have a capital of \$500,000.

The following regarding the deposits of iron ore in Chosen appeared in a recent issue of the semiofficial Seoul Press:

Mr. K. Noro, adviser to the Government Iron Foundry at Yawata, Kyushu, has recently made a tour of inspection of iron mines in West Chosen. He is quoted by a Japanese contemporary as having given a very favorable opinion as to the prospect of the output of iron in Chosen. It is his opinion that iron produced in Chosen will be able to supply completely home requirements. At present the quantity of iron produced in Japan is 500,000 tons a year, while that of the mineral annually imported is officially put at 800,000 tons, but as a matter of fact the actual quantity imported exceeds 1,000,000 tons. The iron mines in Chosen are generally possessed of very extensive veins, and although the quality of ore taken is not ideal, as it contains only 50 per cent of iron, the fact that iron veins are wide and numerous more than compensates for the comparatively poor quality of ore. Mr. Noro inspected during his

recent tour a few mines near Chinnampo, from which some 150,000 tons of iron are easily obtainable in one year. Considering that the output from these few mines is so large in quantity and that there are many rich mines awaiting development, it is very likely that before many years Chosen will be able to send annually 1,000,000 tons of iron to the mother country.

#### Projected Railway Lines.

It is reported that the Railway Bureau of the Government General of Chosen is planning to lay a branch railway from Kanho, a station on the Seoul-Shingishu Line, to Kaishu (Haiju), the capital of Kokai Province. The survey of the route is being carried out now. The line will be 51 miles in length and will tap an important section of country.

It is also reported that, as a result of negotiations between the military authorities in Tokyo and the Railway Bureau in Chosen, it has been decided that a railway line shall be constructed between Seishin and Ranam in northeastern Chosen. The necessity of this line, which will be only a few miles in length, arises from the fact that Ranam has been made the site of one of the two new divisions created for Chosen at the last session of the Imperial Diet, and that Seishin is its seaport. Traffic between the two places is at present handled by means of a light railway, and a scheme has been on foot for some time to construct an electric line to care for the increased business. This scheme has now been abandoned, owing to the rise in the price of materials for such a line, and the plan for a regular railway has been substituted therefor.

#### AMERICAN CONSULAR OFFICERS ON LEAVE OF ABSENCE.

The following American consular officers are on leave of absence in the United States and will be glad to confer with business men and commercial organizations relative to conditions in their respective jurisdictions. The consul's time is available primarily for personal interviews. He has limited facilities for correspondence, and except in urgent cases letters should be directed to the consulate.

Name.	Post.	Expiration of venue.	Address.
West, George N.....	Kobe, Japan.....	Aug. 15	Department of State, Washington, D. C.
Cooke, A. B.....	Patras, Greece.....	Aug. 10	121 West Charlotte Street, Norfolk, Va.
Hale, F. D.....	Huddersfield, England.....	Sept. 5	Lunenburg, Vt.
Fisher, Fred B.....	Tientsin, China.....	Aug. 5	Albany, Oreg.
Masterson, William W.....	Durban, Natal, South Africa.....	Sept. 1	Carrollton, Ky.
Solter, Harry G.....	Breslau, Germany.....	Aug. 1	Gibraltar, Pa.
Baker, E. Carlton.....	Nagasaki, Japan.....	Aug. 30	Apartment No. 75, The Brunswick, Washington, D. C.
Moughan, J. C.....	Kingston, Jamaica.....	Sept. 1	Avenue A and Fourteenth Street, Bayonne, N. J.
Jewell, John F.....	Chefoo, China.....	Oct. 1	Department of State, Washington, D. C.

#### District Offices of the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce.

New York, Room 409 United States Customhouse; Boston, eighteenth floor United States Customhouse; Chicago, 504 Federal Building; St. Louis, 402 Third National Bank Building; Atlanta, 521 Post Office Building; New Orleans, 1020 Hibernia Bank Building; San Francisco, 306 United States Customhouse; Seattle, 948 Henry Building. Cooperative district offices: Cleveland, Chamber of Commerce; Cincinnati, Chamber of Commerce; Asst. Gen'l Frt. Agt., C. N. O. & T. P. Ry. Co., Cincinnati; Los Angeles, Chamber of Commerce; Detroit, Board of Commerce; Philadelphia, Chamber of Commerce; South American Agent, Southern Ry. Co., Chattanooga, Tenn.

**FOREIGN TRADE OPPORTUNITIES.**

Reserved addresses may be obtained from the Bureau and its district offices. Request for each opportunity should be on a separate sheet and state opportunity number. The Bureau does not furnish credit ratings or assume responsibility as to the standing of foreign inquirers; the usual precautions should be taken in all cases.

*Electric tramway*, No. 21832.—Supplementing confidential circular No. 881, an American consular officer in Russia has forwarded to the Bureau a copy of the specification and estimates covering the proposed tramway in his district. A copy of the specification, etc., may be inspected at the Bureau or its district offices. (Refer to file No 77951.)

*Carpets and umbrella frames*, No. 21833.—A man in Spain asks the Bureau to place him in touch with American manufacturers of velvet carpets and of umbrella frames. References given.

*Agency*, No. 21834.—Supplementing foreign trade opportunity No. 21364, published in Commerce Reports of May 29, 1916, an American consular officer in a foreign insular possession transmits further particulars in regard to the trade opportunity in question, including a list of the principal articles imported into that district, references, etc. A copy of the consul's report and its enclosures may be inspected at the Bureau or its district offices. (Refer to file No. 78056.)

*Office supplies, etc.*, No. 21835.—The representative of an import house in the Netherlands, with established trade connections in the Dutch East Indies, who is now in the United States, wishes to enter into commercial relations with American manufacturers of office furniture and supplies, household utensils, electric appliances, novelties, dress fasteners, thread, rubber goods, hosiery, underwear, gloves, leather hand bags, men's shirts, safety razors, and paper goods. References are furnished.

*Wearing apparel, etc.*, No. 21836.—An American consular officer in Central America reports that a firm in his district is in the market for children's clothing, ribbons, embroideries, laces, and women's waists, etc.

*Agricultural machinery*, No. 21837.—A man in Italy informs an American consular officer of his desire to secure the agency for American agricultural machinery. Correspondence should be in Italian.

*Druggists' supplies, etc.*, No. 21838.—The Bureau is informed that a firm in South America desires to receive samples and catalogues, etc., of metal boxes for drug stores and advertising purposes, rubber goods for medical purposes, fountain syringes, tin and lead bottles with rubber and glass legs, and glass articles for medicinal uses.

*Machinery*, No. 21839.—An American consular officer in South Africa reports that a firm in his district is desirous of receiving catalogues of fruit and vegetable evaporating machinery.

*Undertakers' supplies*, No. 21840.—An American consular officer in Chile reports that a firm in his district desires to receive descriptive catalogues with price lists, etc., of undertakers' supplies of all kinds. Correspondence should be in Spanish.

*Machinery*, No. 21841.—Descriptive circulars and other information regarding cotton-picking machines are desired by the chairman of an advisory council of science and industry in Australia.

*Piano felt*, No. 21842.—An American consular officer in Switzerland reports that a piano manufacturer in his district desires to be placed in touch with American manufacturers of piano felt. Samples and quotations are desired at once. Correspondence in German or French preferred.

*Electric stove accessories*, No. 21843.—A manufacturer of electric cooking stoves in Norway informs an American consular officer that he desires to be placed in communication with American manufacturers of electric cooking stove accessories. Correspondence may be in English.

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No. 167

Washington, D. C., Tuesday, July 18

1916

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## SHIPMENT OF TOBACCO TO NETHERLANDS.

[Cablegram from American Commercial Attaché, The Hague, July 15.]

All tobacco, except that from Dutch colonies, must now be consigned to the Netherlands Oversea Trust. [The British Government formerly made an exception to the general rule regarding consignments for the Netherlands in the case of tobacco, which was not required to be consigned to the trust, see Foreign Tariff Notes No. 19, p. 70.]

## GOLD RESERVE IN THE BANK OF SPAIN.

[Consul General Carl Bailey Hurst, Barcelona, May 31.]

On May 20, 1916, the gold reserve in the Bank of Spain amounted to \$179,903,160. According to law, the bank is obliged to have a metallic reserve of \$102,600,000, while the present reserve is \$77,303,160 in excess of the legal limit.

Since 1910 the gold reserve of the Bank of Spain has been continuously increasing, but it is only since 1914 that the amount has exceeded the legal requirement. During 1914, 1915, and the first five months of the present year nearly \$95,000,000 worth of gold was acquired. As a result the paper money in circulation is backed by a gold reserve of 46 per cent. This guaranty has increased by 25 per cent since December 30, 1910, when it was 21 per cent. The number of bank notes in circulation in Spain amounted in 1915 to \$360,000,000, divided into denominations ranging from \$4.50 to \$180. Between 1911 and 1915 the notes in circulation increased by about 19 per cent. The issues of paper money have been irregular, but the increase of the metallic reserve during the past two years has been almost double the value of the notes issued during that period.

Consul Percival Gassett, at Malaga, Spain, reports that the first section of the projected railway from Malaga to Algeciras and Cadiz was opened on May 27 by the passage of a train from Malaga to Fuengirola, a distance of 19 miles.

**HAITIANS COMPLAIN OF AMERICAN SOAP.**

[Special Agent Garrard Harris.]

The preferred soap in Haiti, and the one used generally by the natives, is the common yellow "turpentine" or laundry soap of the United States, except that for the Haitian trade it comes in bars about 18 inches long and 1½ inches square. Each case weighs 175 pounds and carries 250 bars. The soap is made in this peculiar shape to facilitate cutting into the incredibly small pieces that are sometimes purchased. When preparing to do some laundry work the Haitian housewife buys only the amount of soap she thinks will be necessary. The long bars are usually sold to small venders and hawked about the streets, and sold by the half inch, inch, or more, as the purchaser may desire.

The Haitians are not pleased with the soap unless it is a light, clear yellow. There has been some complaint on the part of importers lately that the American soap, after being kept in stock a while, turns very dark—almost black in some instances. This causes purchasers to reject it. By careful attention to the quality of the product and insuring its keeping the proper color, the American hold on the soap trade of Haiti can be strengthened and sales considerably enlarged.

**SOAP SHIPMENTS FROM UNITED STATES TO HAITI.**

In American official statistics soap exports are divided into two classes, "toilet or fancy" and "all other." The United States has in the past sold to Haiti only small amounts of fine soaps, but has shipped important quantities of the common kinds. For the five fiscal years ended June 30, 1915, the exports of American soap to that island Republic totaled:

Fiscal year.	Toilet or fancy.	All other.	
		Pounds.	Value.
1911.....	\$1,178	7,793,203	\$392,868
1912.....	3,918	8,468,971	433,955
1913.....	2,125	8,904,655	442,689
1914.....	1,549	9,226,300	455,524
1915.....	740	6,710,961	354,262

A remarkable increase in Haiti's purchases of American toilet soaps has occurred within the last year, United States customs returns showing shipments to that country valued at \$23,548 in the 11 months ending with May, 1916. The trade in "other soaps" was normal, exports to Haiti aggregating 6,091,514 pounds, valued at \$337,761.

**AMERICAN TRADE JOURNALS WANTED IN BOLIVIA.**

A demand for trade journals from the United States at La Paz, Bolivia, is reported by American Commercial Attaché William F. Montavon, who states that the chief clerk of the United States Legation at La Paz, Mr. Joseph Ponte, is very anxious to do all he can to advance the commercial interests of the United States in Bolivia, and believes he could make valuable use of a large number of such journals, as well as of the literature of American exporters.



**VALUE OF WIRE-DRAG WORK SHOWN AT SALEM.**

That there were uncharted rocks in the approach to Salem Harbor which would have proved a serious menace to the battleship *Vermont* on her recent visit to that port, has been determined by the wire-drag survey of that locality conducted by the United States Coast and Geodetic Survey.

Rocks of this character have been found in the entire approach, so far as examined, and some of them in the main ship channel for deep-draft vessels. In this channel depths from one to two fathoms less than charted were found, and in consequence the channel for deep-draft vessels has been narrowed sufficiently to require careful piloting to insure safety. Fortunately the wire-drag work was sufficiently advanced to enable the Coast and Geodetic Survey to temporarily buoy a safe channel and locate a safe anchorage for the *Vermont*.

This locality well illustrates the necessity for wire-drag surveys where ledges, bowlders, and coral heads abound, and the impossibility of insuring safety by the previously used leadline surveys. Salem Harbor and approach had been previously closely surveyed by the ordinary method of lead and line. It is now determined that the bottom is exceedingly broken, as shown by the following extract from the report of the chief of the wire-drag party:

A shoal area about 100 yards in extent was found to be flat and rocky with small projections. On one side the water deepened abruptly from the general depth of 28 and 30 feet to 42 feet, and then about 50 feet from the shoal a sharp pinnacle about 5 feet across the top rose suddenly to a depth of 20 feet. This combination of a flat shoal with small projections and sharp, steep pinacles is unusual, although the individual characteristics are often found. The presence of one type would ordinarily warrant the assumption of the absence of the other.

[A previous report regarding the work at Salem was published in **COMMERCE REPORTS** for July 11, 1916.]

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**REMEDY FOR DELAY OF BILLS OF LADING TO AFRICA.**

As previously reported in **COMMERCE REPORTS**, South African importers are being put to much trouble and expense on account of the great irregularity and unavoidable delays in the receipt of bills of lading mailed from New York via England. Consul General George H. Murphy, at Cape Town, reports that cases have been cited in which the advices covering invoices and bills of lading have failed to arrive until several weeks after the vessels taking the goods direct from the United States have reached the South African port.

Several importers have requested the consul general to bring the matter to the attention of the United States exporters, with the object of establishing the practice of mailing letters that contain invoices and bills of lading upon the vessel carrying the goods. Second Assistant Postmaster General Praeger, in the following statement, shows that the rules of the department permit documents to be sent in this manner:

Bills of lading and other documents relating to the cargo of a vessel may be placed on board the vessel which conveys the articles mentioned in said documents, in order that the documents and articles may be delivered at the same time, as may be seen by reference to sections 1291, 1466, and 1467 of the Postal Laws and Regulations. If exporters would inquire of their local post offices they could obtain the necessary information respecting the international mail service.

**LICHEL CROP OF KWANGTUNG PROVINCE.**

[Vice Consul P. R. Josselyn, Canton, China, May 31.]

It is difficult to form an accurate estimate of the lichee crop in Kwangtung Province, but information received from lichee producers indicates that the total annual production approximates 20,000,000 to 30,000,000 pounds.

Fresh lichees are sold at retail in the season all the way from 5 cents to 40 cents Mexican per catty of  $1\frac{1}{2}$  pounds, or from  $2\frac{1}{2}$  cents to 20 cents United States currency, according to variety and the abundance of the crop. The cheapest variety is known as the "Wai-chi," and the most expensive is called "No-mai-chi." From figures based on the prices of lichees in season, it is estimated that the total value of the crop is between \$2,000,000 and \$3,000,000 Mexican or about \$1,000,000 or \$1,500,000 United States currency.

**Dried Lichees.**

There are two ways of drying lichees—by sun and by fire. The sun-dried lichee has a finer flavor and commands a better price than the fire-dried fruit. There are but two or three species of the lichees that are suitable for drying purposes, viz, the "No-mai-chi," the "Kwai-mi," and the "Wai-chi." The dried "No-mai-chi" sells for \$1.50 to \$3 local currency (\$0.75 to \$1.50, U. S. currency) per catty, while the dried "Wai-chi" is much cheaper, selling for \$0.60 to \$0.80 local currency (\$0.30 to \$0.40 U. S. currency.) Four pounds of fresh lichees make one pound of the dried fruit.

The five principal ports through which dried lichees are exported are Canton, Kowloon, Hoihow (Island of Hainan), Pakhoi, and Samshui. According to the statistics of the Chinese Maritime Customs, the exports of dried lichees from these five ports during 1915, were (values stated in U. S. gold):

Ports.	Pounds.	Value.
Canton .....	862,533	\$148,937
Kowloon .....	1,061,333	181,627
Hoihow .....	412,400	7,622
Pakhoi .....	842	39
Samshui .....	360	66
Total .....	2,327,466	338,191

These lichees are exported to Hongkong and the other ports of China, although a considerable quantity finds its way to foreign countries.

**Lichees Preserved in Tins.**

The customs statistics do not segregate exports of tinned lichees from other preserved fruits. However, it is estimated by dealers that the annual export of tinned lichees from Canton is about 3,000 boxes, or 192,000 pounds. Each box of preserved lichees contains 48 tins, weighing 1 catty each. Each tin contains about 28 lichees. There are five large dealers in Canton who make a business of preserving these lichees. In addition to the preserved lichees exported from Canton, large quantities of the fresh fruit are shipped from the producing districts surrounding Canton to Hongkong and are there preserved in tins.

The customs statistics give no figures regarding the export of fresh lichees. The fruit spoils so rapidly that it is impossible to ship it abroad in a fresh state. The only export of the fresh fruit in Canton is to Hongkong and places along the coast near by.

[An interesting article on "The Famous Lichee of China" appeared in *COMMERCE REPORTS* for Sept. 24, 1915.]

### A NEW SOUTH AFRICAN LOAN.

[Vice Consul John W. Dye, Cape Town, June 5.]

The prospectus of an internal loan of the Government of the Union of South Africa has been issued. Since the publication of the budget for the fiscal year April 1, 1916, to March 31, 1917, showing an estimated deficit, this has been expected. The loan is to be for an indefinite amount, subject to the statutory provision fixing the borrowing limit of the Government, and the interest is 5 per cent. The bonds are to sell at par, £100 (\$486.65), though subscriptions may be for £20 (\$97.33), or multiples of £10 (\$48.66) in excess of that amount. Several optional partial-payment plans are offered. The interest is payable semiannually and is to be exempt from income tax and supertax in the Union. Transfers of bonds will be free of stamp duty.

**Success of Municipal Loans Augurs Well for This One.**

The loan is to be repaid in 20 years, but may be repaid at any time after 5 years on 6 months' notice by the treasury. The fact that recent municipal loans on less favorable terms have been successful augurs well for this Government loan.

The Union floating debt on March 31, 1915, amounted to nearly \$100,000,000. Of this, about \$57,000,000 represented advances made by the Imperial Government, and about \$20,000,000 consisted of 4 per cent debenture bonds. The balance was in treasury bills which may now be exchanged evenly for the new bonds. The debt on March 31 of this year had increased to more than \$150,000,000.

[A report on the South African budget was published in *COMMERCE REPORTS* for Apr. 26, 1916.]

### COMMERCIAL TRAVELERS IN SWITZERLAND.

[Consul Walter H. Schulz, Berne, June 20.]

That the United States sends only as many commercial travelers into Switzerland every year as does the Grand Duchy of Luxemburg doubtless will excite no little interest in American business circles. Official Swiss figures just published show that both countries had three men in this country in 1913, although in 1912 Luxemburg had four.

While American business was represented by 3 canvassers, the Germans had 5,008, the French 1,458, Italians 278, Austrians 221, Belgians 89, British 72, Dutch 45, and Spanish 6. Although many countries, including the French and British, sent less men to Switzerland than in 1912, Germany increased its forces by 271, the Austrians by 17, and the Italians by 2.

The number of traveling men visiting the trade in Switzerland was estimated in 1913 as 37,115, of which 29,933 were Swiss.

**SPAIN'S IRON AND STEEL PROBLEM.**

[Consul General Carl Balley Hurst, Barcelona, May 16.]

The report of the commission appointed by the Spanish Government to study the iron and steel question in Spain [see *COMMERCE REPORTS* for Apr. 27] has just been published in connection with a royal order based on facts disclosed by the investigating body.

It was found that although abundance of iron ore of excellent quality exists in Spain, iron manufacturers have been unable to develop business as they might, owing to the scarcity of coal and lack of facilities for proper treatment of the ore at the blast furnaces. Out of nearly 10,000,000 tons of Spanish iron ore mined in 1913 only a scant million was used in the country, the remaining 9,000,000 being exported. The mines near the coast furnished the greatest amount for foreign shipments, while ore from mines in the interior was held waiting a reduction in freight rates or opening of neighboring coal mines for a cheap and adequate supply of fuel. The commission urges an increase in the quantity of ore smelted and a greater production of manufactured articles from the metal obtained instead of exporting ore and importing manufactured iron. Stress is laid upon the necessity of making available for Spanish metallurgical industries the products of the large local smelting works.

**Regulations Regarding the Export of Iron and Steel Products.**

The deliberations of the commission resulted in finding a solution embodied in the royal order published on May 15, which prohibits the exportation of iron and steel waste. While present conditions continue, the export of the products of iron and steel plants shall only be permitted when the domestic demand is supplied. Neither dealers nor metallurgists may export metal except in form of manufactured goods produced in their factories or workshops, and then only in case local needs are covered.

The Ministry of Public Works will maintain experts to decide whether or not the domestic supply is sufficient and to examine petitions relating to this question. A board will be appointed to fix the maximum selling price of iron and steel, based on wages paid at different mines and on conditions peculiar to special localities. The prices to prevail during the succeeding month will be published monthly between the 20th and 25th.

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**PROPOSE TO DISPENSE WITH CANAL LOCKS AT YMUIDEN.**

[Commercial Attaché Erwin W. Thompson, The Hague, Netherlands, June 24.]

Amsterdam papers are discussing the question of enlarging and deepening the North Sea Canal and dispensing with the locks at Ymuiden, so that there will be a free waterway from the North Sea to Amsterdam without the intervention of locks. It is said that this is the only way in which Amsterdam can hope to compete with Rotterdam, which has sea-level canal connections.

Rotterdam has long agitated the question of enlarging and deepening the Nieuwe Waterweg, so that the largest ocean-going ships can reach the city more easily and without waiting for the tides.

[Previous articles on port improvements in the Netherlands were published in *COMMERCE REPORTS* for Aug. 5, Aug. 18, and Dec. 15, 1915.]

**INCREASED SHIPPING AT HAWAIIAN PORT.**

[A. P. Taylor, correspondent, Honolulu, July 3.]

There were 555 ship arrivals at the port of Honolulu during the fiscal year ended June 30, 1916. This is 12 more than the number for 1914-15. During the year 1913-14 there were 462.

The fiscal year just closed had the largest number of vessels since the United States took over the customs service, the preceding year having been the largest up to this time. In volume and importance of business the year is a record, although the old whaling-ship days may have witnessed the arrival of more bottoms.

The figures given take no account of vessels from island ports, whether interisland or Matson Navigation Co. steamers returning from Hilo and Kahului.

**Record for May Largest in Recent Years.**

May, with 61 ships, had the largest number recorded in any month in recent years. The record had been held by June, 1915, when there were 59.

In June, 1916, there were 5 Japanese vessels from the Orient with general cargo, 3 with coal; 1 transport from Manila, 1 from San Francisco, 1 collier from Guam, 1 American and 1 British vessel from Australia, 2 Japanese and 7 American from San Francisco, the latter with general cargo; 3 vessels from California ports with oil, 1 steamer from San Francisco with lumber, and 1 lumber schooner from the north coast; 1 steamer from Seattle, 1 from Vancouver, 1 from Chile with nitrate, and 1 other; and for bunkers, 5 from Panama, 1 from the Orient, 1 from the Philippines, and 1 from Chile. The best month's bunkering business was in July, 1915, when there were 17 ships.

The year showed a big increase in customs receipts over 1914-15. Collections this year were \$1,161,051; last year they were \$1,019,534, the gain being \$141,517. The receipts are not a record, that being held by 1913 with \$1,859,513.

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**HAITIAN PREFERENCES IN ENAMELED WARE.**

[Special Agent Garrard Harris.]

Before the European war the enameled-ware trade of Haiti went largely to Austrian and German manufacturers. There seems to have been no particular preference as to color or design, except that toilet sets (pitcher, basin, soap dish, toothbrush stand, and slop jar) were wanted in white enamel edged with blue, and plates, cream pitchers, small water pitchers, milk pans, and the like were also made in the white. Saucepans, stewpans, preserving kettles, washbasins, coffee-pots, cake pans, and such were of the familiar bluish ware, or else in a marbled and mottled effect.

It has been suggested by several dealers that if a decorated white enamel could be produced in bedroom sets, plates, dishes, and water pitchers, it would be bought readily and that higher prices would be paid for the decorated goods than for the plain. The Haitian trade also prefers the tops of all such vessels as coffeepots, saucepans, preserving kettles, and slop jars to be made of enamel instead of tin, as that metal does not resist the climatic changes and soon rusts and becomes unserviceable.

**RECENT COMMERCIAL DEVELOPMENTS IN JAPAN.**

[Consul General George H. Scidmore, Yokohama, June 10, 1916.]

**Copper Yield Increased by Foreign and Domestic Demand.**

"The yield of copper in Japan is without doubt increasing under the influence of the war trade," says the Japan Times, "but no accurate estimate of the increase this year is yet forthcoming. Even those in the trade are totally in the dark in this respect, though they definitely state that there has been a strikingly large advance in production."

The Times cited a trustworthy report that the total yield, including resmelted goods, might rise to the high figure of 50,000 tons at the end of June. This is an increase by 7,000 tons, even in comparison with the latter half of last year, when the yield was reported to have been enormously increased. The comparison with the first half of last year shows an advance of 10,000 tons, or 25 per cent.

Copper prices are steadily rising, and the ruling quotations, which have been reached after a series of relapses, stand at twice the normal figure. It is believed that full advantage has been taken of this by Japanese mining operators.

During 1916 the consumption at home has been heavily increased. Since the beginning of the present year the metal has been consumed at the rate of 5,000 tons a month. If the total consumption for the half year is 30,000 tons, it will represent an advance by 15,000 tons over the preceding half year.

**Sales of Electric Wire Grow—Large Dynamos Produced.**

A few years prior to the outbreak of the war there was a boom in electrical enterprises in Japan, and the number of companies manufacturing electric wire increased remarkably as a result. Financial depression supervened, however, and electrical enterprise suffered a setback, says the Japan Chronicle. The result was a falling off in the demand for electric wire and an overproduction of these goods. The European war, however, has had the effect of increasing demands from China and India, and also from Russia. This has brought prosperity to the manufacturing companies, according to the Chronicle. While foreign orders have thus increased, the demand for domestic requirements has also developed, chiefly as a result of a revival of activity in general electric enterprises and the Government extension of the telephone service.

In addition to wire, electrical apparatus is being manufactured very largely. Since the war began it has been very difficult to import dynamos, and Japanese manufacturers have endeavored to make the larger class of dynamos that were formerly imported. This ambition has now been achieved.

**Plans for Development of Sugar Market in China.**

At a general meeting on June 15, the Dai Nippon Sugar Refining Co. obtained formal sanction of the shareholders for the scheme to increase the company's capital by 6,000,000 yen (\$2,991,000) to 18,000,000 yen (\$8,973,000). The president of the company is quoted by the Japan Times as saying that the sugar industry had already reached the end of the first period of development, having obtained the object of driving foreign goods from the domestic

market, and now the second period of development was to be started by building up a stable market for Japanese goods in China. By the present step, the company plans to take the lead in this march into China.

With the funds thus placed at the company's disposal the mills under its management are all to be reequipped and enlarged, to enable the company to begin its campaign in China. The mill equipments necessary for the realization of this ambitious scheme are already at hand, having been taken over from a concern that was wound up some time ago. The Germans have so far had under their control the trade in rock candy and lump sugar in China.

#### Season for Insect-Powder Chrysanthemum.

The season for new insect-powder chrysanthemum has opened. Last month contract prices ranged between 55 and 60 yen per 100 kin (between \$20.66 and \$22.43 per 100 pounds). The Japan Chronicle states that this month, however, there have been no British transactions, while American buyers are disinclined to purchase even at 50 yen (\$18.69 per 100 pounds). Lack of tonnage prevents exports to France. The decreased demand, the Chronicle says, is the more unfortunate, in view of the large increase in the crop of insect-powder chrysanthemum, owing to two favorable years. In 1914 the crop amounted to no more than 800,000 kin (1,066,667 pounds), but as a result of the good prices obtained, it expanded last year to 1,500,000 kin (2,000,000 pounds). This year it is estimated that the harvest will not fall short of 2,500,000 kin (3,333,334 pounds). It is, therefore, expected that, failing increased demands from the United States, prices will decline heavily as a result of the over-supply.

Exports of last year's crop—that is, the exports made between June, 1915, and April last—amounted to 1,183,300 kin (1,577,734 pounds), valued at 634,800 yen (\$316,448). Roughly speaking, 40 per cent of these exports were shipped to the United States and 30 per cent each to Great Britain and France.

#### AMERICAN CONSULAR OFFICERS ON LEAVE OF ABSENCE.

The following American consular officers are on leave of absence in the United States and will be glad to confer with business men and commercial organizations relative to conditions in their respective jurisdictions. The consul's time is available primarily for personal interviews. He has limited facilities for correspondence, and except in urgent cases letters should be directed to the consulate.

Name.	Post.	Expiration of leave.	Address.
West, George N.....	Kobe, Japan.....	Aug. 15	Department of State, Washington, D. C.
Cooks, A. B.....	Patras, Greece.....	Aug. 10	121 West Charlotte Street, Norfolk, Va.
Hale, F. D.....	Huddersfield, England	Sept. 5	Lunenburg, Vt.
Fisher, Fred D.....	Tientsin, China.....	Aug. 5	Albany, Oreg.
Masterson, William W.....	Durban, Natal, South Africa.	Sept. 1	Carrollton, Ky.
Seltzer, Harry G.....	Breslau, Germany.....	Aug. 1	Gibraltar, Pa.
Baker, E. Carleton.....	Nagasaki, Japan.....	Aug. 30	Apartment No. 75, The Brunswick, Washington, D. C.
Mongan, J. C.....	Kingston, Jamaica.....	Sept. 1	Avenue A and Fourteenth Street, Bayonne, N. J.
Jewell, John F.....	Chefoo, China.....	Oct. 1	Department of State, Washington, D. C.

**CHANGING CONDITIONS IN THE RATTAN TRADE OF CHINA.**

[Vice Consul A. E. Carleton, Hongkong, May 26.]

The wholesale price of rattans in Hongkong is now nearly three times greater than at the opening of the war, and the prevailing high rate of exchange militates against sales to foreign countries. Exports of rattan from Singapore practically ceased when the war broke out, and the German supply of rattan suddenly stopped, so that American consumers called upon China to furnish a tremendously increased proportion of the material. The high freight rates and later the disturbed conditions in Kwangtung Province prevented the Chinese dealers from making future contracts. As a matter of fact, the Chinese apparently are not inclined to make many forward contracts with Hongkong exporters at present. It is likely, however, that a lessening of the rates across the Pacific will have a tendency to restore normal prices.

**Select Grade Chiefly Demanded by American Firms.**

Last year the value of the exports of rattan core to all countries was estimated at \$225,000 gold, representing 25,000 bales. This product is divided into three grades—common, select, and extra select—and it is the select that is chiefly demanded by American firms. The quality used in the production of rattan furniture is ordinarily the common, and only about 30 per cent of the total imports is used for furniture. The percentage of rattan used in furniture has been much reduced in recent years by the increasing popularity of sea-grass products, and under normal conditions there is a very fair quantity of this material available for export from Hongkong in addition to what may be needed for local industries.

[A review of the rattan trade of China was published in *COMMERCE REPORTS* for May 12, 1915.]

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**BILLS OF EXCHANGE IN AUSTRALIA.**

[Commercial Attaché Philip B. Kennedy, Melbourne.]

American bankers are now devoting a great deal of attention to banking facilities in Australia. The details as to local practice in handling bills of exchange in Australia are embodied in a comprehensive questionnaire which was sent out by an important American bank to one of the leading banks in Australia. A copy of the questionnaire and replies may be had on application to the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, Washington, D. C. [Refer to file No. 1573.]

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**TERRAPIN BREEDING IN FIFTH YEAR.**

Reports from the Beaufort, N. C., station of the United States Bureau of Fisheries establishes the fact that terrapin breeding begins in the fifth year. The brood that hatched in 1911 began laying this season, and as similar results were shown with the broods of 1909 and 1910, it is concluded that the period has been determined for the species. The culture experiments at Beaufort are progressing most favorably, and the recent practice of feeding the young on fresh food during the first winter is yielding excellent results.



**CANARY ISLANDS NEED CANNED BUTTER.**

[Consul George K. Stiles, Tenerife, June 3.]

With English canned butter practically out of this market as a commercial factor, an inferior grade of Danish tinned butter has secured this profitable trade, and as a result the prices of this article have recently advanced to 62 cents (American gold) per pound retail.

No American tinned butter has ever been brought into the Canaries; but as the American article is undoubtedly superior to the Danish product, it seems probable that there should be an opening for it in the Canary Islands under present conditions.

A decided point in favor of this opportunity is the fact that despite the great increase in freight rates from the United States to Canary ports, the high values of butter in proportion to its bulk should still permit of the arrival here of tinned butter at a fair profit.

Approximately \$16,000 worth of Danish tinned butter was imported here in 1915. Recent shipments have caused complaints as to quality, and the general dissatisfaction with the article offers a greater opportunity for the better-grade American product.

As the refrigerating conditions in these islands are primitive, half-pound and pound cans are those usually sold. A very few 5 and 10 pound cans are bought by hotels and institutions, such as hospitals and schools, but this is an unimportant factor.

**Present Freight Charges.**

Danish canned butter at this date is paying \$4 freight charges on 100 pounds. This, however, does not include maritime and war risks, which are heavy on merchandise traversing the North Sea.

A Danish canned butter having a large sale in the Canaries at this time is the "L. E. Bruun" brand, which is said here to be fairly well known to the foreign trade and may therefore permit American firms to obtain an idea of the goods already on this market.

Freight rates at present from the United States to Canary ports are very high, reaching \$40 per ton, which equals the Danish rate, as above quoted. The superiority of American fine creamery butter, as already canned for certain tropical countries, should, however, open here an opportunity for American exporters.

**Credit Terms.**

Credit terms on the Danish article before the war ran usually 60 and 90 days. At present 6 days' sight or even cash against delivery, of the merchandise would probably be accepted freely by local commission houses prominent in the trade. Owing to the great increase in prices, both retailers and commission houses have been forced recently to sell on very small marginal profits, and unless American quotations are decidedly below the Danish competition, f. o. b. New York, might be expected to make introductory sales most difficult.

[A list of firms handling butter and grocery supplies in the Canary Islands can be obtained from the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce or its district offices. Refer to file No. 78287.]

According to the Russian press, the Russian Minister of Trade and Commerce has given the Standard Oil Co. the right to explore for petroleum in Siberia, where there are some indications of its presence.

### PROMOTION OF CHILEAN INDUSTRIES.

The thirty-second annual report to the Government of Chile of the Sociedad de Fomento Fabril is an interesting review of the organized efforts made by this body for the promotion of domestic manufactures. The headquarters of the association are in Santiago, in a building shared with the National Society of Mining. Among the activities of the Sociedad de Fomento Fabril are the publication of a monthly bulletin, the maintenance of an industrial library which is open to the public every day, the direction of 12 industrial schools, the holding of industrial expositions [notice of the exposition to be held in September of this year was published in *COMMERCE REPORTS* for Apr. 26, 1916], the collecting and supplying of commercial information, the presentation of tariff recommendations and other economic data to the Government, and the general encouragement of home industries.

#### **Twelve Industrial Schools.**

The industrial schools are maintained by the association with funds supplied by the Government. Five are located in Santiago, two in Valparaiso, two in Valdivia, and one each in Chillan, Concepcion, and Viña del Mar. Two others, at Serena and at Tacna, were closed last year for lack of funds, and all the others were placed on a rigid system of economy, necessitated by the financial depression following the outbreak of the European war. To save the item of rent, most of the schools were given quarters in the public school buildings, at the instance of the Minister of Public Instruction. In these schools, both day and evening classes are held in the various branches of mechanics, industrial and ornamental design, electricity, and construction. Through the offices of the association, students from these industrial schools are frequently given places in factories during vacations, where they can put into practice their theoretical knowledge.

#### **Development of New Industries.**

The decrease of Chilean imports as a consequence of the changed conditions in Europe has led to the development of many local industries to meet the needs formerly supplied by goods of foreign manufacture. In recent numbers of its bulletin the Sociedad de Fomento Fabril gives in detail the home industries that are taking advantage of the present opportunity. [Some of these increases in Chilean manufactures were noted in *COMMERCE REPORTS* for Apr. 17, 1916.] The March bulletin contains notices of a new factory in Santiago that makes machine belting from waste pieces of sole leather sewed with steel wire. The belting is said to give unusual satisfaction, and it is sold at a much lower price than that asked for similar belting of foreign manufacture. Writing inks, mannikins, and incubators are among the articles which are being manufactured with increasing success. A manufacturer of wooden shoe heels is finding a good home market, and the association states that he is desirous of obtaining more capital, so that he may increase his output.

#### **Salt, Cereals, and Canned Goods.**

For the first time in Chile salt from the northern Provinces is being refined and packed at home, and it is said to be superior to the imported article. The brands known as "Gallo" and "Mylord" are sold in glass bottles, and they are advertised as purely native prod-

ucts, from the salt itself to the glass containers, the labels, and the shipping case. The firm refining this salt also prepares native sodium and refines the crude sugar of Peru. For about a year a cereal factory has been turning out every month 6,000 tins of prepared foods for infants and invalids, besides breakfast foods and other cereal products. These are sold for at least 50 per cent less than foreign goods, are reputed to be equal in quality and to have the advantage of reaching the consumer in fresher condition. They are exported from Chile to other South American countries, and efforts are being made to win a permanent place for them there. Recently a large cannery has been established in La Calera, with commodious buildings and a modern equipment of machinery for canning all kinds of fruit and vegetables. The owner of the cannery also owns 500 acres of land in fruit, including an orchard of alligator pears (aguacate) producing half a million pears a year. The names of 18 other canneries are given as growing shippers of canned goods.

#### Glass, Perfumery, Safes, and Industrial Oil.

The Chilean glass industry is represented by two large factories located in Santiago, producing bottles, vases, and plain hollow glassware. One factory has been handicapped by the nonarrival of an order of bottle-making machinery ordered from Germany before the war. Recently a fine quality of quartz from the north of Chile has been used in the manufacture of glass, in place of the sand and old glass heretofore employed. More than 300 iron safes or strong boxes were sold by a domestic factory in 1915, at prices 50 per cent less than asked for similar boxes of foreign make. The local manufacturer has patents for using in Chile the most improved locks and safety devices. The domestic manufacture of perfumery has greatly increased during the past few months. One factory makes 200 kinds of products which are included under the classification of perfumery, being in fact lotions, powders, soap, and similar preparations as well as perfumes. The war has prevented the usual importation of linseed oil, and a local inventor has offered a substitute in whale oil treated with a preparation which destroys the characteristic whale odor. A corporation is being formed to exploit this invention.

#### Tariff Activity.

The Sociedad de Fomento Fabril is a firm advocate of protection for home industries. As the authorized representative of manufacturers in all lines, the association presented briefs to the tariff commissions of both Houses of the Chilean Congress, and many of its recommendations were adopted. Assistance has not been given, however, to certain industries, including cement, bottles, and yarn for weaving; but the association hopes that through special bills these may yet be given consideration.

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#### GRAYFISH TESTED TO DETERMINE FITNESS AS BAIT.

The United States Bureau of Fisheries reports that on the last cruise of the *Fish Hawk* in Chesapeake Bay samples of grayfish meat, put up in brine, were distributed among crab fishermen and dealers, to test out its value and the possibility of introducing it as a substitute for some of the baits now on the market. Fishermen who have tried the grayfish state that it is a very good bait.

### SHIPPING SITUATION WITH NEW ZEALAND.

[Consul General Alfred A. Winslow, Auckland, June 5.]

There is still a great shortage of shipping both ways for New Zealand cargoes. Importers' warehouses are scantily stocked, and exporters' and producers' warehouses are crowded in the main; and the outlook does not seem promising unless the reported amalgamation of the interests of the Cunard and the Commonwealth & Dominion Lines comes to the relief of this port, as is expected.

American interests are benefiting somewhat because of the reopening of the Panama Canal, but American trade is suffering greatly because of lack of shipping space and the very high freight rates charged. American manufacturers could double exports to New Zealand if ample shipping space could be had at the same freight rate as quoted from European ports.

#### Goods Received in Damaged Condition—Freight Rate.

Many complaints come to this consulate general relative to delays in receiving shipments because of lack of shipping space, covering many classes of merchandise. The following excerpt from an article published in the New Zealand Herald quite fully covers the conditions with which the New Zealand importer must contend:

An instance mentioned by an importer on Saturday was that of a motor car. When the case was opened it was found that the upholstery was saturated, a quantity of water was collected in the folds of the hood, and in the body of the car, while the metal parts were red with rust. Injury was assessed by the customs officials at equal to one-third of the value of the car, and the department remitted £10 (\$48.66) of the duty that would ordinarily have been payable. A case of apparel was found to be saturated, and another instance given was that of a case of miscellaneous hardware, all of which was rusted. There seems little doubt that the damage has been done before the goods were loaded into the steamers which delivered them, for a case of goods showing injury of this kind will be found in a hold among other goods in normal condition.

Merchants who have experienced this effect of the shipping shortage state that there is little hope of any redress, since the damage has apparently been caused between the vendor and the shipping company, neither of them will accept any responsibility. The only measure of compensation is apparently a reduction in the customs duties, and customhouse agents have been instructed to set aside for examination any goods showing staining or other signs of exposure to the weather. In some cases there is no such external indication, and the damage has not been found until delivery has been made and the goods unpacked in the warehouse. Another cause of complaint is that heavy bills for storage accompany many delayed consignments, one instance that was given being of a motor car, on which £5 (\$24.33) was claimed for storage while the crates were awaiting shipment.

The steamship *Orari* of the American and Australasian Line made the voyage from New York via Panama Canal in 34 days, while the tramp steamer *Kinross*, loaded with kerosene and benzine, was 92 days in reaching Auckland from New York via Cape of Good Hope. The *Orari* brought a cargo of general merchandise, while the *Kinross* brought 155,000 cases of kerosene and benzine.

A freight rate of 200 shillings (\$48.66) was paid per ton for general merchandise that came out by the *Orari*, and it is expected this will be increased soon, while rates from London to New Zealand are quoted as follows, for the dates given:

	July, 1914.	March, 1915.	March, 1916.	April, 1916.	July, 1916.
Dead-weight.....	\$5.46	\$9.42	\$12.16	\$19.46	\$24.83
Measurement.....	10.94	15.19	18.24	24.98	29.79

**NORWEGIAN PULP AND PAPER MARKET.**

[Weekly Bulletin of the Canadian Department of Trade and Commerce, Ottawa, July 10.]

The Norwegian trade paper *Tidsskrift for Papirindustrie* writes in its last issue:

Norwegian pulp prices continue to soar, and the United Kingdom pays fancy prices for the odd lots available of this year's production. Bleached sulfite is quoted at \$186.67 per long ton, easy bleach at \$160 to \$173.33, strong at \$146.67 to \$160, and kraft soda at \$133.33, net cash to makers, f. o. b. Norwegian ports. In Sweden prices keep about \$67 lower. The United States continues to keep back from the market, but Sweden claims to be receiving sufficient orders from Germany.

Dry mechanical pulp is firm and scarce at \$40 to \$41.33 f. o. b. per ton, while that which is 50 per cent moist has advanced. The current value to-day is \$14.67 to \$17.33 per ton f. o. b. Norway. The demand is good, but the stocks are small. Baltic mechanical pulp mills seem to be working at full pressure, as it is understood that 40,000 tons for prompt delivery have been taken up by the German market at about \$8 f. o. b. per ton.

For the first time in several months the paper market is not rising. There is now actually a stagnation in prices, and the market on the whole is a little easier. There may be several reasons for this, but it is believed that it is partly due to the fact that France does not pay the prices lately demanded. The French newspapers have formed a buying syndicate, and it is said, too, that Scandinavian prices are again considerably higher than those demanded by Canadians. A few varieties other than news print, such as grease proofs, are also a little easier, whereas better-class papers are almost unobtainable. Mills making paper for the Chinese market are in an awkward position, on account of the shortage of tonnage. Large lots of paper booked for March and April shipment have not been forwarded by the steamship lines, owing to lack of room; thus the stocks of the mills are large. Relief, however, is in sight.

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**PROGRESS OF CENSUS OF MANUFACTURES.**

Preliminary statements which give preliminary totals from the census of manufactures taken as of December 31, 1914, have been prepared for all States by industries. Notices have been published giving totals for 644 different cities and 48 industries. Work is progressing on tables for the final reports. Photographic copies of detailed summaries have been furnished to commercial associations with request for local publication. The work of this census of manufactures as a whole is far advanced and progressing rapidly.

The Geological Survey now has available for distribution its annual statement on talc and soapstone in 1915. During the year 186,891 short tons of talc and soapstone, valued at \$1,891,582, were sold in the United States, an increase of 8 per cent in quantity and 1 per cent in value over 1914.

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**District Offices of the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce.**

New York, Room 409 United States Customhouse; Boston, eighteenth floor United States Customhouse; Chicago, 504 Federal Building; St. Louis, 402 Third National Bank Building; Atlanta, 521 Post Office Building; New Orleans, 1020 Hibernia Bank Building; San Francisco, 307 United States Customhouse; Seattle, 848 Henry Building. Cooperative district offices: Cleveland, Chamber of Commerce; Cincinnati, Chamber of Commerce; Asst. Gen'l Frt. Agt., C. N. O. & T. P. Ry. Co., Cincinnati; Los Angeles, Chamber of Commerce; Detroit, Board of Commerce; Philadelphia, Chamber of Commerce; South American Agent, Southern Ry. Co., Chattanooga, Tenn.

## FOREIGN TRADE OPPORTUNITIES.

Reserved addresses may be obtained from the **Bureau** and its **district offices**. Request for each opportunity should be on a separate sheet and **state opportunity number**. The Bureau does not furnish credit ratings or assume responsibility as to the standing of foreign inquirers; the usual precautions should be taken in all cases.

*Cotton piece goods*, No. 21844.—The Bureau is advised that a commission house in Cuba desires to secure the exclusive agency for cotton piece goods. References given.

*Moving-picture films*, No. 21845.—An American consular officer in the United Kingdom reports that a man in his district desires to communicate with American film producers.

*Machinery*, No. 21846.—A firm in the United States informs the Bureau that it is in receipt of an inquiry from one of its clients regarding clover-seed cleaning machinery. Prices should be quoted f. o. b. New York.

*Handkerchiefs, etc.*, No. 21847.—An American consular officer in France writes that a commission merchant in his district desires to be placed in touch with American manufacturers of cutgut, and linen handkerchiefs. Correspondence may be in English. References given.

*Saw handles*, No. 21848.—An American consular officer in Canada reports that a firm in his district desires to communicate with American manufacturers of saw handles.

*Machinery*, No. 21849.—A man in the West Indies informs the Bureau of his desire to communicate with manufacturers of sugar-mill machinery. Reference given.

*Vegetable fat*, No. 21850.—A commission merchant in Spain informs an American consular officer that he is in the market for vegetable fat employed in the manufacture of chocolate. Purchases will be made in wholesale quantities. References are given. Correspondence should be in Spanish.

*Machinery*, No. 21851.—An American consular officer in South Africa reports that a firm in his district desires to obtain prices, catalogues, etc., of fruit-pulping machinery. The horsepower and area covered should be given in regard to each piece of machinery.

*Currants and raisins*, No. 21852.—A firm in Greece informs an American consular officer of its desire to communicate with American importers of currants and sultana raisins. Correspondence may be in English.

*Confectionery, crockery, etc.*, No. 21853.—An American consular officer in Newfoundland reports that a firm in his district wishes to be placed in touch with manufacturers and exporters of confectionery, china, and crockery ware, shoes for women, iron bedsteads, house and office furniture, carpets, paints and varnishes, advertising specialties, and toys and notions.

*Tar, varnishes, oils, etc.*, No. 21854.—A firm in Brazil advises the Bureau of its desire to be placed in touch with American manufacturers and exporters of tar, hoes, caustic soda, horseshoe nails, paints, linseed oil, turpentine, varnishes, tin foil, metal valves, cocks and registers, lead pipes and tubing, galvanized pipes and tubes, galvanized sheet iron, cement, dynamite, or any other goods for which a market in that country may be found. The firm also desires estimates, prices, etc., on machines used in the lithography business.

*Jewelry*, No. 21855.—An American consular officer in Chile reports that a firm in his district desires to receive catalogues and prices, etc., from American manufacturers of jewelry, particularly moderate priced jewelry and silverware. Reference given. Correspondence should be in Spanish.

*Ice machine*, No. 21856.—A business man in Venezuela informs an American consular officer that he desires to purchase a small ice machine. Catalogues, preferably in Spanish, of machinery of this kind, are also desired by the American consul.

# COMMERCE REPORTS



DAILY CONSULAR AND TRADE REPORTS  
ISSUED DAILY BY THE BUREAU OF FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC COMMERCE  
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

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No. 168 Washington, D. C., Wednesday, July 19

1916

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## MAXIMUM SHOE PRICES IN RUSSIA.

[Cablegram from Commercial Attaché W. C. Huntington, Petrograd, July 17.]

After one postponement, the law fixing maximum shoe prices went into effect on July 14 as follows: Men's high shoes, colored, 23 rubles (\$7.13 at the current exchange rate of about \$0.31 to the ruble); black, 21 rubles (\$6.51).

## OPENING OF RUSSIAN-DUTCH BANK.

[Russian-American Journal of Commerce, July.]

A Russian-Dutch bank has just been organized in Petrograd with a number of prominent Russian and Dutch capitalists on its board. The object of the bank is general banking, but it is also undertaking the placing of Russian Government loans in neutral countries, especially in the Netherlands, where there is an excellent field for such investments.

## SEEKS FIRE-RESISTING MATERIALS FOR SHIPS' DECKS.

The Bureau of Standards, Department of Commerce, in connection with a general study of fire-resisting materials, is considering among other phases of the subject the development of a fire-resisting material for use in constructing, in whole or part, the deck structures of excursion and passenger steamers. So far as may be applicable, the material when developed would also be considered in relation with other marine uses.

The Bureau of Standards would be glad to receive from manufacturers samples of such materials as they consider suitable for the purpose, in order that they may be given consideration.

Arrivals of ships at Rotterdam between January 1, 1916, and June 24, 1916, as reported by American Commercial Attaché Erwin W. Thompson, numbered 1,382, compared with 4,828 in the corresponding period of 1913.

### RESULTS OF RECENT INTEREST IN TILEFISH.

At the beginning of July, 1916, the tilefish fishery was eight months old. During that period, much has been done by the United States Bureau of Fisheries in its efforts to make the American people acquainted with a neglected food resource. The results are noteworthy, because prior to October, 1915, this fish was practically unknown in the markets.

The fishery centers at New York, but vessels from other ports as well as from New York engage in it. The largest number of vessels landing fish at New York in any one month was 13. From New York the fish are distributed over a wide area. In June one shipment of over 20,000 pounds was sent to Kansas City.

The extent of the fishery from month to month has fluctuated, but the general tendency has been upward. The receipts of fish in June were about twice those of the preceding month, and reached the very considerable total of 1,126,000 pounds, in 26 trips. The prices received by the vessels for the eviscerated fish have varied from 2½ to 7 cents a pound, averaging about 5 cents.

The monthly receipts at New York were: November, 156,500 pounds; December, 170,200; January, 398,000; February, 468,000; March, 332,000; April, 614,000; May, 594,000; June, 1,126,000; total, 3,858,700 pounds.

Adding to these the small lots of tilefish landed in October, 1915, during the progress of the publicity campaign conducted by the Bureau, and the various fares brought into Atlantic City and other ports, it appears that the total quantity of tilefish caught and sold to June 30 was 4,030,000 pounds, with a first value exceeding \$200,000.

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### DECREASED CANADIAN IMMIGRATION.

[Consul General John G. Foster, Ottawa, Ontario, July 11.]

The statistics of immigration into Canada during the fiscal year ended March 31 show marked decline from the figures of the previous year, the total being 48,537, as compared with 144,789 in the previous year. Of those arriving the past year, 8,664 were British, 36,937 were from the United States, and 2,936 from other countries. Of the British immigration, 5,857 were English, 1,887 Scotch, 818 Irish, and 102 Welsh.

The total number was distributed as follows: Maritime Provinces, 5,981; Quebec, 8,274; Ontario, 14,743; Manitoba, 3,487; Saskatchewan, 6,001; Alberta, 7,215; and British Columbia, 2,836.

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### REPORT OF LINTERS CONSUMED AND STOCKS HELD.

The Bureau of Census, Department of Commerce, reports that linters consumed in the United States during June were 68,098 bales in 1916 and 53,903 in 1915; on hand in consuming establishments on June 30, 107,361 bales in 1916 and 199,356 in 1915; held in public storage and at compresses on June 30, 166,953 bales in 1916 and 103,560 in 1915. Linters consumed during 11 months ending June 30 amounted to 847,539 bales in 1916 and 362,985 bales in 1915.



## AMERICAN SHIPS IN FOREIGN TRADE.

The American flag, which before the European war was seldom seen on merchant steamers in the harbors of South America, Europe, Asia, Africa, and Australia, except on the four American Line and two Red Star Line mail steamships to Great Britain and Belgium, the five Pacific Mail Line steamers to Asia, and the three Spreckels' Line mail steamships to Australia, is becoming a familiar sight in foreign over-seas ports.

Between January 1, 1916, and May 30 (in the case of New York and Philadelphia, June 30) the American ocean steamships named below have been engaged in overseas trade between the foreign countries and American ports named. Repeated voyages of the same steamship are not noted, except when the terminal ports differed. The net tonnage represents cargo carrying capacity, each net ton (100 cubic feet) sufficing for about 2½ tons weight of cargo. Bulk oil steamers are marked with an asterisk.

Name of vessel and whence arrived.	Net tons.	Port of arrival.	Name of vessel and whence arrived.	Net tons.	Port of arrival.
<b>SOUTH AMERICA.</b>			<b>SOUTH AMERICA—CON.</b>		
<b>From Argentina:</b>			<b>From Chile—Contd.</b>		
Lewis K. Thurlow	2,500	Boston.	Nevadan	2,824	Philadelphia.
Atlantic	3,394	Do.	Pleades	2,932	Do.
Santa Barbara	4,008	Do.	Carolyn	2,443	Do.
J. L. Luckenbach	3,192	Do.	Astec	2,345	Do.
Stephen R. Jones	3,112	Do.	Alaskan	5,522	Baltimore.
Corosal	1,942	Do.	Kentuckian	4,084	Do.
Edward Peirce	3,228	Do.	Isthmian	3,463	Do.
Byllyl	1,980	Do.	Florence Lucken-		
Saramacca	2,101	New York.	bach	3,209	Do.
Mundale	2,071	Do.	Iowan	4,064	Norfolk.
Californian	3,582	Do.	Manitowoc	2,901	Do.
Crofton Hall	3,661	Do.	Allagush	2,491	Do.
Santa Cecilia	3,836	Do.	Constitucion	2,160	Wilmington.
Oregonian	3,535	Do.	Columbian	6,495	Charleston.
			Howick Hall	3,131	Savannah.
Total (14)	42,142		Isabella	1,942	Do.
<b>From Brazil:</b>			Falcon	955	Los Angeles.
Venezuela	3,520	Do.	St. Helens	784	Do.
Segurancas	2,806	Do.	William Chatham	915	Do.
Winnebago	2,718	Do.	Fair Oaks	533	Do.
Astec	2,345	Do.	Templeo	1,654	Do.
Muskegon	2,127	Do.	Texas	5,636	San Francisco.
Saramacca	2,101	Do.	California	4,896	Do.
Fredk. Luckenbach	1,926	Do.	Coalinga*	4,770	Do.
A. A. Raven	1,605	Do.	La Brea*	4,257	Do.
Iowan	4,064	Philadelphia.	Bradford*	3,931	Do.
Pennsylvanian	4,064	Do.	De Soto*	3,637	Do.
Montanan	4,124	Do.	Stanley Dollar	965	Do.
Hawaiian	3,555	Do.	Nann Smith	1,276	Do.
Edward Peirce	3,228	Do.	Columbia	1,188	Seattle.
Stephen R. Jones	3,112	Do.			Honolulu.
Arisonan	6,687	Baltimore.	Total (42)	134,831	
Columbian	6,495	Do.	<b>From Colombia:</b>		
Atlantic	3,394	Do.	Santa Marta	3,126	New York.
Peter H. Crowell	2,422	Do.	Zacapa	3,122	Do.
Montars	1,695	San Juan, P. R.	Almirante	3,120	Do.
Cacique	4,543	San Francisco.	Carrillo	3,109	Do.
Santa Cruz	2,964	Do.	Saramacca	2,101	Do.
			Neptune	707	Do.
Total (21)	69,516		Total (6)	15,285	
<b>From Chile:</b>			<b>From other South Amer-</b>		
American	3,555	Boston.	ican ports:		
Charlton Hall	4,999	Do.	Solano	525	San Francisco.
Santa Cecilia	4,028	New York.	Cushing*	4,320	New York.
Santa Clara	4,026	Do.	De Soto*	3,637	San Francisco.
Santa Catalina	3,857	Do.	Alvarado	940	Do.
Santa Cruz	3,284	Do.	Colusa	3,622	Los Angeles.
Hattie Luckenbach	3,516	Do.	Philadelphia	1,900	New York.
Chincha	4,064	Do.	Neptune	707	Philadelphia.
Bantu	2,455	Do.	Oliver J. Olson	1,132	New York.
Arborean	3,602	Philadelphia.			
Dakotan	4,068	Do.	Total (8)	32,068	
Ohlean	4,064	Do.			
Artisan	3,662	Do.			

Name of vessel and whence arrived.	Net tons.	Port of arrival.	Name of vessel and whence arrived.	Net tons.	Port of arrival.
<b>EUROPE.</b>			<b>EUROPE—continued.</b>		
<b>From Great Britain:</b>			<b>From Scandinavia—Con.</b>		
Siberia.....	5,493	New York.	Brindilla*.....	2,659	New York.
St. Paul.....	5,874	Do.	Wico*.....	1,715	Do.
Navajo.....	1,967	Do.	A. A. Raven.....	1,605	Philadelphia.
Manchuria.....	8,750	Do.			
Finland.....	7,711	Do.	Total (14).....	30,167	
Henry Williams.....	1,392	Do.			
St. Louis.....	5,893	Do.	<b>From the Netherlands:</b>		
Korea.....	5,651	Do.	Sherman.....	3,048	New York.
New York.....	4,643	Do.	Healdton.....	2,774	Do.
Brynghilda.....	1,409	Do.	Ecuador.....	3,517	Do.
Kroonland.....	7,483	Do.			
Mongolia.....	8,750	Do.	Total (3).....	9,340	
Yaguez.....	1,992	Do.			
Amazonia.....	1,327	Do.	<b>From Spain and Portu-</b>		
Chemung.....	1,848	Do.	<b>gal:</b>		
Camino.....	2,086	Do.	Amazonia.....	1,327	Do.
Onega.....	2,776	Do.	Constable Hook.....	1,392	Do.
Nebraskan.....	2,824	Baltimore.	Mae.....	1,281	Do.
Southern.....	2,707	Do.	Ruby.....	1,605	Baltimore.
Sun*.....	3,501	Norfolk.	Plymouth.....	3,355	Do.
Georgiana.....	2,846	Savannah.	Franklin.....	3,354	Do.
Vigilancia.....	2,934	Do.	Addle M. Lawrence.....	2,195	New York.
Westwego*.....	3,059	New Orleans.	Sarnia.....	2,167	Do.
Kentra.....	3,020	Philadelphia.	Onega.....	2,276	Do.
			Polarine*.....	2,389	Philadelphia.
Total (24).....	95,936		Total (10).....	21,341	
<b>From France:</b>			<b>AFRICA.</b>		
Gold Shali*.....	3,420	Norfolk.	Petrolite*.....	2,361	New York.
Virginian.....	5,077	Boston.	Communipaw*.....	2,253	Do.
Kansas.....	5,131	Do.	Zealandia.....	1,718	Do.
Missourian.....	4,981	Do.	Gargoyle*.....	2,819	Philadelphia.
Camino.....	2,086	New York.	Zamora.....	1,959	New York.
M. E. Harper.....	1,666	Do.	Tifton.....	476	Do.
Silver Shell*.....	3,422	Do.	Franklin.....	3,354	Baltimore.
Nevadan.....	2,824	Do.			
Dakotan.....	4,068	Do.	Total (7).....	15,040	
Floridian.....	4,311	Do.			
Dochra.....	2,763	Do.	<b>ASIA.</b>		
Portland.....	1,815	Do.	<b>From China:</b>		
Atlantic Sun*.....	1,797	Philadelphia.	J. A. Moffett.....	4,012	San Francisco.
Eurana.....	8,759	Norfolk.	Pennsylvania.....	2,134	Do.
Hewitt.....	3,394	Do.	Geo. W. Fenwick.....	1,193	Seattle.
			Javary.....	782	Do.
Total (15).....	50,514		China.....	3,186	Honolulu.
<b>From Italy:</b>			Yucatan.....	2,317	Do.
Segurana.....	2,806	New York.	City of Puebla.....	1,712	Do.
Missourian.....	5,077	Do.			
City of Macon.....	3,996	Do.	Total (7).....	15,336	
Amazonia.....	1,327	Do.			
Chincha.....	4,064	Do.	<b>From Japan:</b>		
Georgiana.....	2,846	Do.	Seward.....	2,080	Seattle.
City of Memphis.....	3,931	Do.			
John D. Archbold*.....	6,864	Do.	<b>From other Asiatic</b>		
Sibiria.....	2,246	Do.	<b>ports:</b>		
Nebraskan.....	2,824	Do.	Honolulu.....	4,068	Do.
Ruby.....	1,605	Do.	Santa Rosalia.....	3,488	Boston.
Nevadan.....	2,779	Do.	City of Memphis.....	3,931	Philadelphia.
Muskogee*.....	4,502	Norfolk.			
Sun*.....	3,501	Do.	Total (3).....	11,487	
Waverly.....	2,505	New Orleans.			
			<b>OCEANIA.</b>		
Total (15).....	50,373		<b>From Australia and</b>		
<b>From Scandinavia:</b>			<b>Pacific Islands:</b>		
Platuria*.....	2,204	New York.	Suruga.....	2,727	Boston.
Maumee.....	1,615	Do.	Ventura.....	3,918	Honolulu.
Wico*.....	1,715	Do.	Sonoma.....	3,911	Do.
Petrolite*.....	2,361	Do.	Sierra.....	3,750	Do.
Moreni*.....	2,391	Do.	Chehalis.....	421	San Francisco.
Ausable.....	1,957	Norfolk.	Republic.....	2,475	Honolulu.
Communipaw*.....	2,353	Do.			
Winneconne.....	1,151	Do.	Total (6).....	17,302	
Corning.....	3,026	New Orleans.			
Pioneer*.....	3,026	Do.			
Polarine*.....	2,389	New York.			

A summary of the foregoing statistics follows:

Entries from—	Number of Ameri- can steamers.	Net tonnage.
Europe .....	81	257, 671
Africa .....	7	15, 040
Asia .....	11	28, 903
Oceania .....	6	17, 202
South America .....	91	278, 557
Total .....	196	597, 363

### UTILIZING OLD CONTAINERS IN HAITI.

[Special Agent Garrard Harris.]

Haiti is one country where almost everything is utilized, particularly if the substance be wood or tin. Lumber is \$60 per thousand, and any substitute for it is eagerly welcomed. For instance, a partition fence belonging to some well-to-do people on a prominent street is made of the tops, bottoms, and sides of packing boxes that contained cans of condensed milk; two doors farther on is a fence made of old barrel staves; and a combination of barrel staves and packing-box strips for fencing is by no means uncommon. Job carpenter shops and manufacturers of cheap handmade furniture are always eager bidders for packing cases. They are utilized whenever possible in building houses and for interior work.

Tin cans, with the solder melted off and the tops and bottoms removed, are flattened out and used as shingles, in mending fences, patching holes, and for numerous other purposes. The 5-gallon oil cans, however, are prized and cherished family possessions. These cans have a regular market value of 15 to 20 cents gold. It is no unusual occurrence for a woman to buy a 5-gallon can of kerosene, hoist it to her head, and tramp all day peddling the oil in small quantities—at cost, if she can do no better—just for the sake of obtaining the tin. These receptacles are used for carrying water, boiling clothes, and storing and cooking food.

The tins in which 5 pounds of lard come have a value of 10 cents gold, and are a standard measure, known locally as a "mamite." They are used as a dry measure generally for corn, beans, salt, and the like. Even the square tins in which matches are shipped are sold at 5 to 10 cents each.

### TWO STEAMERS RETURNED TO PACIFIC TRADE.

[Panama Canal Record, July 5.]

The *Siberia*, formerly of the fleet of the Pacific Mail Steamship Co. and sold last October to the Atlantic Transport Co. for service between Great Britain and New York, passed through the Panama Canal on July 1 on its way back to the Pacific Ocean under the house flag of the Toyo Kisen Kaisha. The steamer has been registered in Yokohama and will be operated in the service between the United States and the Far East.

A sister ship, the *Korea*, is expected to make the passage through the canal within a short time, having likewise been sold to the Toyo Kisen Kaisha. The price of the two vessels in the recent sale is reported as \$2,000,000 each.

# THE SOAP TRADE OF FRENCH INDO-CHINA.

[Consul Lawrence P. Briggs, Saigon, Apr. 20.]

For several years French Indo-China has imported annually between 800 and 1,100 metric tons of soap, valued at about \$300,000. The imports at Saigon during 1914 were valued at \$222,068 against \$305,010 for 1913, of which perfumed soaps made up \$169,820 worth for 1914 and \$269,860 worth for 1913. The imports into Haifong were much smaller, amounting to only \$26,315 in 1914 and \$24,133 in 1913. The imports into Tourane and other ports of French Indo-China amount to about \$25,000 worth annually.

The customs statistics give the value of the imports of the different varieties of soap at the port of Saigon during the years 1913 to 1915 as follows:

Kinds.	1913	1914	1915
Perfumed:			
Transparent.....	\$93, 044	\$40, 930	\$137, 589
Others.....	176, 816	128, 890	112, 411
Nonperfumed:			
Fine and medium.....	29, 340	46, 218	4, 529
Coarse.....	5, 810	6, 030	6, 467
Total.....	305, 010	222, 068	260, 986

The soap classed as "perfumed" in the customs statistics includes all brands that have any artificial odor. This includes, of course, all kinds of European hand and toilet soap. The so-called transparent soap includes glycerin soaps, with or without the addition of alcohol or sugar. All "perfumed" soaps are given a customs valuation of 320 francs per 100 kilos (about 28 cents a pound). They are generally sold at retail in boxes of three hand cakes for 1 to 3 piasters (about 50 cents to \$1.50 United States currency) per box.

## Sources of Imported Soap.

Before the war most of this soap was of French origin and came directly from France. Since the outbreak of the war, however, most of this soap has been of English origin and has been imported from Hongkong and Singapore. American soap exporters may be able to compete in this trade. England has the advantage of direct trade connections with Hongkong and Singapore and of the minimum tariff rates, while the United States pays the maximum rates on "perfumed" soaps. At present America's share in the annual soap trade of Indo-China is limited to a few hundred dollars' worth of shaving soap.

Nonperfumed soap includes soaps made of vegetable oils, animal fats, and other substances, without the addition of perfumery of any kind. The customs make two distinctions in this kind of soap. Washing soap in double bars, of the grade of our "Ivory" and similar soaps, is given an estimated value of 60 francs per 100 kilos (about 5 cents a pound), while coarse washing soap of the "Marseille" variety is estimated at 20 francs per 100 kilos (less than 2 cents a pound). Most of this soap comes from France or is manufactured by the local factories. Although on "nonperfumed soaps" the United States is entitled to the same tariff rates as England and other foreign competitors, there is little prospect of being able to get any part of this trade.

**Manufacture of Soap in Indo-China.**

The importance of this market attracted the attention of business men at Saigon and Haifong, and about 10 years ago soap factories were established in these ports to exploit the vegetable oils that form an important product of Indo-China. The Saigon plant produces annually about 200 tons of liquid tar soap and coarse white "Marseille" soap, which is sold in large cubes for about 1 franc per kilo. This factory also produces carbolineum, paints, varnishes, and many kinds of vegetable oils. In the manufacture of this soap all kinds of vegetable oils are used, but the principal ones are coconut and peanut oils, of which about 60 and 40 tons, respectively, are consumed each year. The value of the yearly product amounts to over \$50,000.

The Haifong factory was rebuilt and installed with modern machinery in 1910, but the venture was not profitable, and after a few years was sold to a company with a capital stock of 800,000 francs (about \$160,000). During the first two years under the new management the plant produced about 600 tons of soap per year. This amount was increased to 1,200 tons in 1915, and the indications for 1916 are for a production of 1,500 tons. The market value of the soap manufactured by this plant in 1915 was over \$180,000, and that of the by-products was over \$20,000. Connected with the plant is a factory for the manufacture of paper boxes from local paper and another for the manufacture of soap boxes from native lumber from the sawmill at Ben-thuy in northern Annam. The entire plant gives employment to 4 Europeans and about 100 Annamites, mainly women and children. The machinery is French, except that of the paper-box factory, which is German. The motive power is steam, and the fuel used is Hongay coal.

**Raw Materials Used.**

The raw material used by the Haifong plant in 1915 consisted of the following items: 120 tons of peanut oil from Quinhon in southern Annam and Fort Bayard in the peninsula of Kwang-Chow; 100 tons of coconut oil manufactured from copra imported from Quinhon and Saigon; 50 tons of cottonseed oil from the cotton mill at Khsach-Kandal in Cambodia; 50 tons of garcinia oil from Tonkin; 20 tons of camelia oil from Tonkin; 20 tons of sesame oil from Tonkin; 100 tons of animal tallow from Tonkin and tree tallow from Hankow, China; 120 tons of caustic soda from England and France; and 20 tons of potash of German and English origin. The potash was used in the manufacture of soft soap, but this branch of the industry has been practically discontinued since the beginning of the war because of the cheapness of the product and the difficulty of obtaining potash. An attempt was made a year ago to use Manila copra, but it was found too expensive and the cheaper native product was substituted.

The product of this Haifong factory includes soap of all grades from large cubes of "Marseille" washing soap, which retail for about 1 franc 20 centimes per kilo, to a fair perfumed toilet soap, which sells for about a piaster per box of three cakes. Most of the soap produced by this factory is of the cheaper grades. Because of the cheapness of native labor (5 to 25 cents per day, United States

currency) and the abundance and cheapness of raw materials, it is difficult to compete with this factory in the local market in the grades of soap which it produces.

#### **By-Products of Soap Manufacture.**

Both the Haifong and Saigon soap factories have several interesting by-products. The most important by-product of the Haifong factory is lye. About 60 metric tons of the product, valued at some \$8,000, were sent to France during 1915 to be used in the manufacture of glycerin for explosives; but high freight rates are now diverting this product to Japan. About \$4,000 worth of floor wax and furniture polish was sold locally, and some 250 tons of oil cakes from the residue of copra and other nuts were disposed of as stock food or fertilizer at a price of about \$2,500. An interesting adjunct to this trade is the manufacture of resin and turpentine from pitch obtained from Yen-lap in northern Tonkin. About 25 tons of turpentine, valued at \$6,000, were sold in Tonkin or shipped to Saigon; while some 50 tons of resin, valued at \$3,000, were consumed by the paper mills of Dapcau in Tonkin and Shanghai, China.

The value of the paint, varnish, carbolineum, and vegetable oils manufactured by the Saigon factory during 1915 represented nearly half the value of the entire output of this factory.

#### **Exportation of Soap.**

Haifong soap finds a ready sale in Indo-China, and is exported to Yunnan and other parts of China, to Hongkong, Singapore, and other neighboring ports. An attempt is now being made to introduce this soap into Manila. The war has had the effect of diminishing European competition in the Orient and of increasing the local sales and extending the foreign market of the Haifong factory. This was doubly fortunate for this factory, for the present management has greatly improved the quality of the product and will probably be able to hold the trade thus gained. There is little hope of successful competition against this firm in Tonkin, or even in Saigon, in the cheaper grades of soap.

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### **SHORTAGE OF CARBONIC-ACID GAS IN HONGKONG.**

[Vice Consul A. E. Carleton, Hongkong, British China, June 8.]

Before the outbreak of the present European war practically all of the carbonic acid gas used in Hongkong, other than that produced locally by a manufacturer of aerated waters, was imported from Germany, and since then dealers have fortunately been able to replenish their stocks from Manila. This latter source, however, has temporarily failed, and many inquiries for American gas are now being received by the Hongkong consulate general. The local demand approximates 100 cylinders a year—a trade not large in itself, but important as opening up another line of American products in Hongkong.

[The names of two Hongkong users of carbonic acid gas may be had upon application to the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce or its district offices. Ask for file No. 73275.]

## WAGES AND RESEARCH IN BRITISH TEXTILE INDUSTRY.

The card-room operatives in cotton-waste spinning mills have been granted an increase of 10 per cent, which is 5 per cent more than was awarded to cotton operatives by Sir George Askwith. This is due, the Textile Mercury, of Manchester, England, says, to the different conditions of work and pay. The agreement was reached in Manchester at a joint conference of representatives of the Card Room Amalgamation and the Cotton Waste Spinners' and Manufacturers' Association. It carried with it an arrangement that, in future, advances or reductions should follow upon those decided by the Federation of Master Cotton Spinners in conjunction with the Card-room Amalgamation.

The agreement may be terminated by either side by giving three months' notice.

### New School of Research at Huddersfield.

Additional facilities for the training of industrial chemists are provided in a new department for specialized study and research in coal-tar color chemistry, established by the governors of the Huddersfield Technical College, with the approval of the Huddersfield town council. The department has been placed under the direction of an expert, who has been carrying out a series of important investigations on colors and plant pigments.

The Textile Mercury states that work will begin in September and the department will provide advanced teaching in matters relating to the production of dyestuffs, colors, and allied substances. Facilities will be offered for research of all kinds relating to the chemistry of coloring matters, and the department will be conducted in close connection with the existing departments of chemistry and dyeing.

In addition to day classes for students able to devote the whole of their time to such work, special attention will be given to the training in part-time day and evening classes of youths and men already engaged in the industry.

The directors of British Dyes (Ltd.) are supporting the plan, and the Mercury states that they are prepared to contribute substantially toward the project. At Leeds University there is already a department of color chemistry and dyeing, the endowment of which was provided by the Clothworkers' Company.

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## COMMERCIAL FAIR IN BORDEAUX.

Consul George A. Bucklin has forwarded copies of the official prospectus of the commercial fair that is to be held in Bordeaux, France, from September 5 to 20. The booklet, which is printed in French, may be inspected at the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce or its district offices upon referring to file No. 78363. These offices will also furnish, upon request, under the same file number, copies of blanks to be used by intending exhibitors in making application for space at the fair. Previous notice of the Bordeaux Commercial Fair was published in COMMERCE REPORTS on April 27 and June 26, 1916.

**THE EMBARGO AND AUSTRALIA'S WOOL SALES.**

[Commercial Attaché Phillip B. Kennedy, Melbourne, June 16.]

At the so-called "off-season" wool sales which were held in Sydney during the week ending June 17 and in Melbourne during the week ending June 24 an export embargo was enforced against shipment to countries other than Great Britain and its allies. Although the principal wool sales begin in September, the off-season sales are of some importance, particularly this year, since many of the consuming countries found themselves short of stocks.

The United States need feel little grievance for the present at being excluded from these sales, since more wool has been secured for American account during the current fiscal year than ever before. Through arrangement with the Textile Alliance, wool which has been shipped to the United States has been guaranteed against re-export to enemy countries. Raw wool exported to the United States for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1915, according to the official returns, approximated 66,000,000 pounds. This constituted about 13 per cent of the wool exported from the Commonwealth. Although official figures are not yet available for the current year, statistics compiled by the wool trade show the taking of the United States has vastly increased. Dalgety & Co. estimate that Australia exported for the 11 months ending May 31, 1916, 1,536,881 bales of wool. (Bales average about 325 pounds.) Of this amount over 500,000 bales is said to have been purchased for the United States. This means that the proportion secured by the United States has increased from 13 per cent to 33 per cent, in spite of restrictions imposed.

**Off-Season Sales Important.**

When the off-season wool sales were announced an embargo was, as stated, declared against shipment to ports outside the Empire. The shortage of wool in London and Bradford was given as the reason. This embargo was later modified so as to allow shipments to allied countries, since strong protests were received from Russia, France, Japan, and Italy.

The Brisbane sale, which is the principal off-season sale, was postponed until this question was settled. The exclusion of foreign buyers caused alarm because resulting lower prices were expected. Finally the Brisbane wools, which had already been inspected by buyers, were put up at the Sydney sale.

Because of the shortage of raw wool at this time high prices were realized. Yorkshire, French, and Japanese buyers were particularly in evidence. Fresh records were made for greasy wools. Scoured brought up to \$0.47 a pound, and scoured merino brought up to \$0.84.

**Relaxation of Embargo Highly Desirable.**

Local representatives of the Textile Alliance and local wool firms which sell to American buyers are hopeful that the embargo against neutral countries will be relaxed when the demands of the allied countries are somewhat satisfied. American buyers are always welcomed in Australia because their competition holds up prices. No official prediction concerning the duration of the embargo is pos-



sible in Australia because the policy is largely determined by instructions from the Imperial Government.

It is very desirable from the viewpoint of the United States that this embargo be raised before the principal wool sales start in September. This is of concern to American purchasers of raw wool. It also is an important factor in the shipping situation, because an absence of return freights to the United States would either increase freight rates to Australia or cause vessels to be taken off the route. It is finally important in reference to the exchange situation, particularly if we desire to inaugurate more satisfactory dollar exchange. Since there is an embargo against the export of gold from Australia, a fairly even balance of imports and exports between the United States and Australia is necessary if settlements are to be arranged without constant dependence upon London.

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### COMMUNICATIONS TO BUREAU'S FIELD AGENTS.

From time to time reports from the traveling field agents of the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce in foreign countries are published in **COMMERCE REPORTS** calling attention to promising new openings for American goods. American firms are naturally anxious to take advantage of these opportunities, and many firms accordingly write at once to the agent making the report either asking him for additional information or requesting him to call the attention of foreign buyers to their particular line.

These agents of the Bureau are traveling from place to place, and as a rule they have about finished their work in a foreign city by the time a report written in that city is published in **COMMERCE REPORTS**. They are accordingly not in a position to give much further information or other assistance to inquirers with regard to the trade openings of that particular locality. The agents endeavor to cover each subject fully in each report, but if American firms need more information to enable them to get in touch with the foreign market it is advisable first to write to the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, which may have the desired data in its files. If the information is not on file here such steps as are necessary to obtain it will be taken.

As the agents are traveling from place to place, letters addressed to them often do not reach them for some time. Instances have been known where a letter did not reach an agent until six months after it was written.

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### DUTCH FISHERMEN REAPING BIG RETURNS.

[Commercial Attaché Erwin W. Thompson, The Hague, June 24.]

Herring fisheries here are becoming more and more profitable. Dutch fishermen are now working in the North Sea as far north as Norway and making enormous catches. One boat, it is reported, brought in a sufficient quantity of the fish to yield \$14,000.

Fishermen from belligerent countries are now out of the competition, and this makes the work easier for Dutch fishermen, while at the same time the prices offered for fish for Germany are about 10 times the normal figure.

## SPANISH BUDGET ESTIMATES FOR 1917.

[L'Économiste Européen, June 23.]

The Spanish Minister of Finance has presented to the Cortes the proposed budget for 1917 as follows:

Items.	1916	1917	Items.	1916	1917
<b>RECEIPTS.</b>			<b>EXPENDITURES.</b>		
Direct taxes.....	\$98, 115, 000	\$98, 457, 000	Public debt and Crown expenses.....	\$99, 118, 000	\$101, 000, 000
Indirect taxes.....	70, 675, 000	80, 634, 000	Expenses of the ministries.....	183, 970, 000	178, 307, 000
Monopolies.....	61, 316, 000	61, 883, 000	Total.....	283, 088, 000	279, 397, 000
Other.....	10, 943, 000	10, 623, 000	Deficit.....	42, 039, 000	27, 800, 000
Total.....	241, 049, 000	251, 597, 000			

In making these estimates the ministry has shown a determination to economize. It has reduced by \$5,597,000 certain ministerial expenses; the additional \$1,972,000 in the Crown and debt expenses is due to the increase in the debt. The budget for 1917 presents an improvement over that for the preceding year in that the probable deficit is decreased by \$14,239,000.

## GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS FOR SALE.

The following were among the publications received in stock for sale by the Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, during the week ended July 15:

*Lumber Markets of the West and North Coasts of South America* (Special Agents Series 117).—Lumber-trade directory and other details of forest conditions in Chile, Peru, Ecuador, Colombia, Venezuela, Trinidad, and Curaçao, of special interest to lumber producers and exporters. Price, 25 cents.

*Russia, a Handbook of Commercial and Industrial Conditions* (Special Consular Reports 61).—General description of the economic situation in Russia, of practical value to those interested in its trade, industries, and general development, with map. Price, 50 cents.

*Regulations of Electrotyping Solutions* (Standards Circular 52, 2d edition).—A study of the problems of electrotyping, especially those relating to operation of electrotyping baths. Price, 10 cents.

*Technical Control of Colloidal Matter of Clays* (Standards Bureau Technologic Paper 23).—Scientific study of the chemistry of colloids, of interest to manufacturers of clay and other earthen wares. Price, 15 cents.

## REOPENING OF SPANISH IRON FOUNDRY.

[Consul Percival Gassett, Malaga, June 3.]

Los Altos Hornos de Andalucía, an iron and steel foundry in Malaga which, two decades ago, was one of the principal industrial establishments of this district, but which failed a few years ago and has since been closed, was reorganized last year with Belgian and French capital under the name of La Sociedad Metalurgica y Minera de Malaga, and was formally opened on April 30, 1916. The capacity of the foundry is about 150 tons of iron and 50 of steel a day, or a combined output of some 75,000 tons a year. At present, however, production will be kept down to 45,000 tons, 15,000 tons of which must be sold in Spain. The remaining 30,000 tons will probably be sent to France. The necessary coal will be obtained from England.

**HIGH PRICES OF MEDICAL PREPARATIONS IN AZORES.**

[Consul William Bardel, St. Michael's, June 17.]

The administration of the City Hospital at Ponta Delgada, in a recent circular, calls the attention of the public at large to the difficulty under which it is laboring on account of the sharp advance, caused by the war, in prices of everything pertaining to the proper conduct of such an institution. It submits the following comparative statement of prices (per kilo, or 2.2046 avoirdupois pounds) for various medical preparations used daily at the hospital:

Articles.	Former price.	Present price.	Articles.	Former price.	Present price.
Chloric acid .....	\$0.64	\$1.78	Hydrochlorate of morphine ..	\$30.00	\$178.00
Boric acid .....	.09	.28	Chloroform .....	.45	15.00
Absorbent cotton .....	.65	.56	Sulphuric ether .....	.38	16.00
Aspirin .....	2.33	56.00	Absorbent gauze (44 yards) ..	.72	1.45
Antipyrine .....	2.78	22.00	Iodide of potash .....	3.88	9.45
Benzonaphthol .....	.95	64.00	Iodine .....	5.50	10.00
Bromide of ammonia .....	.88	10.00	Permanganate of potash .....	.22	2.60
Bromide of potash .....	.56	10.00	Theobromine .....	7.75	33.00
Bromide of soda .....	.88	10.00	Veronal .....	28.00	45.00
Chloride of lime .....	.02	.16	Vaseline .....	.23	.45
Codaine .....	80.00	156.00	Subnitrate of bismuth .....	3.00	8.80
Camphor .....	.37	1.33			

Besides the augmentation in the prices of all these preparations, the administrators of the hospital report that linen, bedding, and other supplies have risen in price from 50 to 100 per cent. Ice, of which they require quite large quantities, has gone up in price since June 1 from 27 to 45 cents a kilo; brown coal costs now \$25 a ton. While the expenses for the conduct of the hospital are tremendously increased, the demand made upon this institution by the poor of this city has more than doubled.

**CURRENT SHIPMENTS FROM WESTERN GREECE.**

[Vice Consul George P. Waller, jr., Patras, June 9.]

Owing to the cool and wet weather in western Greece, some people have perhaps discounted to a degree hardly justified the prospects of this year's currant crop. While there was some time ago reason to fear much damage from the philoxera, the vigorous measures applied in time eliminated for the present the danger.

The total crop produced for the period ended May 31, 1916, was 138,600 tons. Of this amount the exports have totaled 95,255 tons and 33,300 tons have been set aside in order to uphold the price, leaving on hand 10,055 tons as yet not exported.

The exports to the United States and Canada up to May 31, 1916, were 11,710 tons, against 13,225 tons for the same date in 1915; to Great Britain, 67,900 tons, against 66,355 tons; to France, 3,095 tons, against 315 tons; and to Australia, 700 tons, against 460 tons.

A list of educational institutions in Brazil has been forwarded from Rio de Janeiro by Consul General A. L. M. Gottschalk and may be obtained from the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce or its district offices. Refer to file No. 76928.

**RESTORATION OF DOMINION PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS.**

[Consul General John G. Foster, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada, July 10.]

The Dominion Government has made an arrangement with the Peter Lyall Construction Co. for the restoration of the Parliament buildings which were burned last February. The work of clearing away the débris preparatory to reconstruction is now proceeding rapidly, and over 1,200 men are engaged upon the work. An extra story will be added to the building and the tower will be made much higher and modeled more nearly like that at Westminster.

It is assumed that it will probably take at least two years to complete the work, and the cost is limited to \$5,000,000.

It has been reported that the work for the inside of the building, such as the construction of the legislative chambers, the plumbing, heating, painting, and decorating, will be open to competitive bids. The arrangements are in the hands of joint committee of Parliament representing both houses.

**CROP PROSPECTS IN HOLLAND.**

[Consul Frank W. Mahin, Amsterdam, June 15.]

According to the latest reports, the prospects for crops are, on the whole, fairly good in the Amsterdam consular district, which comprises the Provinces of North Holland, Utrecht, Gelderland, Overysel, Drenthe, Friesland, and Groningen.

With 100 as the maximum, the crops are now ranked as follows: Wheat, 69.6; rye, 62.4; barley, 68.9; oats, 69.6; potatoes, 66.9; sugar beets, 68.9; other vegetables range from 60 to 70. Clover and hay lands have the highest marks—from 80 to 87. As 67 represents an average crop, present prospects indicate yields somewhat above the average.

The outlook for fruit is not good, in comparison with the great yields last year. The prospect is better for apples than for pears. Apples are fairly good; pears, moderate. The strawberry crop is excellent, and the usual large quantity will be available for export.

**COTTON EXPORTS.**

The cotton exported during the week ending July 15, 1916, at the 12 principal customs districts of the United States was as follows:

Districts.	Bales.	Districts.	Bales.	Districts.	Bales.
Georgia.....		Philadelphia.....		San Francisco.....	7,453
Massachusetts.....	3,410	South Carolina.....		Washington.....	19,935
Maryland.....	8,086	Virginia.....			
New York.....	23,402	Galveston.....	21,600	Total.....	99,955
North Carolina.....		New Orleans.....	16,000		

The export of 99,955 bales of cotton during the past week makes the total since August 1, 1915, approximately 5,827,073 bales. Exports of cotton for the corresponding periods of the preceding year were, respectively, 44,723 bales for the week and 8,395,316 bales in the cotton year.

**AMERICAN CONSULAR OFFICERS ON LEAVE OF ABSENCE.**

The following American consular officers are on leave of absence in the United States and will be glad to confer with business men and commercial organizations relative to conditions in their respective jurisdictions. The consul's time is available primarily for personal interviews. He has limited facilities for correspondence, and except in urgent cases letters should be directed to the consulate.

Name.	Post.	Expiration of venue.	Address.
West, George N. ....	Kobe, Japan. ....	Aug. 15	Department of State, Washington, D.C.
Cook, A. B. ....	Patras, Greece. ....	Aug. 10	121 West Charlotte Street, Norfolk, Va.
Hale, F. D. ....	Huddersfield, England. ....	Sept. 5	Lunenburg, Vt.
Fisher, Fred D. ....	Tientsin, China. ....	Aug. 5	Albany, Oreg.
Masterson, William W. ....	Durban, Natal, South Africa. ....	Sept. 1	Carrollton, Ky.
Seltzer, Harry G. ....	Breslau, Germany. ....	Aug. 1	Gibraltar, Pa.
Baker, E. Carlton. ....	Nagasaki, Japan. ....	Aug. 30	Apartment No. 75, The Brunswick, Washington, D. C.
Monaghan, J. C. ....	Kingston, Jamaica. ....	Sept. 1	Avenue A and Fourteenth Street, Bayonne, N. J.
Jewell, John F. ....	Chefoo, China. ....	Oct. 1	Department of State, Washington, D.C.

**EARNINGS OF RUSSIAN RAILROADS.**

[Russian-American Journal of Commerce, July.]

According to the Ministry of Finance, the earnings of the Russian railroads for the calendar year 1915 totaled 1,555,223,507 rubles (\$800,940,106 at the normal exchange rate of \$0.515 to the ruble), an excess of 85,627,685 rubles (\$44,098,258) over 1914. The earnings of the Government lines alone amounted to 790,238,566 rubles (\$406,972,861). The number of passengers carried in 1915 was 227,296,427, as compared with 241,073,661 in 1914. Freight carried during the year totaled 13,376,315 poods (241,528 short tons), about 500,000 poods (9,000 tons) less than in 1914.

**SHIPPING CARPETS AND RUGS TO CHILE.**

[Commercial Attaché V. L. Havens, Santiago, June 14.]

In shipping carpets and rugs to Chile the best way undoubtedly is to pack several in one bundle—making a package weighing up to 400 or 500 pounds—and carefully protect them with wrappings of heavy paper and burlap to avoid damage from sea water. To wrap each carpet or rug separately in paper alone not only makes the likelihood of damage en route much greater, but also entails considerable unnecessary expense for the importer through extra fees for the larger number of packages handled.

**District Offices of the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce.**

New York, Room 409 United States Customhouse; Boston, eighteenth floor United States Customhouse; Chicago, 504 Federal Building; St. Louis, 402 Third National Bank Building; Atlanta, 521 Post Office Building; New Orleans, 1020 Hibernia Bank Building; San Francisco, 307 United States Customhouse; Seattle, 848 Henry Building. Cooperative district offices: Cleveland, Chamber of Commerce; Cincinnati, Chamber of Commerce; Asst. Gen'l Frt. Agt., C. N. O. & T. P. Ry. Co., Cincinnati; Los Angeles, Chamber of Commerce; Detroit, Board of Commerce; Philadelphia, Chamber of Commerce; South American Agent, Southern Ry. Co., Chattanooga, Tenn.

## FOREIGN TRADE OPPORTUNITIES.

Reserved addresses may be obtained from the Bureau and its district offices. Request for each opportunity should be on a separate sheet and state opportunity number. The Bureau does not furnish credit ratings or assume responsibility as to the standing of foreign inquirers; the usual precautions should be taken in all cases.

*Shoe tacks*, No. 21857.—A boot and shoe manufacturer in Italy informs an American consular officer that he is in the market for shoe tacks, similar to samples which may be inspected at the Bureau or its district offices. (Refer to file No. 78039.) Tacks should be packed in boxes of 500 grams, but may be in 1½-ounce boxes, and prices should be quoted c. i. f. Genoa, if possible. Correspondence preferably in Italian.

*Machinery*, No. 21858.—A commercial agent of the Bureau reports that the director of agriculture in a foreign colonial possession in Africa desires to receive full information on machinery for treating flax; for harvesting, shelling, and hulling peanuts; for thrashing and treating sunflower seed; for extracting tapioca from cassava; for the utilization of sweet potatoes; for hulling and shelling castor oil beans; for removing the fiber from hemp (hibiscus) and on corn (mealie) shredders. The information is desired for small machines for individual use, as well as for large machines for cooperative use on large estates.

*Plated jewelry*, No. 21859.—An American consular officer in Central America reports that a man in his district desires to be placed in touch with American manufacturers of plated jewelry of all kinds, imitation stones, etc. Cash will be paid.

*Portable houses, cement, etc.*, No. 21860.—The commercial attaché of the Department of Commerce in France reports that a man in that country is interested in the importation of portable houses, cement, and materials for the construction of garages, etc. Catalogues and prices, etc., are desired.

*Agency*, No. 21861.—An American consular officer in Brazil writes that a man in touch with the wholesale trade in that country desires to represent American manufacturers and exporters on a commission basis. No particular line is specified.

*Dried fruits*, No. 21862.—A man in Spain informs an American consular officer of his desire to get in touch with American importers of dried fruits. Correspondence should be in Spanish.

*Druggists' sundries, etc.*, No. 21863.—An American consular officer in Canada reports that a firm in his district desires to be placed in touch with American manufacturers and exporters of druggists' sundries, toys, novelties, etc. References.

*Textiles, etc.*, No. 21864.—An American consular officer in the United Kingdom reports that a firm in his district is desirous of securing an agency for textiles, and of importing various kinds of dry goods. Reference.

*Silver paper*, No. 21865.—A firm in South Africa informs an American consular officer of its desire to receive quotations on silver paper. Samples of the paper, together with further information as to sizes, etc., may be obtained from the Bureau or its district offices. (Refer to file No. 78222.)

*Windmills and grinding machines*, No. 21866.—A firm in the United States writes the Bureau that it is in receipt of an inquiry from the West Indies regarding windmills; also for the names of manufacturers of grinding machines for pulverizing divi divi wood.

*Moving-picture films*, No. 21867.—An American consular officer in Austria-Hungary writes that a moving-picture company wishes to get into communication with American producers of moving-picture films.

*Salts for nickeling, etc.*, No. 21868.—An American consular officer in Switzerland writes that a firm in his district desires to be placed in touch with American manufacturers and exporters of the salts for nickeling or coppering for use of galvanoplastic baths. Correspondence in English.

# COMMERCE REPORTS

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## RUBBER TRADE OF JAVA AND SUMATRA.

[Consul B. S. Ralrden, Batavia, Java.]

The United States bought 7,486,080 pounds of plantation rubber from Java in 1915 and maintained for the whole year its rank as the island's best customer, which it had won in the January-June half. [See COMMERCE REPORTS for Nov. 4, 1915.] Great Britain was second with purchases of 4,818,240 pounds, and the Netherlands third with 2,885,120 pounds. The total exports for the year were 96 per cent larger than in 1914, as the following table shows:

Export to —	1914				1915			
	Ficus.	Hevea.	Ceara and Castilloa.	Total.	Ficus.	Hevea.	Ceara and Castilloa.	Total.
	<i>Pounds.</i>	<i>Pounds.</i>	<i>Pounds.</i>	<i>Pounds.</i>	<i>Pounds.</i>	<i>Pounds.</i>	<i>Pounds.</i>	<i>Pounds.</i>
United States.....	2,240	434,560		436,800	7,472,640		13,440	7,486,080
Netherlands.....	44,800	2,885,120	197,120	3,127,040	47,040	2,804,480	33,600	2,885,120
Great Britain.....	42,560	4,014,080	71,680	4,128,320	64,960	4,609,920	143,360	4,818,240
Belgium.....		557,760		557,760				
Germany.....		80,640	2,240	82,880				
Other parts of Europe.....		6,720		6,720		11,200		11,200
Straits Settlements.....	6,720	230,720	2,240	239,680	22,400	1,010,240	11,200	1,043,840
Other countries.....	2,240			2,240	8,960	452,480		461,440
<b>Total.....</b>	<b>98,560</b>	<b>8,200,600</b>	<b>278,280</b>	<b>8,581,440</b>	<b>143,360</b>	<b>16,360,960</b>	<b>201,600</b>	<b>16,705,920</b>

Exports of plantation rubber from Belawan, Deli (Sumatra East Coast), in 1915 amounted to 14,221,760 pounds, a figure 84 per cent in excess of the total for 1914. Of this gain 4,007,360 pounds can be credited to the United States, which country took 60 times as much Belawan rubber as in the preceding year, and 5,134,080 pounds to Great Britain. There was a decline of 3,364,480 pounds in the shipments to the Straits Settlements. The distribution of the year's cargoes was:

Exported to—	1914	1915	Exported to—	1914	1915
	<i>Pounds.</i>	<i>Pounds.</i>		<i>Pounds.</i>	<i>Pounds.</i>
United States.....	67,200	4,074,560	Italy.....		22,400
Netherlands.....	1,165,840	1,892,800	Straits Settlements.....	4,412,800	1,048,320
Great Britain.....	2,049,600	7,183,680			
Belgium.....	11,200		<b>Total.....</b>	<b>7,712,320</b>	<b>14,221,760</b>
Germany.....	15,680				

**ONION SEED CROP PROSPECTS IN CANARY ISLANDS.**

[Consul George K. Stiles, Teneriffe, June 10.]

Onion seed constituted one-fourth of all exports to the United States from the Teneriffe district in 1915. The coming crop, which should begin to move next month, shows a decided increase in the amount of choice, expensive wax (or white) seed. The ordinary canary-yellow onion seed, however, has suffered because of the winter drought and shows a loss estimated at 40 to 50 per cent. The red seed, which is in less demand, also suffered from drought, but to a smaller degree than the yellow.

Yellow seed will consequently be scarce, and there may be difficulty in filling contracts for this grade, while the stock of "wax" seed will be in excess of orders.

**Contract Prices for Onion Seed—Transportation.**

The average contract prices are reported as follows, per pound: Fancy white "wax," \$1.50 to \$2; yellow, 85 cents (American gold); and red, 80 cents.

The stocks of onion seed last year were fairly cleaned out, so that this season there appears to be less probability of old seed being mixed with the new. Both adulteration and inferior quality of onion seed are difficult to detect until after sowing. The long-established firms here, however, can be counted on to allow just claims when made by American buyers, especially as regards damage in transit.

As practically all onion-seed contracts to the United States are made on an f. o. b. basis in a Canary port, the higher freights of this year must be met by the American buyers. Last season a number of complaints of bad seed were caused through long delays in transshipment via England. Owing to this fact the Liverpool route has been largely abandoned this year, according to statements made by prominent shippers.

The larger percentage of the crop will be routed via Porto Rico to New Orleans or via Habana to New York. Freight rates are estimated here as from 40 to 50 per cent higher than last season, when they were already much higher than before the war. As the bulk of the crop goes to southern destinations, the Porto Rico-New Orleans route should prove decidedly cheaper for most shipments.

The crop is slightly earlier than last year and first shipments are expected to be made by July 15 and should extend to the end of August.

Argentine and Cuban buying of this year's crop has fallen off as compared with last season. Generally speaking prices may be taken as somewhat lower and showing a tendency to weakness this season. In 1915 there were more orders than could be filled and prices stiffened considerably. It seems probable that the values of American purchases will show more or less of a decline.

**Onion Seed Cultivation.**

A statement of interest to American onion-seed growers is contained in a report made by two of the larger dealers growing their own seed, to the effect that too intense a selection of onion seed for the points of size and color shows poor results in the quantity of seed obtained at the next harvest.



The so-called "select" stock, when used for rebreeding, is said to produce less seed than the more ordinary specimens. In other words the plants producing onions less distinctive as to color and size are claimed to be "hardier" and to produce more and better seed of their respective classes. This will perhaps interest American specialists who are growing onion seed for the trade.

### APPROPRIATIONS FOR LIGHTHOUSE SERVICE.

The act of Congress approved July 1, 1916 (sundry civil act), makes appropriations for special works in the Lighthouse Service. These works were authorized by the act of Congress approved March 3, 1915, no funds being appropriated by Congress, however, at that time. The several items are:

A light at or near Dog Island entrance to St. Croix River, Me.....	\$3,500
Improvements at Woods Hole Lighthouse depot, Mass.....	50,000
Improving the aids to navigation and establishing new aids on the Hudson River, N. Y.....	100,000
Improving the aids to navigation and establishing new aids on the Delaware River, Pa. and Del.....	80,000
Improving the aids to navigation and establishing new aids on the St. Johns River, Fla., below Jacksonville.....	66,000
Additional lighted aids for Florida reefs and repairs and improvements to existing aids.....	75,000
Improving the aids to navigation and establishing new aids on the Mississippi River below New Orleans.....	50,000
Constructing or purchasing and equipping a small tender and barge for the eighth lighthouse district, Texas and Louisiana.....	20,000
Light and fog signal and improving the present aids to navigation in Conneaut Harbor, Ohio.....	63,500
Improving the aids to navigation in Toledo Harbor, Ohio.....	15,000
Improving the aids to navigation and establishing new aids in the Fighting Island Channel, Detroit River, Mich.....	25,000
Light and fog signal station at or near Kellett Bluff, Henry Island, Wash., or at some point on the west coast of San Juan Island, Wash.....	40,000
Improving the aids to navigation at or near the entrance to Coquille River, Oreg.....	6,000
Light and fog signal station at Point Vicente, Cal.....	80,000

### RAILROAD ESTABLISHES AGENCY AT HABANA.

The Cincinnati, New Orleans & Texas Pacific Railway Co. (Queen & Crescent Route) has established an agency in Habana, Cuba, with the object of developing trade relations between that country and American manufacturers in the territory that is served by the railroad and to enable it properly to attend to the traffic handled by its lines to and from Cuba. A commercial agent and a soliciting agent are stationed at Habana. An experienced railroad man has been selected for the former post.

Officials of the Queen & Crescent Route express the opinion that there is a great opportunity for American manufacturers in Cuba, and that with excellent facilities for the delivery of goods they should be able to obtain and hold permanently a large share of this trade. The Cincinnati, New Orleans & Texas Pacific has rail-and-water routes via New Orleans, Mobile, and Key West, and also maintains the all-rail route via Key West.

**THE MOUCHOIR TETE, OR HAITIAN HEADKERCHIEF.**

[Special Agent Garrard Harris.]

There are in Haiti probably 900,000 women and girls over 10 years of age, and at least 895,000 of them wear the "mouchoir tete," or headkerchief. This is wound around the head bandanna fashion. One of silk or a mercerized goods, with brocaded figures woven in it and locally called "foufard," is usually kept for Sundays and special occasions; others of prints or calico are used for everyday wear.

The tastes run the whole gamut of colors. Women who are in mourning—and the practice of putting on mourning for deceased relatives not of the immediate family is common—wear solid black, or black and white, or black, white, and blue designs. Black is a favorite color with the people anyway. Combinations of black and red are well liked, also stripes in blues and blacks on a white ground. Yellow and red, black, red, and yellow, and blue and white checks called "madrass," are very popular, particularly yellows and blacks, or a combination of yellow, black, and white, and various other startling color schemes. These hues, except the blacks, do not appear to be very "fast" colors, and it has been suggested by a dealer that more enduring dyes would soon find favor among the buyers, particularly if some distinguishing mark could be put on each kerchief by which the desired brand could be easily distinguished.

**Supplied by Europe.**

The favorite size is 30 by 30 inches, after a hem has been run by the purchaser. The silk and imitations generally come ready hemmed, but the other fabrics usually have the selvage on two sides and must be hemmed on the other two where cut from the piece. About an inch is allowed for the hem. Solid reds, yellows, orange, purple, and blacks, brocaded, are the favorites among the silk kerchiefs.

Practically the entire supply of these kerchiefs have come from Europe for many years. The Manchester district supplies the bulk of the cottons, while the others come in the main from Belfast. The retail prices vary from the equivalent of 15 cents gold each to 20 cents gold, which is 1 gourde Haitian. Very few sell for more than a gourde. The prices to dealers range from \$1.25 to \$2 a dozen.

A full line of these samples has been forwarded to the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce [and may be inspected at the Bureau and its district offices upon asking for file No. 967]. It would seem that this market has been overlooked by American makers of fabrics.

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**APPROPRIATIONS FOR ROAD BUILDING IN RUSSIA.**

[Russian-American Journal of Commerce, July.]

The Russian Ministry of Transportation has recommended to the Council of Ministers an appropriation of 6,000,000 rubles (\$3,090,000 at the normal exchange rate of \$0.515 to the ruble) to zemstvo organizations for the construction, improvement, and maintenance of certain roads and highways.

**COTTON-GROWING POSSIBILITIES OF INDIA.**

[Textile Mercury, Manchester, England.]

The cotton-growing possibilities of India have been repeatedly shown, but have never been fully developed beyond the stage of demonstration. The area under cotton is immense—25,000,000 acres in 1914, or two-thirds of the whole American area—yet the crop is barely one-third of the American. This very low average yield, only about 80 pounds of lint per acre, is the first point at which improvement could be effected by better methods of cultivation and better seed selection.

It is unnecessary to remind Lancashire that the quality of the bulk of the Indian crop is very inferior both in staple and condition, but it is not so well known here that this inferiority could easily be removed. That India can grow good cotton of about inch staple and equal to ordinary American in quality is now amply proved by the success of such varieties in practically every Province, but especially in the Punjab, in Sind, in Southern Bombay, and in Madras.

Already the amount of such improved cottons in India is somewhere between 300,000 and 500,000 bales per annum, and it could very easily be increased by methods similar to those advocated for the increase of the average yield. And if the average yield and quality, and therefore the money value per acre, of the cotton crop were improved, the area under cotton would almost necessarily be greatly increased, because at present cotton in India has to face the competition of other crops which pay better than the inferior cotton crop, but which would easily be left behind by the value per acre of the improved crop.

**New Cotton Areas Opened Up Under Irrigation.**

Further, the possible cotton acreage is being increased by the opening up of new cotton areas under irrigation—in the Punjab, for example, where the new triple-canal system will add at least 500,000 acres of good cotton land to the already considerable area in that Province. It is no exaggeration, therefore, to say that the Indian cotton crop could be very largely increased and improved in quality, and, what is more, the increase and improvement could be almost immediate. India could produce 1,000,000 bales more every year progressively, which is what the world wants just now, and there is no other area in the world where it can be obtained so quickly.

What is most wanted is just an all-round and synchronized movement toward better methods, and this would pay all parties concerned handsomely. It would pay Lancashire, too, indirectly if not directly, for we must face the fact that we are likely to be short of cotton, and every bale of decent cotton produced anywhere in the world always helps to reduce the pressure of demand on the existing supply.

Lancashire can not afford nowadays to take a selfish view of the question; she can no longer pretend to be the chief cotton consumer of the world, as far as bulk goes, for she now takes only about one-seventh of the world's total crop. There is plenty of room in the world for all the cotton goods that all the cotton manufacturing countries in the world, East and West, can produce. The one thing essential is an ample supply of the raw material, so that the world's price may be kept at reasonable levels.

**OIL-PRODUCING NUTS AND SEEDS IN GREAT BRITAIN.**

[Consul General Robert P. Skinner, London, June 16.]

A report has been submitted to Parliament by the Committee on Edible and Oil-Producing Nuts and Seeds. Until the outbreak of the war, vast quantities of oil-producing materials from British Colonies were being received in Germany and there converted into merchantable products. Since the beginning of the war, an endeavor has been made to extend British industries of the same character and particularly to make it possible to use in manufactures in this country the palm kernels hitherto exported almost exclusively to Hamburg.

The report contains much material relating to the various branches of this industry, giving statements as to the magnitude of the trade, its position two years ago, the trade during the war, conditions under which the oil palm is obtained in West Africa, and general conclusions and recommendations. In the course of its report the committee says:

Enough information has been collected to prove that palm-kernel cake is a wholesome food, quite suitable for blending with farm fodders, and it is now being extensively used by cattle feeders, especially in Scotland. The committee has received evidence showing that palm-kernel residue, either as cake or meal, is a very suitable food for pigs. This has an important bearing on its future as a feeding stuff in this country, since cotton cake, its chief competitor among the cheaper oil cakes, is unsuitable for pig feeding.

**Not Previously Appreciated by British Farmers.**

The committee have had much evidence to the effect that before the war palm-kernel cake was not appreciated by British farmers, and that the small quantity manufactured in this country found its chief market in Germany. The reasons alleged were that British farmers were prejudiced, that the cake was not readily eaten by stock, and that it did not keep well. While all three allegations have some foundation, the committee are of the opinion that none of them would seriously affect the future use of the cake if the crushing trade is established in this country.

The conservatism of the farmer has not hindered the development of a great trade in other oil cakes, some of which, for example Bombay cotton cake, were regarded with disfavor when first introduced. It was to be expected that with large supplies of cottonseed, linseed, and other cakes at his disposal, the insignificant amount of palm-kernel cake offered to him by British crushers should have attracted no attention in the past, and with well-tested feeding stuffs at his disposal he was not likely to experiment with a new food offering no advantages in price over those he already knew.

Evidence has been laid before the committee that at the outset live stock show some reluctance to take the cake, but it seems equally clear that before long they eat it readily. If therefore it will produce better milk or cheaper bacon than competing foods, this objection is not likely to prevent it from coming into general use.

**Keeps as Well as Uncorticated Cotton Cake.**

As regards keeping qualities, there has been evidence that palm-kernel cake keeps quite satisfactorily and at least as well as uncorticated cotton cake. Indeed, a progressive improvement as regards palm-kernel cake is already noticeable. When war was declared very few English crushers had machinery at their disposal which was well adapted for crushing palm kernels. But this was merely a temporary difficulty. Mills with suitable machinery have been and are being erected, so that a cake of satisfactory keeping quality may be anticipated. The committee have not met with any evidence that its keeping qualities have given trouble to German farmers, with whom it is a very popular feeding stuff.

[A copy of the report of the Committee on Edible and Oil-producing Nuts and Seeds may be inspected at the Bureau of Foreign

and Domestic Commerce or its district offices. Refer to file No. 77802. Articles relating to the oil-seed trade of Great Britain were published in **COMMERCE REPORTS** for Feb. 8, Apr. 7, Apr. 12, and May 8, 1916.]

### **RUSSIAN SILK INDUSTRY.**

[London Times Imperial and Foreign Trade Supplement, July.]

According to the Torgovo Promyshlennaya Gazeta, Petrograd, the war has had a particularly injurious effect on the Russian silk industry. Since exports were stopped a large proportion of the cocoons from the last crop have remained unsold. This means not merely an immediate loss, but also future detriment to the trade. The Government bank has increased its rate of advance on dry cocoons from 60 per cent of their value to 75 per cent.

Silk weaving has suffered in respect of supplies of raw material owing to the difficulties in importation and the question of exchange. For this reason an abnormal situation arose—namely, lack of raw silk accompanied by an excess of cocoons.

While Russia exports a large quantity of silk in the form of cocoons, it imports at the same time a considerable portion of the raw silk required by the Russian factories. Notwithstanding a decrease in the exports of silk during recent years, it still remains at a respectable total. In 1914 it amounted in value to about \$300,000, against \$2,200,000 in 1913. Imports, however, are rising annually and greatly exceed exports. In 1914 they totaled \$11,700,000 in value. A large portion of exports consist of cocoons and silk waste, while imports are made up of a more valuable product.

In view of the requirements of the industry the cocoons ought to be reeled in the country, so as to limit the purchase of raw silk from abroad. What has stood in the way of this hitherto is the lack of experience in the process of winding off the cocoons. In the Caucasus, however, they are reeled locally, as also to a small extent in Turkestan. There it is generally preferred to ship the cocoons as they are, and a profitable trade, amounting to about 75 per cent of the total cocoon crop of Turkestan, is carried on with Milan and Marseille. Latterly Moscow silk weavers have been taking more interest in dealing with the Turkestan and Caucasus product and have established reeling shops in Moscow.

One reason for the lack of development of the Russian silk industry lies in the fact that the duty on raw silk is very low, so that the Russian traders find it advantageous to obtain it from abroad, where the winding off of the cocoons is handled better than it is in Russia. It would seem that there is room for profitable development in this industry.

### **Increased Customs Receipts at Port Arthur.**

Consul Henry P. Starrett, at Fort William, Ontario, Canada, reports that the total customs collections for June, 1916, at Port Arthur amounted to \$101,906 as against \$43,625 for the same month in 1915 and \$22,185 in 1914.

## AMERICAN SLAUGHTERING AND MEAT PACKING.

A preliminary statement of the general results of the 1914 census of manufactures with respect to the slaughtering and meat-packing industry has been issued by the United States Bureau of the Census. It consists of a statement of the numbers and kinds of animals slaughtered for food in wholesale establishments and the quantities and values of specified products manufactured.

Reports were received from 1,279 establishments engaged in slaughtering and meat packing in 1914, the total products of which for the year were valued at \$1,651,765,424. At the census of 1909 there were reported 1,221 establishments with products valued at \$1,355,544,431.

The numbers of animals slaughtered and the quantities and values of the various products in the two years that are compared were:

Animals and products.	1909	1914	Animals and products.	1909	1914
Number of establishments .....	1,221	1,279	<b>PRODUCTS—contd.</b>		
<b>ANIMALS SLAUGHTERED (NUMBER).<sup>a</sup></b>			<b>Canned goods:</b>		
Beef .....	8,114,890	7,149,042	Pounds .....	121,376,837	180,798,985
Calves .....	2,504,728	2,019,004	Value .....	\$15,345,543	\$20,417,634
Sheep and lambs and goats and kids .....	12,288,725	15,961,880	<b>Sausage:</b>		
Hogs .....	33,870,616	34,441,913	Canned—		
<b>PRODUCTS.</b>			Pounds .....	(b)	74,004,360
Total value ...	\$1,355,544,431	\$1,651,765,424	Value .....	(b)	\$6,845,669
<b>Fresh meat:</b>			All other—		
Beef—			Pounds .....	452,867,187	435,146,991
Pounds .....	4,209,196,668	3,658,333,660	Value .....	\$44,540,912	\$59,349,653
Value .....	\$327,533,456	\$421,296,794	<b>Lard, oils, and fats:</b>		
Veal—			Lard—		
Pounds .....	263,907,078	194,608,880	Pounds .....	1,243,567,004	1,119,128,675
Value .....	\$25,058,886	\$26,299,446	Value .....	\$134,396,587	\$130,414,007
Mutton and lamb and goat and kid—			<b>Lard compounds and substitutes—</b>		
Pounds .....	495,457,894	629,232,690	Pounds .....	(c)	396,397,950
Value .....	\$50,735,116	\$74,675,627	Value .....	(c)	\$33,037,467
Pork—			<b>Oleo oil—</b>		
Pounds .....	1,547,494,184	1,877,099,071	Gallons .....	19,692,172	16,501,685
Value .....	\$158,714,862	\$226,535,734	Value .....	\$10,475,726	\$11,926,632
Edible offal and all other fresh meat—			<b>Other oils—</b>		
Pounds .....	257,809,083	296,666,701	Gallons .....	11,343,186	6,715,497
Value .....	\$16,392,768	\$20,576,245	Value .....	\$6,350,745	\$4,009,622
<b>Cured meat:</b>			<b>Tallow and oleo stock—</b>		
Beef, pickled and other cured—			Pounds .....	202,844,139	209,614,125
Pounds .....	126,477,662	91,571,752	Value .....	\$13,499,659	\$13,732,796
Value .....	\$12,159,152	\$14,395,316	<b>Stearin:</b>		
Pork, pickled and other cured—			Pounds .....	54,957,997	30,091,991
Pounds .....	2,829,633,003	2,929,309,741	Value .....	\$6,871,935	\$2,752,421
Value .....	\$328,130,299	\$393,605,600	<b>Oleomargarine:</b>		
			Pounds .....	42,912,406	60,387,881
			Value .....	\$5,963,981	\$6,818,557
			<b>All other products, value<sup>d</sup> .....</b>	<b>\$193,324,804</b>	<b>\$185,076,674</b>

<sup>a</sup> Exclusive of 377,937 hives, 243,360 calves, 795,519 sheep, lambs, and goats and kids, and 2,898,994 hogs, slaughtered for others.

<sup>b</sup> Canned sausage was not reported separately at the census of 1909 and possibly some was included in canned goods.

<sup>c</sup> Not reported separately.

<sup>d</sup> Includes value of baked beans, confectionery, fertilizers, fertilizer materials, glue, head cheese, hides and skins, hog hair, ice, meat, puddings, peanut butter, preserves, sausage casings, scrapple, wool, etc., and amount received for slaughtering and refrigeration for others.

A Latin-American Chamber of Commerce has been formed in England to promote British commerce with South and Central America and Mexico.

# COAL EXPORTS FROM BRISTOL CHANNEL PORTS.

[Consul M. K. Moorhead, Swansea, Wales, June 22.]

The most noteworthy feature of the trade of South Wales during the first part of 1916 has been the decline in the quantity of coal exported. With a diminishing production and an increasing home consumption, the proportion left for shipment abroad is growing less and less. In the export trade the requirements of the nations allied with Great Britain receive first consideration, with the result that neutral nations are receiving less in proportion to the total decrease than are the belligerent nations allied with Great Britain.

Of the total of 5,711,770 tons exported from South Wales during the four months ended April 30, 1916, 4,644,548 tons, or 81 per cent, were sent to France, Italy, Portugal, and British and allied colonial possessions. During the corresponding period of 1915 these countries received 5,460,551 tons, or 77 per cent, of the total coal exports.

## Swansea's Foreign Trade in Coal.

The exports of coal from Swansea alone to foreign countries totaled 889,979 tons, a decrease of 141,593 tons as compared with the first four months of 1915, one of 149,927 tons compared with the corresponding period of 1914, and one of 267,861 tons compared with January-April, 1913. (The figures for 1916 and 1915 are exclusive of all exports made on Government account.) Prices, however, have steadily risen, as the following table, giving the average export price of large and small steam coal in Swansea during the first four months of 1914, 1915, and 1916, discloses:

Jan. 1-Apr. 30—	Average price per ton.	
	Large steam coal.	Small steam coal.
1914.....	\$4. 27	\$2. 83
1915.....	4. 57	3. 74
1916.....	6. 14	3. 45

## Quantity, Value, and Average Price.

The quantity, value, and average price per ton of each kind of coal exported from Swansea during the first four months of 1916 were:

Kind of coal.	Tons.	Value.	Average price.
<b>Small:</b>			
Anthracite.....	209,809	\$1,297,550	\$6.18
Steam.....	122,677	423,660	3.45
Gas.....	2,161	7,540	3.49
Other sorts.....	1,097	5,430	4.95
<b>Total.....</b>	<b>335,744</b>	<b>1,734,180</b>	<b>5.17</b>
<b>Through and through:</b>			
Steam.....	182,445	761,630	4.17
Other sorts.....	495	2,050	4.14
<b>Total.....</b>	<b>182,940</b>	<b>763,680</b>	<b>4.17</b>
<b>Large:</b>			
Anthracite.....	250,576	1,568,800	6.26
Steam.....	92,299	566,730	6.14
Other sorts.....	302	2,220	7.35
<b>Total.....</b>	<b>343,177</b>	<b>2,137,750</b>	<b>6.23</b>
<b>Grand total.....</b>	<b>861,861</b>	<b>4,635,610</b>	<b>5.38</b>

In addition there were exported from Swansea 28,118 tons of coal, the average price of which did not exceed \$1.46 per ton.

## FOREIGN TARIFFS.

## ARGENTINA

[Vice Consul John S. Culvert, Buenos Aires, Jan. 18.]

**Parcel Post Service.**

Parcels arriving in Argentina from European countries are subject to a delivery fee of 0.25 franc (about \$0.05), while the delivery charge on parcels imported from the United States is 0.30 peso gold (about 29 cents). As the parcel post convention between Argentina and the United States does not provide for shipments with declared value or for governmental responsibility, the articles forwarded by parcel post will usually be of small value, and the difference in delivery fee is not a negligible matter. It should be noted that in Argentina parcels arriving from abroad are not, as a matter of fact, delivered to the addressee, and the charge for delivery is in reality a surtax.

**Clearance of Parcels.**

Upon the expiration of a period varying from several days to a week or more after the vessel's arrival, the addressee receives a notice from the Post Office Department stating that a parcel has arrived for him by a certain steamer. No information is given other than the number of the parcel. Attached to the notice is a receipt, which must be torn off, signed, and returned to the mail carrier. The notice states that the recipient or his duly authorized agent should go to the parcels post section of the general post office between the hours of 10.30 a. m. and 2 p. m. and withdraw the parcel consigned to him, presenting the notice and paying all charges that may accrue thereon. If the addressee is engaged in business he will not be allowed personally or through an employee to withdraw his parcel, but must secure the services of a licensed "dispachante" or customs broker. The fees of this agent vary, but are usually small. The notice to be presented by the addressee or his agent has a space reserved for affixing a fiscal stamp of 1 paper peso (\$0.425), which is required in all cases. In the case of parcels from the United States stamps to the value of \$0.30 must also be affixed to the notice. On packages of merchandise not subject to duty there is no further expense involved. The minimum length of time to be spent in the post office awaiting delivery appears to be about 2 hours.

On parcels containing dutiable merchandise the following preliminary fiscal stamp charges are imposed: (1) On an application to withdraw packages on which the duty is less than \$5, 1 paper peso (\$0.425); (2) where duty is more than \$5, a stamp of 2 pesos (\$0.85). Duty is then assessed as on other merchandise, officers from the customhouse being attached to the post office staff for this purpose. Fractions are not considered and on packages of small value the relative duty is great. This is especially true of charges for warehousing and handling, where the minimum cases for such charges are rather high when applied to parcels, being \$100, 100 kilos, and 100 cubic meters in the case of charges based on value, weight, or volume, respectively.

The following is a résumé of the charges imposed on dutiable goods imported by parcel post: Delivery fee, \$0.29 (for parcels from cer-



tain countries, \$0.05); stamp on notice, \$0.42; stamp on customhouse application for withdrawal, \$0.42 or \$0.85; customs charges proper (including surtax and statistical tax); warehousing fee (one month); handling charge; commission of customs broker, if employed.

An examination of the details connected with the delivery of a number of parcels from the United States indicates that the addressee incurs charges varying in amount from 100 to 600 per cent of the value of goods. The general opinion seems to be that conditions are not favorable for the interchange of parcels of small value under the terms of the convention between Argentina and the United States. This view is perhaps strengthened by the fact that before the convention went into effect small parcels came through by ordinary mail without any charges whatever except the postage, and at only a negligible risk of confiscation. As the agreement with Argentina does not provide for declaration of value, insurance, and responsibility for loss, etc., thus failing to encourage the interchange of valuable parcels, it has not as yet shown itself of practical benefit.

The United States convention does not provide for responsibility on the part of the postal authorities in case of loss or damage. The British agreement, on the other hand, contemplates reimbursement of the injured party to the extent of 25 francs (\$4.83), as does the convention with France and Germany. Furthermore, in the case of these latter countries, a declared value may be given the merchandise and the goods insured to the extent thereof by the postal authorities. The Argentine conventions with Great Britain, France, and Germany, also provide for the notification of the sender of failure to deliver his parcel to the addressee and he may give instructions as to its disposition. The sender of a parcel from Germany or France may also secure the return of the addressee's receipt upon payment of a fee of 25 centimes (\$0.05). Parcels to the value of 1,000 francs may be sent from France and Germany to Argentina, or vice versa, and the postal authorities will undertake to remit the purchase price from the addressee to the sender.

#### CANADA.

[Appraiser's Bulletin No. 1320, June 20.]

##### Customs Classifications.

A Canadian customs decision of July 26, 1915, states that tariff No. 120 applies only to whole fish preserved in tins and that canned tuna fish would, therefore, be dutiable under No. 121 or 123 of the customs tariff. Another ruling is to the effect that tin cans containing oysters in bulk, if closed with wedge-shaped cover, are to be subject to duty, as such containers are not destroyed in getting at the contents. Christmas stockings containing miscellaneous articles such as confectionery, toys, manufactures of paper, etc., are to be dutiable at the rate applicable to the article of chief value.

[The general rate of duty imposed under Tariff No. 120, applicable to "anchovies, sardines, sprats, and other fish, packed in oil or otherwise, in tin boxes" ranges from  $2\frac{1}{2}$  to 6 cents per box, according to size, with an additional duty of  $7\frac{1}{2}$  per cent ad valorem, except in the case of boxes weighing over 8 and not more than 12 ounces. The general rates under Nos. 121 and 123 are  $42\frac{1}{2}$  per cent and  $37\frac{1}{2}$  per cent

ad valorem, respectively. According to Nos. 125-127, the duty on oysters includes the duty on the cans.]

#### CHILE.

[Consul General L. J. Keena, Valparaiso, June 14.]

##### Prohibition on Certain Condensed Milk.

The importation into Chile of condensed milk made from skimmed milk is prohibited under the provision of the new Chilean customs tariff forbidding the entry of adulterated food products (see COMMERCE REPORTS for May 29, 1916).

#### ITALY.

[Gazzetta Ufficiale, June 6.]

##### Temporary Exemption of Grain and Flour.

The period during which grain, flour, and semolina may be admitted free of duty into Italy has been extended to December 31, 1916, by a royal decree dated June 1, 1916.

#### SALVADOR.

[Diario Oficial, May 25.]

##### Temporary Reduction on Glass Bottles.

Vice Consul Lynn W. Franklin, San Salvador, has transmitted a Salvadorian decree, dated May 22, 1916, which provides for a temporary reduction from \$0.05 to \$0.01 per kilo (gross weight) in the import duty imposed on plain glass bottles. The reduction is made in consideration of the fact that such imports have recently been greatly curtailed, and the lower rate is to remain in force only until the close of the European war or until the demand for such articles can be supplied locally.

#### UNION OF SOUTH AFRICA.

[Consul General George H. Murphy, Cape Town, Apr. 3.]

##### Restrictions on Mineral Oil in Southwest Protectorate.

The Government Gazette of the Southwest Protectorate contains the following notice, dated March 24, 1916:

It is hereby notified for the information of exporters that a regulation has been published in the Southwest Protectorate, with effect from March 1, 1916, prohibiting the importation into the Protectorate of mineral oils and motor spirits, except under permit from the Secretary for the Protectorate, Windhuk. Intending exporters of these commodities are warned, therefore, that in order to save themselves delay and inconvenience such permit should be obtained from the proper authority before the exportation is undertaken.

#### VENEZUELA.

[Gaceta Oficial, Apr. 13.]

##### Tariff Classifications.

According to a presidential decree of April 13, 1916, steam-boiler tubes have been assimilated to class 2 of the customs tariff and are dutiable at 0.05 bolivar per kilo (\$0.69 per 100 pounds, including surtaxes); electric batteries and copying presses have been placed under class 3 and are subject to a duty of 0.25 bolivar per kilo (\$3.43 per 100 pounds); pressure gauges have been assimilated to class 4 and are dutiable at 0.75 bolivar per kilo (\$10.28 per 100 pounds).

## HIGH PRICES FOR GAS AND OIL STOVES IN FRANCE.

[Consul General A. Gaulin, Marseille, May 22.]

Prior to the war Revin, in the Department of the Ardennes, was the center of the cast-iron industry in France. The various parts of ranges were manufactured in that region and thence shipped to Paris or Lyon, where they were assembled. Lack of raw material and the dispersion of skilled labor have had a marked effect on prices, which have practically doubled. Thus the principal dealer here, the Compagnie du Gaz et de l'Electricité de Marseille, which formerly paid 17 to 18 francs (\$3.28 to \$3.47) for the variety of small gas stoves most commonly used, now pays 35 francs (\$6.75). A certain quantity of ranges is imported from Great Britain. Both in France and Great Britain deliveries are very slow.

The dealer mentioned sold about 5,000 gas ranges in 1913, the great bulk of which measured 30 centimeters (11.81 inches) or less in height. In practically all Marseille kitchens, in order to save space, the gas range is placed on the "potager," a large range set in brick-work. There exists, therefore, only a very limited demand for large gas ranges.

### Customary Terms of Payment and Packing.

Local dealers state that American gasoline and oil stoves of small dimensions could probably find a profitable market in this district on account of the high cost of coal and the present state of domestic industry.

The usual terms of payment are 30 days and 2 per cent discount or 60 days net. Cash on delivery would be generally acceptable for American shipments. As a rule quotations c. i. f. Marseille are desired. Stoves purchased in England are usually packed in wooden boxes, the boards being 2 centimeters (0.78 inch) thick. The stoves are thus protected from shocks and the deteriorating effects of salt water. The French import duties on these products are as follows, per 100 kilos (220.46 pounds) :

Stoves entirely of cast iron and detached pieces, with or without ornaments, neither polished nor tinned, nor decorated with enamel or varnish, gross weight, general rate, 9 francs (\$1.74); minimum rate, 6 francs (\$1.16).

Stoves made of cast and sheet iron, or entirely of sheet iron, and detached pieces, with or without ornaments, neither polished, tinned, nor decorated with coats of enamel or varnish, net weight, general rate, 14 francs (\$2.70); minimum rate, 9 francs (\$1.74).

Stoves containing pieces of polished cast iron or sheet iron, tinned, varnished, or decorated with coats of enamel of only one color, net weight, general rate, 18 francs (\$3.47); minimum rate, 12 francs (\$2.31).

Stoves containing pieces of cast iron or sheet iron bearing imprints or designs or decorated by or with coats of enamel of several colors, net weight, general rate, 29 francs (\$5.60); minimum rate, 19 francs (\$3.67).

The Geological Survey's annual statement on fuller's earth is now available for distribution. According to this report the production of fuller's earth during 1915 increased 6,920 short tons in quantity and \$85,573 in value over 1914.

**NOTES FROM NORTHERN ARGENTINA.**

[Consul William Dawson, jr., Rosario, June 6.]

**Asphyxiating Gases for Locusts.**

It was recently suggested that asphyxiating gases might be used to advantage in destroying locusts in Argentina. The director general of agriculture and agricultural defense, charged with combating pests of this kind, is opposed to the use of gases for the purpose. In his report he states that experiments made with asphyxiating gases some 10 years ago showed that when used in the open they did not kill the locusts. Locusts subjected to gases under canvas or in ditches suffered comparatively little, whereas the persons manipulating the gases were in serious danger, and many gases, when condensed, would leave a deposit upon trees and fields which was injurious to plant and animal life.

**Encouraging Cotton Growing—Jute Cultivation.**

The Minister of Agriculture has drafted a project for the encouragement of cotton growing in Argentina. The project provides for the establishment of cotton planters in colonies on Government lands in the Chaco and Formosa Territories. Each colony would have 10,000 hectares (24,710 acres) subdivided into lots of 100 hectares (247 acres). Planters would receive great facilities as respects terms of payment, exemption from taxation, free seed, and technical instruction. They would be compelled to form cooperative societies. The Government would secure cheap freight rates for cotton and insure producers a ready market for their product. It would also give premiums and prizes in money and land.

According to press reports experiments in growing jute on irrigated ground are to be made by the agricultural department of the Province of Entre Rios. The consumption of jute bags for grains, sugar, rice, and other commodities is large in Argentina.

**AMERICAN CONSULAR OFFICERS ON LEAVE OF ABSENCE.**

The following American consular officers are on leave of absence in the United States and will be glad to confer with business men and commercial organizations relative to conditions in their respective jurisdictions. The consul's time is available primarily for personal interviews. He has limited facilities for correspondence, and except in urgent cases letters should be directed to the consulate.

Name.	Post.	Expiration of venue.	Address.
West, George N. ....	Kobe, Japan. ....	Aug. 15	Department of State, Washington, D.C.
Cooke, A. B. ....	Patras, Greece. ....	Aug. 10	121 West Charlotte Street, Norfolk, Va.
Hale, F. D. ....	Huddersfield, England	Sept. 5	Lunenburg, Vt.
Fisher, Fred D. ....	Tientsin, China. ....	Aug. 5	Albany, Oreg.
Masterson, William W. ....	Durban, Natal, South Africa.	Sept. 1	Carrollton, Ky.
Seltzer, Harry G. ....	Breslau, Germany. ....	Aug. 1	Gibraltar, Pa.
Baker, E. Carlton. ....	Nagasaki, Japan. ....	Aug. 30	Apartment No. 75, The Brunswick, Washington, D. C.
Monaghan, J. C. ....	Kingston, Jamaica. ....	Sept. 1	Avenue A and Fourteenth Street, Bayonne, N. J.
Jewell, John F. ....	Chefoo, China. ....	Oct. 1	Department of State, Washington, D.C.
Kemper, Graham H. ....	Erfurt, Germany. ....	Sept. 10	Do.

**INCREASED COST OF LIVING IN BRITISH CHINA.**

[Vice Consul A. E. Carleton, Hongkong, May 17.]

The food committee of the Hongkong Government, established at the opening of the war to control prices and prevent dealers from taking advantage of the situation, has recently investigated prices of foods, and it was found that the cost had increased practically 25 per cent on account of the war. The increase in staple articles of all kinds has been steady. Salaries, on the other hand, have not been increased, with the natural result that the European employees of the various branches of the government, hongks, banks, and similar institutions are confronted with an increase in the cost of living ranging from 25 per cent in most lines of food to 40 and 50 per cent in other necessities. A fair average increase would be approximately 33 per cent.

The local merchants claim that the high rate of exchange does not and can not lessen the retail price of any article. It is explained that they have stocks to exhaust which may have been purchased months ago; that it is impossible to buy abroad on a hand-to-mouth principle; that the prices abroad are increasing; that the difficulties of obtaining reasonably regular deliveries are enormous; that the shipping charges have increased by 10 per cent, and that the war risk must be added to the prices.

**PROPOSED TEXTILE ENTERPRISE FOR COLOMBIA.**

[Consul Homer Brett, La Guaira, Venezuela, June 19.]

El Nuevo Diario, of Caracas, announces that certain Venezuelan capitalists, in cooperation with a Colombian firm, are seeking a concession from a city in Colombia for the erection of a factory for the ginning, spinning, weaving, and knitting cotton. The proposed contract provides that modern machinery shall be used for all purposes. The addresses of the promoters are forwarded [and may be obtained from the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce or its district offices by asking for file No. 77920]. Correspondence and advertising matter should, as far as possible, be in Spanish.

Addresses of Government sanitary departments in South India, and lists of hospitals and dealers in drugs, medicines, and disinfectants in Madras have been forwarded from Madras by Consul Lucien Memminger. They may be obtained from the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce or its district offices. Refer to file No. 77011.

**District Offices of the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce.**

New York, Room 409 United States Customhouse; Boston, eighteenth floor United States Customhouse; Chicago, 504 Federal Building; St. Louis, 402 Third National Bank Building; Atlanta, 521 Post Office Building; New Orleans, 1020 Hibernia Bank Building; San Francisco, 307 United States Customhouse; Seattle, 848 Henry Building. Cooperative district offices: Cleveland, Chamber of Commerce; Cincinnati, Chamber of Commerce; Asst. Gen'l Frt. Agt., C. N. O. & T. P. Ry. Co., Cincinnati; Los Angeles, Chamber of Commerce; Detroit, Board of Commerce; Philadelphia, Chamber of Commerce; South American Agent, Southern Ry. Co., Chattanooga, Tenn.

## FOREIGN TRADE OPPORTUNITIES.

Reserved addresses may be obtained from the Bureau and its district offices. Request for each opportunity should be on a separate sheet and state opportunity number. The Bureau does not furnish credit ratings or assume responsibility as to the standing of foreign inquirers; the usual precautions should be taken in all cases.

*Poultry and eggs*, No. 21869.—The Bureau is informed that a man in Cuba desires to get into touch with exporters of poultry and eggs.

*Agricultural implements, etc.*, No. 21870.—An American consular officer in China reports that a man who has recently taken charge of the agricultural work of an established Mission in that country desires to receive information regarding plows, harrows, drills, and hand tools, etc. The names and addresses of dealers in seeds and farm machinery located in the southern part of the United States are also desired.

*Machinery*, No. 21871.—A promoter of industrial enterprises in the Far East advises an American consular officer of his desire to receive price lists and catalogues of the most improved cane-sugar machinery, capable of manufacturing from the cane about 30 tons of sugar daily. Correspondence may be in English.

*Textile colors*, No. 21872.—The Bureau is in receipt of an inquiry from a firm in Sweden requesting the names and addresses of American manufacturers of textile colors.

*Hardware, wearing apparel, etc.*, No. 21873.—An American consular officer in the West Indies reports that a firm in his district desires to be placed in touch with American manufacturers of automobile supplies, farming implements, building materials and builders' hardware, food products, shoes and wearing apparel, etc., with a view to securing the exclusive agency. A complete list of the articles desired, together with further information, may be obtained from the Bureau or its district offices.

*Confectionery, etc.*, No. 21874.—A commercial organization in the United States has forwarded to the Bureau the name and address of a firm in Greece which is in the market for milk caramels, peppermint wafers, and other confectionery. Samples of the peppermint wafers may be inspected at the Bureau or its district offices. (Refer to Miscel. No. 139.) The wafers should be packed in boxes of 48 rolls, each containing 7 and 13 wafers, weighing 6 and 11 grams, respectively, and in cases of 100 boxes. The caramels are wanted in boxes of 480-550 pieces and in cases of 100 boxes. Reference given.

*Sanitary fixtures, etc.*, No. 21875.—An American consular officer in France writes that a firm in his district desires to be placed in touch with American manufacturers of sanitary fixtures of all kinds, stationary washbowls, bathtubs, etc. Catalogues and prices should be in French, and weights and measurements stated in the metric system.

*Machinery*, No. 21876.—The Bureau is advised that a Government official in one of the Latin American countries desires to secure catalogues and prices of machinery used in the manufacture of door hinges.

*Machinery*, No. 21877.—A firm in Italy informs the Bureau of its desire to obtain catalogues and quotations on machinery for the manufacture of porcelain insulators and other porcelain goods. References given.

*Tools, hardware, etc.*, No. 21878.—An import agent in Norway informs the Bureau of his desire to represent American manufacturers of tools, hardware, and machinery and exporters of raw materials of all kinds. Reference given.

*Argillaceous earth*, No. 21879.—An American consular officer in Spain writes that a man in his district desires to receive quotations on argillaceous earth. Correspondence preferably in Spanish. American references can be furnished.

*Hardware, chemicals, etc.*, No. 21880.—Supplementing foreign trade opportunity No. 21404, the man interested in securing exclusive agencies for Argentina and Uruguay informs the Bureau that he particularly desires to represent American manufacturers of hardware, chemicals, leather and imitation leather, and surgical instruments. References given.

# COMMERCE REPORTS



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## ROQUEFORT CHEESE SHIPMENTS TO THE UNITED STATES.

[Consul William H. Hunt, St. Etienne, France, June 27.]

From July, 1914, to June, 1915, inclusive, about 2,881,495 pounds of Roquefort cheese, valued at \$591,223, were invoiced through the St. Etienne consulate for shipment to the United States, while during the corresponding period from July, 1915, to June, 1916, 2,211,899 pounds were exported, valued at \$777,856.

The invoiced price of cheese during the 1914-15 season averaged about 20 cents per pound, which increased gradually after the beginning of the war and averaged about 35 cents per pound during the 1915-16 season.

## ARGENTINE CEREALS AVAILABLE FOR EXPORT.

[Consul General W. Henry Robertson, Buenos Aires, June 22.]

According to a report recently issued by the Director of the Division of Rural Economy and Agricultural Statistics of the Department of Agriculture of Argentina, there are available for export in this country the following supplies of cereals: Wheat, 1,600,000 tons; linseed, 460,000 tons; oats, 500,000 tons; and corn, 1,630,000 tons. Together with the above figures there was also issued a statement showing the exports of these same cereals from January 1 to June 19, 1916, as follows: Wheat, 1,380,058 tons; linseed, 390,109 tons; oats, 351,983 tons; and corn, 851,487 tons.

The export prices ruling here on June 19, 1916, per 100 kilos (220.46 pounds) were as follows: Wheat, \$3.01; linseed, \$4.73; oats, \$1.698; corn, \$1.676.

## Interest Paid in Advance on Guatemala's Bonds.

American Minister William Hayne Leavell reports that the Guatemalan Government has again paid the interest one year in advance on the bonds of Guatemala, which are held by English capitalists.

**NOTES FROM CHOSSEN.**

[Consul General Ransford S. Miller, Seoul, June 16.]

**Population of the Country.**

The returns for the census taken at the end of December, 1915, have now been published. The following clipping from the semi-official Seoul Press gives the general figures:

According to official investigation made at the end of last year, the population and households throughout Chosen number 16,211,296 and 3,112,103, respectively. Compared with the returns for 1910, when Chosen was annexed by Japan, the figures show increases of 2,898,279 in population and 208,000 in households. The number of Japanese and their households are 302,586 (162,069 males and 140,517 females) and 85,595, respectively. Compared with the returns for the preceding year the figures represent increases of 11,216 in the former and 2,089 in the latter. The figures also show increases of 131,043 in population and 34,603 in households as against the returns for 1910. The Korean population and households at the end of last year were 15,891,419 (8,162,233 males and 7,729,186 females) and 3,022,192, respectively. The figures represent increases of 2,762,639 in population and 272,237 in households as against the returns for 1910. As for foreigners, including Chinese, the population and households number 17,291 (15,543 males and 1,748 females) and 4,315, respectively. The figures show decreases of 4,597 in population and 234 in households as compared with the returns for 1910.

**Orders for Absorbent Cotton.**

In April last an order for the manufacture of some \$500,000 worth of absorbent cotton was placed in Japan by the Russian Government; \$200,000 worth of this order has now, according to local reports, been transferred to the Chosen Cotton Spinning Co., of Seoul.

A Taiku message states that the firm of Suzuki & Co., of Kobe, Japan, has decided to establish a cotton mill at that place. Some 6 acres of land have been secured, and it is expected that the factory will be completed toward the latter part of the summer. The total cost of the installation is estimated at about \$37,500.

**Afforestation.**

The Seoul Press reports that, according to a recent investigation, 93,906,000 young trees were reared in seedling nurseries under private management in Chosen during 1915. About half of this number were shoots which will have to be kept in the nurseries for another year. The pine was the tree most widely cultivated during the year, the number reaching 42,669,000. This tree was grown in all but one of the 13 Provinces of the country. Following the pine in order of importance were the acacia, oak, chestnut, larch, and poplar.

**Sheep Raising in Chosen.**

According to the semiofficial Seoul Press, which reprints an item from the Japan Times, the Nippon Keorimono Kaisha, one of the most important woolen mills in Japan, is reported to have decided to attempt to duplicate the success attained by them in rearing sheep in Japan by undertaking the same venture in Chosen. This decision has apparently been arrived at in spite of the adverse opinion expressed by many people as to the quality of the fodder available for sheep. The report further states that an extensive tract of ground to the north of Seoul has been purchased by the company, where not only sheep but also cattle and horses will be raised.

[A report on sheep raising in Japan was published in **COMMERCE REPORTS** for Feb. 28, 1916.]



**Barley and Wheat Crops.**

The crop estimates for 1916, as compiled from conditions as of June 1, 1916, and published in the Seoul Press, estimate that the barley crop for the year will be 29,235,392 bushels and the wheat crop 7,093,071 bushels. These figures represent increases in the respective crops of 2,708,122 and 947,328 bushels, and constitute a record year in this branch of agriculture.

**TRADE STATISTICS FOR NEW BRUNSWICK.**

[Consul Harry S. Culver, St. John, New Brunswick, Canada, July 13.]

During the fiscal year ended March 31, 1916, the exports from New Brunswick, domestic and foreign, reached a total of \$131,241,957, divided as follows: St. John, \$120,042,590; McAdam Junction, \$5,388,754; Campbellton, \$1,128,894; Newcastle, \$1,121,072; Chatham, \$937,146; Moncton, \$651,440; Woodstock, \$612,274; Dalhousie, \$464,001; Bathurst, \$357,727; St. Stephen, \$337,108; St. Andrews, \$185,073; and Sackville, \$15,348.

New Brunswick imports for the same period were valued at \$14,852,932, of which St. John imported \$11,165,463; St. Stephen, \$950,422; Moncton, \$813,046; Fredericton, \$596,373; Woodstock, \$432,279; Bathurst, \$272,064; St. Andrews, \$200,739; Chatham, \$144,295; Sackville, \$89,930; McAdam Junction, \$87,559; Campbellton, \$59,712; Newcastle, \$32,159; and Dalhousie, \$8,891.

A comparison of the Maritime Province exports and imports for 1916 shows that St. John led in imports by \$1,291,664 and in exports by \$93,199,103.

The customs receipts at St. John for June amounted to \$259,076, an increase of \$68,188 over the corresponding month in 1915.

The bank clearings at St. John for the month of June totaled \$7,403,987, as compared with \$5,755,999 in June last year. The figures for the first half of 1916 were \$40,721,984, compared with \$35,799,234 for the same period in 1915.

**VEGETABLE WAX FROM MADAGASCAR.**

[London Times Imperial and Foreign Trade Supplement, July.]

Increasing quantities of vegetable waxes are being used in the manufacture of candles, boot and furniture polishes, and phonograph records, the chief materials of this kind in common use being carnauba wax, Japan wax, and China wax; such products realize high prices and find a good demand. A product resembling carnauba wax is prepared in Madagascar from the leaves of the raffia palm, which is the source of the bass used by gardeners. The wax is obtained from the residues of the leaves after the bass has been stripped off: it has approximately the same melting point (83 degrees centigrade) as carnauba wax, and behaves in the same way toward solvents. Provided that care is taken in its preparation to avoid inclusion of gritty impurities, the wax should prove useful to manufacturers of boot and furniture polishes. It has been estimated that raffia wax could be produced for £80 (\$389.32 at the normal exchange rate of \$4.866 to the pound) per ton f. o. b. Tamatave, which compares favorably with £125 (\$608.31) per ton, the present price of carnauba wax in London.

**HAWAII'S SUGAR PAYS HEAVY DIVIDENDS.**

[A. P. Taylor, correspondent, Honolulu, July 3.]

From January 1 to June 30, 1916, the dividends paid by the cane sugar plantation companies, several city industrial companies, and rubber plantations abroad, the capital for which was furnished exclusively by Hawaiian investors, amounted to \$6,978,430. All these companies were listed on the Honolulu Stock & Bond Exchange.

Disbursements by months were: January, \$765,500; February, \$765,500; March, \$842,589; April, \$1,482,000; May, \$817,500, and June, \$2,305,341.

So far as shown by the monthly summary of the exchange, the dividend rates per annum on the half-year basis, for the separate companies, are: Alexander & Baldwin, sugar company agents, 14; C. Brewer & Co., sugar company agents, 33; Ewa Sugar Plantation, 20; Haiku Sugar Plantation, 28; Hawaiian Agricultural Co., sugar plantation, 28; Hawaiian Commercial & Sugar Co., 24; Hawaiian Sugar Co., 35; Honomu Sugar Co., 24; Hutchison Sugar Plantation, 17.6; Kahuku Sugar Plantation, 11; Kekaha Sugar Plantation, 16; McBryde Sugar Co., 6.25; Oahu Sugar Plantation, 18; Onomea Sugar Plantation, 30; Paaupau Sugar Plantation, 22; Paia Sugar Plantation, 28; Pepeekeo Sugar Plantation, 28; Pioneer Mill Co., 18; Waialua Sugar Plantation, 16; Wailuku Sugar Plantation, 12; Hawaiian Pineapple Co., 15; Honolulu Brewing & Malting Co., 18; Honolulu Gas Co., 6; Honolulu Rapid Transit & Land Co., 8; Inter-Island Steam Navigation Co., 9; Mutual Telephone Co., 10; Oahu Railway & Land Co., 9; Pahang Rubber Co., 18; Tanjong Olok Rubber Co., 15.

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**HEMLOCK-BARK INDUSTRY REVIVED.**

[Consul Edward A. Dow, St. Stephen, New Brunswick, Canada, July 14.]

For the first time in many years hemlock bark is going forward from many stations in this district both to other points in Canada and to the United States for use in tanning leather. The acids so largely used instead of the bark are now almost impossible to get on account of the war, as much of these came from Germany. It is stated that, instead of being left in the woods with other bark, the hemlock strips are now handled by big crews of bark peelers, and the product is bringing about \$8 per cord f. o. b. this district.

One large tanning concern at Woodstock, a town in this district, is importing leather partly unfinished, and returning it after tanning, presumably with hemlock bark treatment.

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**FISH LANDED AT NEW ENGLAND PORTS.**

The fishing fleet landing fishery products at Boston and Gloucester, Mass., and Portland, Me., during the month of June, 1916, included 274 steam and sail vessels. These vessels landed at Boston 261 trips, aggregating 8,919,789 pounds of fish, valued at \$304,725; at Gloucester, 144 trips, aggregating 7,604,028 pounds, valued at \$244,121; and at Portland, 350 trips, amounting to 4,737,703 pounds, valued at \$51,440. The total for the three ports during the month amounted to 755 trips, aggregating 21,261,520 pounds of fresh and salted fish, having a value to the fishermen of \$600,286.

**DEMAND FOR REFRIGERATION FACILITIES IN RUSSIA.**

[London Times Imperial and Foreign Trade Supplement, July.]

During the last few years refrigeration has steadily received more and more attention in Russia. It seemed that a boom in cold-storage construction was about to take place when the war broke out. The attention of the Government had been drawn to the subject; the Agricultural Society had for several years influential committees dealing with the matter; a number of engineers were specializing in the subject; and merchants and others interested in storing perishable products were clamoring for information.

After the first months of the war it was seen that without cold storage the difficulties of supplying the army, especially in summer, were greatly increased, while the civil population is greatly inconvenienced by the want of proper storing facilities. The Government has therefore been forced to undertake the building of a great system of slaughterhouses with refrigerator plants covering eastern and southeastern Russia and western and central Siberia.

A glance at the map of Russia shows the great necessity of cold storage. The comparatively inadequate railway system, the differences of climate, the vast distances between the producing and consuming areas, and, above all, the surplus of every kind of commodity at the times of plenty and the great want at the time of nonproduction make it necessary to store all these products. The importance of cold storage is now generally accepted in Russia. The Government, municipalities, zemstvos, railways, and individual merchants are only waiting for opportunity, such as the end of the war will bring, to commence building and equipping numbers of cold-storage plants.

The demand for cold storage will be an increasing one, hence the business of supplying plants should be extremely lucrative. It will be necessary to supply these complete. Estimates or specifications should be worked out to the minutest detail and the greatest attention paid to economical working. Fuel is dear in Russia, hence the importance of producing the maximum cold calories for a minimum expenditure of fuel. Ammonia plants are practically exclusively in demand. Previous to the war Borsig (Berlin) and Humboldt (Cologne) were the two most popular firms. This should give some idea as to Russian requirements. But, above all, it is necessary in dealing with Russians to have a competent engineer on the spot, not only to answer all questions, but to make suggestions for more efficient working by a study of local conditions.

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**AMERICAN PURCHASES OF SOUTH AFRICAN WOOL.**

[Textile Mercury, Manchester, England.]

In the annual statement of the trade of South Africa and of Southern and Northern Rhodesia, issued by the Department of Customs and Excise, at Pretoria, it is stated that exports of sheep's wool in 1915 amounted to 170,003,173 pounds, valued at £5,380,031 (\$26,181,921), and exceeded both in quantity and value any previous annual export except the record totals for 1913, to which they very closely approximated. Large quantities were taken by the United States, which took the place of Germany as the purchaser next in importance to the United Kingdom.

**SILK TRADE OF GUATEMALA.**

[Consul Stuart Lupton, Guatemala City, June 13.]

Silks are very popular in Guatemala among all classes, when they can be afforded. The business done in high-class goods is rather limited, however, and the stocks are relatively small and the assortment poor. It seems that people who would purchase fine goods of this sort import direct—possibly through a purchasing agent abroad—or else bring back a full assortment of clothes on returning to Guatemala from a trip to the United States or Europe. The bulk of the trade in brightly colored silks of medium and cheap grades.

The value of Guatemala's imports of silk manufactures and the shares of the supplying countries in 1913 and 1914 are shown by the customs returns to have been:

Imported from—	1913	1914	Imported from—	1913	1914
United States.....	\$7,539	\$5,715	Spain.....	\$1,897	\$1,003
Japan and China.....	193,790	149,835	Italy.....	934	2,014
Germany.....	35,615	27,718	All other countries.....	30	362
France.....	18,573	22,423			
England.....	5,071	9,038	Total.....	263,448	221,168

The official statistics for 1915 are not yet available.

**Imports, by Articles and Countries.**

The chief articles that entered into this trade during 1913 and 1914 and the imports from the United States and from those countries whose share exceeded \$1,000 in either of these years were:

Articles.	1913	1914	Articles.	1913	1914
<b>Ornaments.....</b>	<b>\$1,021</b>	<b>\$1,223</b>	<b>Ribbons—Continued.</b>		
United States.....	610		United States.....	\$256	\$13
Patterns for vests and women's dresses.....	2,090	1,505	Germany.....	6,483	9,327
France.....	1,050	340	<b>Textiles:</b>		
Japan and China.....	926	1,105	Pure-silk.....	21,675	16,932
Ready-made articles.....	52,683	48,192	United States.....	1,721	427
United States.....	3,003	447	Japan and China.....	13,913	8,737
Japan and China.....	43,874	39,521	France.....	2,297	5,405
Germany.....	2,773	3,396	England.....	105	1,323
France.....	2,532	2,699	Germany.....	3,579	1,040
Spain.....		1,723	<b>Mixed.....</b>	<b>7,062</b>	<b>5,931</b>
<b>Ribbons:</b>			United States.....	467	1,009
Pure-silk.....	16,629	15,963	England.....	637	1,995
United States.....		300	France.....	2,479	1,771
Germany.....	11,314	7,964	Germany.....	3,019	444
England.....	1,538	3,209	<b>Underwear, knit.</b>	<b>470</b>	<b>298</b>
France.....	80	2,444	United States.....	410	168
Spain.....	1,897	1,990	<b>Wraps.....</b>	<b>610</b>	<b>3,979</b>
Japan and China.....	1,800	86	United States.....		300
Mixed.....	7,552	10,697	France.....	563	2,921

**Customary Sources Closed.**

Since the outbreak of the European war merchants have been unable to obtain goods regularly from the accustomed sources of supply, and their stocks are now running low. (This applies least to China, which country does the bulk of the business in silk goods.) I understand that there is an impression current among the merchants here that the United States does not produce fine silk goods. Necessity is now compelling them to open relations with silk dealers in the United States, but whether or not this trade will continue when access can again be had to the old markets, remains to be

seen. It is always a difficult matter to win business men away from their allegiance to manufacturers who for years have given careful, prompt, and satisfactory service, and who are willing to sell what the customer wants and not to try to sell him what they may have in stock and desire to get rid of.

One thing that merchants here always want to know is how much a piece of goods weighs to the bolt. This weight should preferably be expressed in kilos. (Kilo equals 2.2046 pounds.) A salesman has told me that he recently lost an order for several hundred dollars' worth of dry goods, because he could not give the weight per piece.

#### Care in Making Out Invoices—Terms.

The duties on silk and silk goods are quite high. Therefore American sellers should be most careful to follow instructions given by buyers in this country. What may appear to be an insignificant detail or mere whim of the buyer may mean the saving of a considerable sum in duties. Great care should be used in making out the consular invoices, which must be in Spanish. It would be well to determine the various terms used in the silk trade in Guatemala, as each different country of Latin America uses its own peculiar terms. Often the use of one word instead of another with apparently the same meaning may result in the saving of much duty and freight.

Credits usually given by American houses are for 60 to 90 days, but European firms give terms often as long as six and nine months and sometimes do business on an open-account basis.

[A list of Guatemalan importers of silk goods may be obtained from the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce or its district offices by asking for file No. 77871.]

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### INCOME TAX PROPOSED FOR PERU.

[Commercial Attaché William F. Montavon, Lima, June 8.]

On June 6 the Minister of Finance appointed a committee whose duty it will be to investigate and report during the next session of the Peruvian Congress on the subject of an income tax for Peru, with recommendations as to the applicability of such a tax to this Republic.

Economic conditions resulting from the European war were met by the adoption of emergency revenue measures by the Peruvian Congress. Among them was the export tax on certain raw materials. This export tax becomes effective only when the market value of the commodity against which it is levied reaches a certain level. The purpose of the law has been to fix this figure at a point slightly above the average cost of production, and in a certain sense the export tax may be said to be an indirect tax on profits or income. The export tax has been so successful that the Department of Finance has felt encouraged to advocate an out-and-out income tax. The report of the committee appointed to study the subject is but a logical outgrowth, therefore, of developments of the past few months.

The introduction of an income tax in Peru will meet with the customary difficulties of prejudice against direct taxes and the lack of any systematic organization for the collection and analysis of exact economic statistics from which accurate estimates can be made of the earnings of any given industrial enterprise.

**AMERICAN SHIPPING PROSPECTS IN CHILE.**

[Consul Thomas W. Voetter, Antofagasta, June 8.]

Coal is still in demand in Chile, although several vessels have recently brought cargoes from Norfolk and Newport News. Coal from the United States is selling at 75s. to 85s. (\$18.25 to \$20.65) per ton, while the freights being paid for bringing it out are from \$12.15 to \$15 per ton. The coal that has come is Pocahontas or New River. For some purposes the Pocahontas coal is not satisfactory, as it is too fine; a lumpier coal is desired. The users would be willing to pay a higher price than the usual quotations if they could obtain a screened coal free of slack.

Ships bringing coal here would always be able to load nitrate for a return cargo. Freight on nitrate from Antofagasta to the eastern coast of the United States are now about 100s. (\$24.30) per ton.

While the center of nitrate production is in the northern part of Chile, the business transactions relating to purchases are made and shipping arrangements are carried out at Valparaiso. The purchase and resale of coal by brokers also take place there.

**May Make Arrangements for Cargoes in New York.**

Owners of vessels are advised that it would not be impossible to arrange about cargoes in New York, consulting the large coal mining companies regarding shipments to this coast and negotiating for return freights with the large nitrate importing houses in the United States, or representatives of the larger manufacturers of explosives and chemicals. Although some of these firms have their own vessels, they frequently need additional ships.

High freight rates in the local coastwise trade still continue, so that if a vessel is sent with coal and no return cargo engaged it need not lie idle on this coast; but could easily obtain cargoes of barley, potatoes, hay, beans, etc., in the southern part of Chile to be transported to the nitrate coast.

Firms in Chile which are interested in coal imports and in shipping nitrate may be willing to act as agents with more than a perfunctory service to give, but their interest will be temporary, as they intend to import their coal from England as soon as the war is over.

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**SCOTCH MILL MEN START RUSSIAN LANGUAGE CLASSES.**

The tweed and hosiery manufacturers of Hawick, Scotland, at a recent conference decided to take steps to develop direct trade with Russia and to start classes in the Russian language. The Textile Mercury, of Manchester, England, in reporting this fact, states that textile manufacturers are making preparations now to seize the opportunities for increased business with Russia that are expected after the war. The Mercury, in commenting on the language classes, adds:

The study of the Russian language has received a great fillip in this country recently. In Manchester a considerable number of persons is receiving tuition in Russian, and it was reported recently that the Burnley Education Committee had decided to make inquiries respecting the teaching of Russian, with the view of starting classes in the town in the interest of the commercial classes.

**CHINA'S SOURCES OF SUPPLY FOR BUTTER.**

[Consul General Thomas Sammons, Shanghai, May 31.]

The greater proportion of the butter heretofore imported into China has been from Siberia, Australia, and New Zealand, not much coming from European countries. During 1914, the latest year for which detailed statistics are available, the total importation was about 1,894,000 pounds, valued at \$477,598, of which Siberia contributed about 771,200 pounds, with a value of \$183,663, and Australia and New Zealand about 511,400 pounds, valued at \$135,954, leaving a balance credited to all other countries of 611,400 pounds, valued at \$157,81. In the balance are included 288,600 pounds, with a value of \$74,807, imported from Hongkong. This is transhipped cargo, a part of which may be credited to various European countries and to America. The figures show that the leading sources of supply for China are not such countries as are most affected by the European war. Great Britain, in 1914, led the countries of Europe as a source of butter supply, with about 142,100 pounds, valued at \$39,201, and at the present time is not hampered for lack of shipping facilities to the degree that certain Continental countries are. In the same year Denmark was credited with only about 4,900 pounds, valued at \$1,558, a value slightly greater than those for 1912 and 1913.

**Foreign Residents and Wealthier Chinese Chief Consumers.**

Butter is not in general use among the Chinese people but is imported chiefly for consumption by foreign residents and by the wealthier Chinese in treaty ports, who have come under foreign influence. The Chinese customs duty on butter is 2 Haikwan (customs) taels per picul (133½ pounds). The rate of conversion used is that set by the United States Treasury for the current quarter. (Haikwan tael=\$0.7024.)

[A report on American butter in South China was published in **COMMERCE REPORTS** for July 23, 1915.]

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**WORK OF UNITED STATES EMPLOYMENT SERVICE.**

The United States Employment Service, the work of which is performed under the supervision of the Division of Information of the Bureau of Immigration, Department of Labor, has completed the first full year of its activities, with gratifying results. During the year 25,645 employers filed application for 107,331 workers. In the same period 184,032 persons applied for work, of whom 84,963 were referred to employment and 75,156 were actually employed.

During the year the Department of Labor, in pursuance of cooperative arrangements with the Department of Commerce, utilized its employment service by establishing registers of certificated seamen. Through the operation of this service the employment officers of the Department of Labor were frequently able to secure for merchant vessels a sufficient number of certificated seamen to complete the crews; and when unable to do this they ascertained and reported the fact that no such seamen were available in their respective ports.

**FOREIGN TARIFFS.****BRAZIL.****Consular Certification of Bills of Lading.**

According to information received from the Consul General of Brazil in New York, shipments valued at not more than £10, including freight, packing, commission, etc., need not be accompanied by a consular invoice if shipped on a parcel receipt. In the case of articles shipped on bill of lading, however, a consular invoice is always required, irrespective of the value of goods.

**CANADA.**

[Customs Memorandum No. 2011B, May 3.]

**Importation of Animal Products from Illinois.**

The Canadian regulations prohibiting the importation into Canada of certain animal products and of hay, straw, fodder, and manure from the State of Illinois have been continued in force for a period of three months from May 3, 1916. [A copy of the regulations is on file in the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce and will be loaned upon application.]

[Customs Memorandum 2019B, June 19.]

**Marking of Egg Containers.**

Packages containing eggs imported into Canada must not be branded or stamped with the words "Canada," "Canadian," "packed in Canada," or with any word which might give the impression that the articles are of Canadian origin.

**GREECE.**

[Board of Trade Journal, June 22.]

**Tariff Increase.**

There has been put into effect an increase of 10 per cent in the duties on practically all products imported into Greece, except those admitted at conventional rates under the terms of commercial treaties between Greece and other countries. The only additional articles not subject to the increase are wheat, flour, barley, and other cereals and products of which the State has a monopoly.

**GUATEMALA.**

[El Guatemalteco, Apr. 28.]

**Export Duties on Sugar.**

The Guatemalan Government has imposed an export duty of \$0.10 per quintal (101.4 pounds) on brown sugar and sirup and of \$0.25 per quintal on other sugar by a decree dated April 27, 1916. The proceeds of the new tax are to be devoted to the general hospital at Guatemala City.

**ITALY.**

[Gazzetta Ufficiale, Mar. 1.]

**Free Admission of Certain Machinery and Materials.**

In order to encourage new forms of industrial activity, the Italian Government, by a decree of February 17, 1916, authorized the exemp-



tion from import duties and octroi charges of machinery and materials for construction to be used in new industrial enterprises, such free admission to be allowed for a period of 5 years. According to the decree, the exemption is to apply to supplies for establishments manufacturing articles not already produced in the country, those manufacturing by new processes articles formerly produced in Italy and those producing supplementary articles in the nature of by-products. It was further provided that regulations under this decree should be issued within 1 month from the date of publication.

#### NORWAY.

##### Export Duties on Fish.

Consul General E. Haldeman Dennison, Christiania, has forwarded a report dated April 7, 1916, giving the export duties now imposed on fish products shipped from Norway, in effect March 30, 1916. Information regarding these new duties may be obtained upon application to the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce.

#### PORTUGAL.

[Consul General W. L. Lowrie, Lisbon, May 4.]

##### Temporary Free Admission of Food Products.

A recent decree of the Portuguese Minister of Finance, besides authorizing a continuation of the export duties on various articles of general consumption with a view to discouraging their shipment from the country, provides for the free admission of the following products from June 1, 1916, until the end of the war: Corn, rye, barley, oats, beans, forage, potatoes, fresh and preserved meat, cattle, swine, sheep, goats, horses, and mules.

#### UNITED KINGDOM.

[Consul Augustus E. Ingram, Bradford, Apr. 17.]

##### Wool Export Licenses.

The War Trade Department has announced that a new subcommittee of that department has been formed to deal with applications for the issue of export licenses for wool and wool manufactures. Mr. T. H. Jones, of the firm of Lucien Marcan's Successors, wool, top, noil, and waste merchants of Bradford, has been appointed chairman of the subcommittee, which invites the cooperation of interested chambers of commerce and other recognized organizations connected with the wool trade. In regard to this subcommittee the War Trade Department has issued the following announcement:

1. With reference to the various prohibitions now in force in the export of wool and animal hair and tops, noils, waste, yarns, and manufactures of all descriptions made therefrom, a subcommittee of the War Trade Department had been formed to consider applications for the issue of export licenses. The subcommittee will also deal with wool skins and certain descriptions of hair skins. Applications for crossbred, East India, and black-faced wool, as well as for tops, noils, and waste made therefrom, will continue, as at present, to be considered only when made on behalf of an Allied Government, through the Commission Internationale de Ravitaillement, India House, Kingsway, London, W. C. Applications for the export to allied and neutral countries of strictly limited quantities of the following articles will receive careful consideration, if addressed directly to the War Trade Department:

Woolen and worsted manufactures; merino wool; merino yarn; merino noils and waste; and hair (mohair, alpaca, etc.) in the raw, semi-manufactured

or manufactured state; shoddies of all descriptions, if unsuitable for military requirements.

This intimation must not be taken to imply that licenses will necessarily be granted for all or any of the above articles.

2. *Crossbred yarn*.—Applications for the export of crossbred yarn, containing materials suitable for military cloth or hosiery, will only be considered provided that—

(a) The yarn at the present time is unsuitable for military purposes in count, color, or twist; (b) the manufacture of the yarn at the date of this notice has reached such a stage as to render its use for military purposes impracticable.

Future application will not be considered for any yarns containing crossbred wool, unless the yarns are required for Allied Governments and the sanction of the Director of Army Contracts has been obtained previous to their manufacture. The attention of applicants is specially directed to the necessity of applying for licenses only in cases where the quantities applied for do not exceed those of normal orders, and where they are absolutely satisfied that the consignees are in every way trustworthy and that the material will not be used for the benefit of the enemy. Failure in this respect may not only involve a refusal of the application in question but may also prejudice further applications. The subcommittee invites the cooperation of interested chambers of commerce and other recognized organizations connected with the wool trade in carrying out the duties intrusted to their charge. With this object, they are prepared to set apart one day each month for consultation with such bodies on questions affecting the issue of licenses, but find it essential that the consultations shall be with combinations of interests as far as practicable.

### HAITIAN TASTE IN SOCKS AND STOCKINGS.

[Special Agent Garrard Harris.]

There is transmitted herewith a sample collection of socks, stockings, and children's hose typical of the patterns that meet the taste of a considerable proportion of the Haitian population. The goods, which are of almost every conceivable color and combination, are from a firm in Barcelona, Spain. The price marks are in Spanish pesetas, the peseta being equivalent to about 20 cents United States currency. The prices are made on a basis of three months' credit. There is no discount for cash. This firm has been shipping to the Haitian market for a number of years.

It will be noted upon examination that most of the samples are of heavy weaves. One would naturally suppose that the people would want as light a fabric as possible, but this is not the case. The natives have an idea that to be durable the goods must be heavy. The samples sent were selected from a large assortment as being about the average of what the people in Haiti want. The merchant who assisted in this selection states that he has attempted to get this sort of hosiery from the United States, but can not. He can obtain very fair blacks, tans, and whites, but not the bright colors and combinations desired by the trade, and is therefore forced to buy in other markets.

[The samples will be on exhibition at the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce and its district offices, where they may be inspected by interested American hosiery firms. Ask for file 974.]

### Manufacturers of Licorice Root and Extract in Italy.

Consul General David F. Wilber, at Genoa, Italy, has transmitted a list of the more important manufacturers and exporters of licorice root and extract in Italy, copy of which can be obtained at the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce or its district offices by referring to file No. 78350.

**SHIPPING AT SOUTH AFRICAN PORTS COMPARED.**

[Vice Consul Hugh S. Hood, Durban, Natal, May 11.]

The railway commissioners, in a recent report, called attention to what they termed the necessity of readjusting the proportions of trade, as between the ports of the Union of South Africa, after the war. No ports are specifically mentioned, but it is evident from the statistical returns dealing with January and February, 1916, that Durban is exceeding all records. In tonnage of cargo shipped, this port is doing about twice as much as the three other principal Union harbors put together, and in cargo landed has a large preponderance over any other port. Cargo shipped oversea was: Durban, 271,880 tons; Cape Town, 95,541 tons; East London, 34,210 tons; Port Elizabeth, 14,453 tons. Cargo from oversea landed was: Durban, 100,452 tons; Cape Town, 83,671 tons; Port Elizabeth, 42,122 tons; East London, 26,840 tons.

**Durban Gaining Lead in Imports and Exports.**

Figures relating to Delagoa Bay, which is not in the Union of South Africa, are given only in terms of value, but in the table of imports and exports it is manifest what a lead Durban is gaining. Imports through Durban for the two months amounted in value to £1,845,644 (\$8,981,826); through Cape Town, £1,210,776 (\$5,892,236); and through Port Elizabeth, £1,132,508 (\$5,511,350). Exports (excluding gold and diamonds) were: Through Durban, £975,482 (\$4,747,183); through Port Elizabeth, £575,476 (\$2,800,553); through East London, £563,019 (\$2,739,931); and through Cape Town, £431,158 (\$1,660,245).

**RESULTS OF MAGNETIC OBSERVATIONS PUBLISHED.**

The United States Coast and Geodetic Survey has issued, as Special Publication No. 36, a volume containing the results of magnetic observations made during the calendar year 1915, together with descriptions of the stations occupied. Results are given for 496 stations in 397 localities in 35 States and Territories, including about 90 auxiliary stations in areas of marked local disturbance. There is presented in tabular form a comparison of the declination results at 80 repeat stations with the results of earlier observations in the same localities. The horizontal intensity results have been corrected to reduce them to the provisional international standard of the Department of Terrestrial Magnetism of the Carnegie Institution of Washington.

**HIGH RATES FOR DIRECT SHIPPING TO SOUTH AFRICA.**

[Vice Consul Hugh S. Hood, Durban, Natal, June 6.]

Many customers in Durban are refusing to order new lines or repeat former deliveries on account of high freight rates direct from New York. I understand that several shippers are negotiating for shipping arrangements to South Africa via England.

Good orders for household soaps, piece goods, stationery, and hosiery lines, it is reported, have been held back, the smaller merchants drawing from local stocks and indenting to England.

Similar conditions have been reported from other districts.

**PROPOSALS FOR GOVERNMENT SUPPLIES AND CONSTRUCTION.**

[Correspondence should be direct with the offices named, and specifications can usually be obtained at the points where the goods are to be delivered or the work is to be performed. In cases where the time limit is too short to permit firms to submit tenders, they should ask to be placed on the mailing lists of such offices to receive notices calling for future supplies or work of a similar nature.]

**Hack saw, blades, hoist, and motor, No. 3431.**—Sealed proposals will be received at the office of the Chief Signal Officer, War Department, Washington, D. C., until July 31, 1916, for furnishing 1 power hack saw, 48 power hack-saw blades, 1 duplex hoist, and 1 2-horsepower electric motor.

**Buoy bodies, No. 3432.**—Sealed proposals will be received by the lighthouse inspector, Tompkinsville, N. Y., until July 28, 1916, for furnishing and delivering four acetylene buoy bodies, type "L." Further information may be obtained on application to the above-named officer.

**Steel and cast-iron parts, No. 3433.**—Sealed proposals will be received at the office of the United States Reclamation Service, Washington, D. C., until July 31, 1916, for furnishing the stationary steel and cast-iron parts for the movable crest of Sherburne Lakes spillway, Milk River project, Montana. Further information may be obtained from the United States Reclamation Service Washington, D. C.; Denver, Colo.; or Browning, Mont.

**Subsistence supplies, No. 3434.**—Sealed proposals will be received at the office of the depot quartermaster, United States Army, 115 East Ontario Street, Chicago, Ill., until July 24, 1916, for furnishing and delivering white and yellow corn meal, rice, prunes, evaporated apples and peaches, coffee, granulated sugar, cucumber pickles, lemon and vanilla flavoring extracts, chocolate candy, ginger and soda crackers, sales lard, pineapples, tomato-catsup sauce, maple sirup, cut loaf sugar, and granulated smoking tobacco.

**Stationery and textiles, No. 3435.**—Sealed proposals will be received at the office of the medical-supply depot, United States Army, 543 Greenwich Street, New York, N. Y., until July 28, 1916, for furnishing wire letter baskets, waste-paper baskets, standard prescription books, steel erasers, ink powder or tablets, carbon paper, manifold paper, writing paper, penracks, perforating punch, office tape, mosquito bars, bath robes, wool blankets, cooks' caps, unbleached muslin, oilcloth, pajamas, cotton pillowcases, cotton sheets, cotton shirts, cotton thread, and lettered bath towels.

**Chart paper, No. 3436.**—Sealed proposals will be received by the Superintendent, Coast and Geodetic Survey, 205 New Jersey Avenue SE., Washington, D. C., until July 28, 1916, for furnishing 202 reams chart paper. Specifications may be obtained on application to the above-named officer.

**Wire, No. 3437.**—Sealed proposals will be received at the office of the Chief Signal Officer, War Department, Washington, D. C., until July 24, 1916, for furnishing 170,000 feet of outside distributing wire.

**Locomotives, No. 3438.**—Sealed proposals will be received at the office of the general purchasing officer of the Panama Canal, Washington, D. C., until August 23, 1916, for the purchase of locomotives no longer needed. (Circular No. 1057.)

**Bulkhead, etc., No. 3439.**—Sealed proposals will be received by the lighthouse inspector, New Orleans, La., for building an interlocking creosoted sheet-pile bulkhead, etc., at the New Canal Light Station, New Orleans, La. Further information may be obtained on application to the above-named officer.

**Kerosene cases, No. 3440.**—Sealed proposals will be received by the lighthouse inspector, Portland, Oreg., until August 1, 1916, for the purchase of 2,000 kerosene cases, each containing two 5-gallon cans, delivered at Tongue Point Lighthouse depot, Astoria, Oreg. Further information may be obtained on application to the lighthouse inspector, Portland, Oreg.

**Reinforcing material, No. 3441.**—Sealed proposals will be received at the office of the Superintendent of Prisons, Department of Justice, Washington, D. C., until August 4, 1916, for furnishing and delivering at the United States Penitentiary, Atlanta, Ga., reinforcing material for roof of east main-cell wing. Copies of the specifications and further information may be obtained on application to the above-named office.

*Spar buoys*, No. 3442.—Sealed proposals will be received by the lighthouse inspector, Tompkinsville, N. Y., until August 1, 1916, for furnishing and delivering f. o. b. cars, place of loading, 400 wooden spar buoys.

*Excavation*, No. 3443.—Sealed proposals will be received at the office of the United States Reclamation Service, Carlsbad, N. Mex., until August 1, 1916, for work involving the excavation of about 151,000 cubic yards of material about 15 miles northwest of Carlsbad, on the Atchison, Topeka & Santa Fe Railway. Further information may be obtained on application to the United States Reclamation Service, Denver, Colo., or Carlsbad, N. Mex.

### AMERICAN CONSULAR OFFICERS ON LEAVE OF ABSENCE.

The following American consular officers are on leave of absence in the United States and will be glad to confer with business men and commercial organizations relative to conditions in their respective jurisdictions. The consul's time is available primarily for personal interviews. He has limited facilities for correspondence, and except in urgent cases letters should be directed to the consulate.

Name.	Post.	Expira- tion of vacan.	Address.
West, George N. ....	Kobe, Japan. ....	Aug. 15	Department of State, Washington, D.C.
Cooke, A. B. ....	Patras, Greece. ....	Aug. 10	121 West Charlotte Street, Norfolk, Va.
Hale, P. D. ....	Huddersfield, England	Sept. 5	Lunenburg, Vt.
Fisher, Fred D. ....	Tientsin, China. ....	Aug. 5	Albany, Oreg.
Masteron, William W. ....	Durban, Natal, South Africa.	Sept. 1	Carrollton, Ky.
Eltzer, Harry G. ....	Breslau, Germany. ....	Aug. 1	Gibraltar, Pa.
Baker, E. Carlton. ....	Nagasaki, Japan. ....	Aug. 30	Apartment No. 75, The Brunswick, Washington, D. C.
Monaghan, J. C. ....	Klarskn, Jamaica. ....	Sept. 1	Avenue A and Fourteenth Street, Ba- yonne, N. J.
Jewell, John F. ....	Chefoo, China. ....	Oct. 1	Department of State, Washington, D.C.
Kemper, Graham H. ....	Erfurt, Germany. ....	Sept. 10	Do.

### AUSTRALIAN MERCHANT SEEKS AGENCIES.

The District Office of the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce in New York City reports that an Australian business man called at the office, stating that he expects to return to Australia on July 27 and would like to arrange to represent American manufacturers and exporters on an agency basis. He is also in position to buy goods for his own account and will pay cash against shipping documents in New York. The man's name and address, together with references, may be had on application to the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, Washington, or its District Offices.

### District Offices of the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce.

New York, Room 409 United States Customhouse; Boston, eighteenth floor United States Customhouse; Chicago, 504 Federal Building; St. Louis, 402 Third National Bank Building; Atlanta, 521 Post Office Building; New Orleans, 1020 Hibernia Bank Building; San Francisco, 307 United States Customhouse; Seattle, 848 Henry Building. Cooperative district offices: Cleveland, Chamber of Commerce; Cincinnati, Chamber of Commerce; Asst. Gen'l Frt. Agt., C. N. O. & T. P. Ry. Co., Cincinnati; Los Angeles, Chamber of Commerce; Detroit, Board of Commerce; Philadelphia, Chamber of Commerce; South American Agent, Southern Ry. Co., Chattanooga, Tenn.

**FOREIGN TRADE OPPORTUNITIES:**

Reserved addresses may be obtained from the **Bureau** and its **district offices**. Request for each opportunity should be on a separate sheet and **state opportunity number**. The Bureau does not furnish credit ratings or assume responsibility as to the standing of foreign inquirers; the usual precautions should be taken in all cases.

*Telephone mouthpieces*, No. 21881.—An American consular officer in Canada reports that a local telephone company desires to get in touch with manufacturers of glass telephone mouth-pieces.

*Office furniture, hardware, etc.*, No. 21882.—The Bureau is informed that a man from Russia, who is now in the United States, desires to enter into commercial relations with American manufacturers of men's furnishings, rubber goods, furniture, office furniture, hardware, surgical appliances, corrugated iron for building purposes, packing, drugs and chemicals, stationery, kitchen utensils, paints and varnishes, tools, china and enameled ware, farm implements, radiators, and toilet preparations. References given.

*Wire racks*, No. 21883.—An American consular officer in the United Kingdom reports that a firm in his district wishes to receive quotations from American manufacturers of wire racks for perforated music libraries. Quotations should, if possible, be quoted c. i. f. British ports.

*Agency*, No. 21884.—A salesman with several years experience in the general import business in China, advises the Bureau that he contemplates returning to the Orient shortly and is desirous of representing American manufacturers of goods suitable for the Chinese trade. No particular line is specified. References given.

*Machinery*, No. 21885.—An American consular officer in the Far East reports that a plantation owner in his district wishes to receive catalogues and price lists of sugar machinery for a plant which will produce about 10 tons of sugar per day of 24 hours. Correspondence may be in English. Catalogues should be sent in triplicate to the American Consulate.

*Preserved fish*, No. 21886.—A wholesale commission merchant in Spain informs an American consular officer of his desire to represent American exporters of preserved fish. The merchant desires to make purchases on his own account.

*Iron beds*, No. 21887.—An American consular officer in Newfoundland reports that a firm in his district wishes to be placed in touch with American manufacturers of iron beds for hospital purposes. Quotations should be made f. o. b. New York.

*Hides, skins, wool, etc.*, No. 21888.—An American consular officer in South Africa reports that a syndicate recently organized contemplates engaging in export trade with the United States, and communication is desired with importers of hides, skins, wool, mohair, ostrich feathers, etc.

*Men's furnishings, etc.*, No. 21889.—The Bureau is informed that a firm in Holland desires to represent American manufacturers of tailors' requisites, such as linings (horsehair mixed with cotton, etc.), collars, neckties, shirts, etc.

*Printing press, etc.*, No. 21890.—A Government official in Brazil informs an American consular officer that it is proposed to purchase a printing press, and materials, such as paper, inks, etc., for the purpose of printing all official Government papers. Correspondence, and the printed matter, etc., if possible, should be in Portuguese.

*Snap fasteners*, No. 21891.—An American consular officer in Central America writes that a firm in his district wishes to receive samples, with quotations, of snap fasteners. A very cheap article is desired, in black and white with covering or plain metal. They should be packed one dozen to the card and one gross of cards in a package. Cards should be of very light paper and packages should be made as light as possible. Correspondence may be in English.

# COMMERCE REPORTS



DAILY CONSULAR AND TRADE REPORTS  
ISSUED DAILY BY THE BUREAU OF FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC COMMERCE  
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

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No. 171

Washington, D. C., Saturday, July 22

1916

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### DANISH DECREES REGARDING STORED MERCHANDISE.

[Consul General E. D. Winslow, Copenhagen, June 22.]

The Minister of the Interior of Denmark has made known to the importing trade and merchants who have brought goods into Denmark for the purpose of storage and on which merchandise an embargo exists or on which restrictions have been imposed against re-exportation that these stored goods must be sold to the customers in Denmark if Danish merchants wish to purchase for absolute home consumption. This regulation it is hoped will prevent an artificial scarcity of necessities, hinder an unhealthy speculation, and make it impossible to store goods for the use of neighboring countries.

### RICH VEIN OF LEAD ORE IN ONTARIO.

[Consul Henry P. Starrett, Fort William, Ontario, Canada, July 12.]

A report from the Ontario Bureau of Mines, dealing with lead and zinc deposits in the Province, gives information relative to the Lead Hills location on the north shore of Lake Superior, in the township of McTavish, at a distance of 3 or 4 miles west of the shore of Black Bay. The bureau states:

A rich vein of lead ore occurs in a pale-red indurated marl. Prof. Chapman says of it: "The vein consists of a gangue of quartz, with inclosed portions of wall rock, and some heavy spar, etc., carrying a very strong load of intermixed copper pyrites and galena. The vein itself appears to average about 10 feet in width, but at present it is to a great extent uncovered. The copper pyrites and galena, although scattered more or less through the vein, run principally in a solid lode at least 4 feet in width." In one ore sample he found 8.10 and in another 11.62 per cent of copper. One of these samples also yielded 47.56 per cent of lead. Another gave 35.38 per cent of lead, nearly one ounce of silver, and half an ounce of gold to the ton.

### PROPOSED RECONSTRUCTION OF RUSSIAN WATERWAY.

[Journal of Russian-American Chamber of Commerce, Moscow, April.]

The Russian Government has decided to reconstruct the Duke of Wurttemberg waterway system, connecting Archangel with Petrograd, so that it will accommodate vessels of large size. An effort will be made to have the enlarged waterway ready for use in the first half of the navigation season of 1917.

**MERCHANT SHIPBUILDING, 1912 TO 1916.**

At present the United States for the first time in over half a century is not only building more merchant shipping than any other country, but the American output for the year 1916 will probably exceed that of all the rest of the world.

The most complete records of the world's shipbuilding, uniform for a period of years, are those published by Lloyd's Register, showing merchant vessels over 100 gross tons launched each calendar year, not including vessels built for rivers, barges, and other unrigged craft. For this reason Lloyd's figures are somewhat less than the Government returns for the United States, the Netherlands, Germany, and other countries with considerable river and canal navigation. Lloyd's returns for the calendar years 1912, 1913, 1914, and 1915 are printed below as the best measure of the effect of the European war on merchant shipbuilding, although changes in the case of the United States are not attributable to that cause. The world's output of merchant shipping during the calendar year 1913 was the largest recorded, and under normal conditions probably would not have been fully maintained for two or three years following. The returns below for 1914 closed with the end of July so far as Germany and Austria are concerned, as those countries have issued no shipping reports since the outbreak of the war.

**Merchant Vessels Launched.**

The following table gives the gross tonnage of merchant vessels of 100 gross tons or over launched in the world during the calendar years 1912 to 1915, inclusive:

Where built.	1912		1913		1914		1915	
	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.
United Kingdom .....	712	1,738,514	688	1,932,153	656	1,683,563	327	650,919
British Colonies .....	84	34,790	91	48,339	80	47,534	31	22,014
Austria-Hungary .....	12	38,821	17	61,767	11	34,335	(b)	23
Denmark .....	22	26,103	31	40,932	25	32,815	(b)	45,198
France .....	80	110,734	89	176,095	33	114,052	6	25,402
Germany .....	165	375,317	162	465,226	89	387,192	(b)	(b)
Italy .....	27	25,196	38	50,356	47	42,961	30	22,132
Japan .....	168	57,755	152	64,664	32	85,861	26	40,408
Netherlands .....	112	99,439	96	104,296	130	118,153	120	113,075
Norway .....	69	50,255	74	50,637	61	54,204	59	63,070
Sweden .....	22	13,968	25	18,524	26	15,163	27	30,319
United States .....								
Coast .....	144	194,273	182	228,232	84	162,937	76	157,167
Great Lakes .....	30	89,960	23	48,216	10	37,825	8	30,293
Other countries .....	52	46,654	83	43,455	35	36,148	10	13,641
<b>Total .....</b>	<b>1,719</b>	<b>2,901,769</b>	<b>1,750</b>	<b>3,332,882</b>	<b>1,319</b>	<b>2,852,753</b>	<b>743</b>	<b>1,201,636</b>

<sup>a</sup> Returns not complete.

<sup>b</sup> Returns not available.

**Effect of War on Shipbuilding.**

The first five months of the war did not seriously affect the world's launching of merchant ships, outside of Belgium, France, and Germany, although deliveries late in 1914 began to be slow in British yards. In 1914 the United States launched only 200,762 gross tons, compared with 276,448 gross tons in 1913, but the decrease was not a result of the war. The world's total in 1914, even with the Central Powers excluded for five months, was only 480,000 tons less than



the world's maximum in 1913 and was above the recent average annual output.

The belligerent powers, which in 1913 launched 2,798,580 gross tons of merchant ships, launched only 769,875 gross tons in 1915. The neutral powers, outside of the United States, in 1913 launched 257,844 gross tons, and in 1915 launched 254,303 gross tons. Local causes led to a further reduction in the American output from 276,448 tons in 1913 to 177,460 tons in 1915. The total decline in the world's shipbuilding for 1914 and 1915, both compared with 1913, was 1,438 ships of 2,611,373 gross tons. To these totals should now be added the decreased output in shipyards for the first six months of 1916, which the Bureau of Navigation states would bring the total since the outbreak of the war in August, 1914, up to 3,500,000 gross tons, notwithstanding the present activity of American, Japanese, and Dutch yards. The loss to international commerce through the decline in shipbuilding thus has been greater than the loss through the actual destruction of shipping, although the latter has fixed the world's attention because of the submarine attacks on passenger steamships. Reports compiled by the New York Journal of Commerce (July 5, 1916) show that 1,346 ships of 2,713,996 gross tons were destroyed from the outbreak of the war to June 30, 1916.

**Activity in the United States, Japan, and the Netherlands.**

Late in 1915 and early in 1916 belief that the European war would last three years led to an exceptional development of shipbuilding by the maritime powers not actively engaged in war. In the first six months of 1916 the United States launched and put into operation 192 ships of 228,016 gross tons (each over 100 tons)—more than the entire year's output for 1914 or 1915. On July 1, 1916, private American shipyards were building or had on order 385 steel merchant ships of 1,225,784 gross tons [see COMMERCE REPORTS for July 17]. The builders' returns indicate that of this tonnage 159 ships of 444,090 gross tons will be launched before December 31, 1916, thus indicating a total output by the United States for the 12 months of 351 steel ships of 672,106 gross tons. Various causes retard shipbuilding, especially in times of high pressure, and the output of steel ship tonnage during the current six months of 1916 may fall short of present indications. Wooden ships, however, not included in the Bureau of Navigation's monthly returns, will help to make good any shortage, as wooden-ship building has revived considerably under the pressure of the times.

The shipyards of Japan, according to Commercial Attaché Arnold's recent report, are fully occupied with work for two years and have reluctantly been obliged to decline foreign orders in order to supply their own shipowners. The ships building for delivery this year number 50 of 189,450 gross tons, which will be more than double Japan's largest output, in 1914. Japanese builders have contracts for 104 ships of 464,370 gross tons to be delivered in 1916, 1917, and 1918, the Osaka yard contracting to deliver 35 of 162,400 tons. Japan, however, is obliged to import steel and began negotiations in the United States in January, which have been carried out successfully and extended considerably the market for American steel products.

The shipyards of the Netherlands, according to recent reports of American officers, have contracted to build merchant ships at extraordinary prices practically up to their capacity for 1916, 1917, and into 1918. Ships thus building or ordered late in 1915 were reported at 71, of 251,750 gross tons. Delivery, however, seems to be somewhat slow, as during the first three months of 1916 only seven new ships, of 15,349 gross tons, were added to the Dutch seagoing merchant fleet, while in the same period the *Tubantia* (13,910 tons), the *Palembang* (6,673 tons), and others were sunk by submarines and drifting mines.

Output in Norway, United Kingdom, France, Italy, and Germany.

Norway's output of 85,000 tons in 1915 was the largest recorded and will doubtless be exceeded this year, as over a year ago Norwegians began to place large orders in American yards, some with a view to subsequent sale to Americans or others.

On March 31, 1916, the shipyards of the United Kingdom had under actual construction, according to Lloyd's Register, 423 steel steamships, of 1,423,335 gross tons, many of which for some months have been nearly completed, but await materials. The dates of launch and completion in British yards are uncertain so long as yards are employed fully on naval construction and turning out war munitions for the allies. During the first three months of 1916 British yards launched only 69 steel steamers, of 80,661 gross tons.

French shipyards also are fully employed on naval construction and the manufacture of munitions, and French shipowners have made inquiries for tonnage from American builders. There is in France a considerable tonnage of merchant steamships partly built.

In December, 1915, the Italian shipyards had 12 steel steamships, of 82,482 gross tons, under construction, but the probable date of completion is not known. There are no returns from Austria-Hungary, and presumably shipbuilding has ceased under the Italian blockade of Trieste and Fiume.

Since the outbreak of the war Germany has printed no returns, and is supposed to be engaged in building submarines and on other naval construction, repair, and munitions work. In December, 1913, the Germanischer Lloyd report showed 499 merchant vessels, of 906,851 gross tons, including river boats, canal boats, lighters, etc., were building in German yards, of which up to July 30, 1914, 89, of 387,192 gross tons, had been launched, so that in August, 1914, about 410 vessels, of 520,000 gross tons, were building or ordered in German yards. Cabled statements to the United States in July, 1916, from Hamburg-American and North German Lloyd authorities indicate that such merchant work as Germany has done since the outbreak of the war has been, with few exceptions, on the ships ordered late in 1913 and early in 1914.

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The quantity of petroleum marketed in 1915 from oil fields of Illinois, according to statistics compiled by the United States Geological Survey, was 19,041,695 barrels, which is less by 2,878,054 barrels, or 13 per cent, than the corresponding output in 1914. The average price received at the wells was 80 cents a barrel, a decrease of 18 cents from 1914.

**THEATERS AND FILM MAKING IN HAWAIIAN ISLANDS.**

[A. P. Taylor, correspondent, Honolulu, July 3.]

The Liberty Theater, of Honolulu, has installed a \$10,000 Wur-litzer pipe organ. The transportation charges from the factory to Honolulu amounted to more than \$1,000. Motion-picture theaters were first established here about 10 years ago and were then merely "holes in the wall." With the rapid development of the artistic side of motion-picture filming the class of theaters in Honolulu has been raised until at present the city possesses several first-class houses, the largest having a seating capacity of 1,800 persons. The architecture of this place of amusement is suited to the climate; plenty of ventilation is afforded through rows of shutter windows.

Ten years ago the highest price paid for admission to motion-picture theaters was 15 cents, ranging down to 5 cents. To-day the standard high price is 30 cents for reserved seats, with a 50-cent charge for box and loge seats. The Honolulu public, with its large tourist population, demands the best pictures, and the leading theaters are now on the circuits of the foremost producers of New York and California.

The exchange system permits these same pictures to be sent to the outlying islands, so that even in small plantation towns on the Island of Kauai, the westernmost of the Hawaiian group, 2,400 miles from San Francisco, the same pictures produced in the leading theaters of Honolulu are given before an audience composed principally of Japanese, Chinese, Koreans, Filipinos, Porto Ricans, Spaniards, and Siberians.

**Circus Tents Used for Pictures in Some Places.**

Where no theaters have been built, in some of the outlying districts, enterprising motion-picture managers have large tents of the circus type erected. By rotation a tent is seen in a village about every two weeks.

During the past three years two or three motion-picture companies have come to Honolulu, partly on vacation tours and partly to complete pictures which call for a Hawaiian setting. The result has been an investigation of the merits of the Hawaiian climate and scenery as a foundation upon which to build a motion-picture colony. Negotiations are under way for the establishment of such a colony. At least \$50,000 of local capital will be invested, the remainder coming from the mainland. An expert from New York states that while the Hawaiian Islands are admirably suited to the filming of South Sea scenes, they are also adapted for a New York setting.

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**President Appointed for Bank of Uruguay.**

American Minister Robert E. Jeffery, at Montevideo, Uruguay, reports under date of June 19, that the President of Uruguay has issued a decree appointing Dr. Claudio Williman, president of the Bank of the Republic. The decree contained the appointment of Drs. Serapio del Castillo, Eduardo Acevedo, and A. Labadie as directors of this bank. Dr. Williman was at the time of his appointment president of the University of Uruguay, and was at one time president of the Republic.

**CANARIES RECEIVE LARGEST DIRECT SHIPMENT.**

[Consul George K. Stiles, Tenerife, June 12.]

The largest and most valuable single cargo of American merchandise ever brought direct to the Canary Islands was landed on the new quay of this port early in June. The tonnage was 2,500 and the landed value of the entire cargo was placed by the agents of the steamship company here at approximately \$1,000,000.

Part of this cargo was intended to be reshipped to Spanish ports in the Peninsula, but the quantity brought to the order of Canary Island buyers shows that only a fair steamship opportunity is needed to enable American business men to obtain a splendid grip on certain important lines of trade in these islands.

Flour, lard, hardware, and canned goods led in quantities and values sent. Drugs, electric supplies (largely bulbs), and cotton piece goods figured in important amounts. A small lot of windmills for pumping water, three automobiles, and a quantity of small hand coffee mills made up the machinery shipments for Canary buyers.

**Machinery Oils and Greases and Hardware.**

Forty tons of heavy machinery oils and greases also were landed, together with 4 tons of lard. American hardware was represented by important shipments of wire nails for assembling fruit shooks, while there were smaller lots of slate-cutting tools, wrenches, rat traps, and ice cream freezers. Two tons of cotton piece goods for Canary Island dealers proved that the long-continued efforts of certain American firms to enter this market have begun to produce substantial results. Four tons of canned goods (largely canned milk, but including also canned salmon, fruits, and meats) constituted the first really large single order of this class of goods arrived in this market from American producers.

An interesting novelty here was the shipment of lard in "cubos," a new form of package shaped with square-cut edges and faces. This saves an important percentage of space in shipment, and has proved an important economy in shipping lard compared with the pail lard familiar to the trade.

An introductory order of American safety pins came in this cargo. A large shipment of drugs received was very badly needed in this market, where many important articles of medicinal use have been almost unobtainable since January 1.

**Heavy Transportation Charges Affect Tobacco.**

The quantity of tobacco unloaded shows that the heavy transportation charges since the first of the year have made tobacco buyers here extremely reluctant to purchase until actually forced on the market.

There are strong indications that at least half of this cargo was sold f. o. b. New York. Of the remaining 50 per cent, it is reasonably certain that four-fifths was shipped on payment against delivery of shipping documents. This would leave approximately 10 per cent as figuring on a credit basis, ranging from 6 to 60 days.

While this cargo furnished an encouraging example of direct selling from the United States, two important factors tend to show difficulties in the way of maintaining the improvement made during the first half of 1916. The ocean freight rate has increased approximately 50 per cent during the past 6 months, while apparently

credit of any kind seems increasingly difficult to obtain from American firms. In several important lines of trade responsible dealers now claim that the combined freight and credit conditions have probably reached a point where a diminution in the volume of American exports to the islands might be expected. Of these two depressing factors, the increase in freight rates is of far greater importance.

#### **American Bank Needed in Canary Islands.**

It is of importance to American firms buying or selling in these islands to note that the recent drop in the exchange value of the pound sterling here has been accompanied by an equally strong, sympathetic decline in American exchange. On June 5, both British and American exchange had fallen approximately 3 per cent over night. The pound sterling stood at 22.75 pesetas, equal to \$4.39 at the rate of \$0.193 for the peseta, while the American dollar was equivalent to only 4.80 pesetas. Both are low records and have surprised professional money changers as well as business men.

The decline in the exchange value of the dollar is not fully explained. These islands have bought direct from American firms more heavily than ever since January 1. Yet with the trade balance heavily against the Canary Islands in favor of the United States, the dollar within less than 6 months has fallen in exchange value from 5.40 to 4.80 pesetas.

It is probable that the cause of the drop in American exchange is the fact that practically all settlements between the United States and this market are made through London. Since the dollar has steadily lost exchange value in equal proportion with the pound sterling, the need of an American bank with facilities for direct settlement seems clearly indicated.

#### **Favorable to Canary Island Buyers.**

The exchange situation of Canary Island buyers never was more favorable than at present. The disparity between Spanish gold and silver, which, during the entire latter half of 1915, was 3 per cent, has now disappeared. This has been due partly to the fact that \$4,000,000 in Spanish gold coin has arrived here since January 1 from Cuba, on account of certain changes in the Cuban currency laws.

A phase of the exchange situation important to American buyers is the movement of the onion-seed crop from Canary ports to the United States from July to September. Payment for this crop usually takes place during September and October.

Careful estimates put imports in 1915 at approximately \$1,378,141. All estimates for the first 5 months of 1916 point to increased business, as direct buying has been more pronounced even than in 1915. It seems possible, then, that a branch American bank might find in the Canaries a profitable opening, while the stimulating effect on American trade should be most valuable. With a direct New York daily exchange rate on pesetas, the American dollar would probably be less apt to follow declines in the pound sterling. An effort to establish such banking connections would receive strong support here from the business men representing American firms or buying largely on their own account. The United States naturally has financial prestige in mercantile circles here.

## FOREIGN TARIFFS.

## CUBA.

[Vice Consul Henry M. Wolcott, Habana, Apr. 24.]

**Regulations Affecting Travelers' Samples.**

The attention of American firms sending salesmen to Cuba is invited to the fact that in order to obtain upon reexportation the refund of 75 per cent of the duties imposed on samples entering Cuba, they must be imported by traveling salesmen as part of their personal equipment, and not as freight, express, or mail shipments. Several cases have recently been brought to the attention of this consulate general in which travelers' samples have been imported by freight, express, and mail, and no refund of any portion of the duties collected has been allowed by the customs authorities of Cuba upon the reexportation of such samples.

## RUSSIA.

[Consul John K. Caldwell, Vladivostok, May 30.]

**Prohibition of Importation of Books.**

According to a notice published February 13, 1916, the importation into Russia of bound books and books in cardboard covers is prohibited, but exceptions to this provision may be made by the Minister of Finance.

## SALVADOR.

[Diario Oficial, Jan. 25.]

**Exemption of Materials for Concrete Construction.**

Consul General Henry F. Tennant, San Salvador, has forwarded an executive decree of January 24, 1916, which provides for the free admission into Salvador of cement, plaster of Paris, and iron for the construction of buildings of reinforced concrete. Such products will be subject, however, to the usual customhouse charges other than import duty proper. The exemption is applicable to the following kinds of iron: Rods or bars of iron from 5 to 30 millimeters in diameter; hoop iron from 1½ to 3 millimeters in thickness and from 20 to 40 millimeters in width; rolled iron of various sections, such as U, T, I, L, etc.; iron wire, not galvanized, from 1 to 3 millimeters in thickness; twisted iron in bars; grooved and channeled iron, etc.; prepared iron, such as expanded metal, "Hy-rib," "Rib-bar," and in general all iron deemed appropriate for reinforced concrete construction.

[Earlier notices in regard to changes in the customs treatment of iron for reinforced concrete construction were published in Foreign Tariff Notes, No. 10, p. 88, No. 11, p. 123, and No. 15, p. 46.]

[Diario Oficial, Feb. 17.]

**Reduction in Duty on Malt.**

According to information transmitted by Consul General Henry F. Tennant, San Salvador, the duty on malt and on barley has been reduced to \$0.01 per kilo. Under the new tariff, in effect January 1, 1916, the duty on the former product was \$0.05 per kilo and barley was dutiable at \$0.04 per kilo.

**ST. VINCENT.**

[Board of Trade Journal, May 11, 1916.]

**Reduction in Surtax.**

An order in council of March 17, 1916, reduces the surtax on imports into St. Vincent from 20 to 10 per cent of the duty and provides that a number of articles of general consumption formerly exempt from surtax shall be subject thereto. The surtax on tobacco, wines, and spirits (except perfumed spirits, including bay rum and methylated spirits) is increased from 10 to 25 per cent of the import duty. [A list of the products formerly exempt from surtax was published in Foreign Tariff Rates No. 17, p. 126.]

**TRINIDAD.**

[Consul Andrew J. McConnico, Trinidad, May 10.]

**Tariff Changes.**

A resolution of the legislative council dated December 10, 1915, provides for changes in the import duties on motor vehicles, bicycles, cotton piece goods, and machinery of various kinds. The specific rates on bicycles, motor cycles, and automobiles of all kinds have been replaced by an ad valorem duty of 10 per cent. On cotton piece goods (printed, dyed, or bleached) not exceeding in cost 3 pence (\$0.06) per yard the duty is increased from 5 to 10 per cent ad valorem, the latter being the rate applicable to more expensive cotton fabrics. The following articles of machinery not imported for sale, formerly admitted free, are now dutiable at 2½ per cent ad valorem: Apparatus for agriculture, manufacturing, refining, sewerage and waterworks (including pipes, hydrants, and other fittings), sawmills, foundries, shipbuilding, electric lighting, private railways and tramways, mining, well drilling, and irrigation. Fire engines and accessories, printing presses, sewing machines, steam boilers, steam rollers, and parts thereof have also been taken from the free list and are subject to a duty of 2½ per cent ad valorem.

**UNITED KINGDOM.****Importation of Canned, Bottled, Preserved, and Dried Fruits.**

The following memorandum has been issued regarding the British prohibition of the importation of fruit:

A proclamation having been issued prohibiting the importation of preserved fruits after March 13, 1916, and the Board of Trade having announced that after October 31, 1916, imports will be admitted up to 50 per cent of the quantities imported during the year 1915, under license, on conditions to be settled by the Preserved Fruits Committee, the committee has decided that—

(1) Licenses will be issued to two classes:

Class I. The agents in the United Kingdom of packers or driers abroad.

Class II. Persons, firms, or corporations domiciled in the United Kingdom who, in the opinion of the committee, have received by way of sale or consignment from a packer or drier abroad goods for delivery during 1915 without the intervention of an agent in this country; provided the committee are satisfied that the following conditions and regulations have been observed.

(2) Such agents, persons, firms, or corporations (hereinafter called the licensees), will be required to sign and send to the committee a statutory declaration not later than June 8, setting out a complete specification of the quantities and tonnage and countries of origin of their importations effected through or by them, during the year 1915. This total shall include only goods for which customs entries have been passed between and including January 1, 1915, and December 31, 1915. These figures will be compared with the Board of Trade returns and when approved by the committee the licensees will be entitled to obtain licenses to import after October 31, 1916, 50 per cent of such tonnage quantities unless sufficient reasons are furnished to the committee for

withholding, transferring, or otherwise dealing with the licenses for the whole or any part of such goods.

An applicant under Class I would therefore declare the quantities imported by his customers through his agency. An applicant under Class II would declare only importations made without the intervention of an agent in this country. The two categories must be kept distinct.

(3) The licensees shall offer, subject to usual contract conditions, such tonnage quantities to their customers of the year 1915 to the specified extent of 50 per cent, and so far as the circumstances of the trade and season permit in the same kinds, as such customers obtained during the year 1915 by direct forward sale, from shipments arriving during that year. Such offers shall be made within three days of the licensee receiving prices from abroad and shall remain as an option to the buyer for seven days from the date of the offer.

(4) The said goods shall be so offered at prices which are not in the opinion of the committee unreasonably inflated by reason of the restriction of importation or otherwise, and it must be distinctly understood by all concerned that the committee will regard any proved breach of this regulation as sufficient to justify the withdrawal, transfer, or refusal of a license.

It should be noted that clauses (3) and (4) do not apply to goods which by the custom of the trade are sold after importation into the United Kingdom by auction or otherwise.

(5) Subject to the foregoing provisions any licensee is at liberty to dispose of any balance not accepted by his customers.

(6) All goods from the United States of America must be forwarded by overland route to a United States port on the Atlantic seaboard.

(7) Any complaints as to the nonobservance of any of these conditions may be brought before the committee who shall be entitled to withhold, revoke, transfer, or otherwise deal with any license.

(8) Should no sufficient reason have been shown to the committee for withholding or otherwise dealing with a license, the licensee will be entitled to apply for and obtain licenses up to the agreed quantity in respect of each shipment. Such licenses will not be issued before the 1st day of September, or in the case of Spain and Portugal the 1st day of August, and application will only be recognized if made upon official forms.

(9) If there is under these regulations any definite ground of complaint which can not be settled between the parties amicably, and it is desired to appeal to the committee, it is of the utmost importance that such complaint should be made in writing at the earliest opportunity after the occasion arises.

(10) Copies of the regulations, forms of statutory declaration, and forms of applications for licenses may be obtained from the Board of Trade, Department of Import Restrictions, 22, Carlisle Place, London, S. W., to whom also complaints and other correspondence should be addressed. Envelopes should be marked "Preserved fruits."

The committee have carefully considered from many points of view all the matters dealt with in these regulations and have welcomed representations from the trades concerned, and their decisions have been formed in the belief that the rules they have framed will best protect the interests of all concerned in such a way as to occasion the least disturbance of trade relations and arrangements in view of a limited importation. They further desire to express the hope that as far as possible all sections of the trade not directly dealt with or provided for under these regulations will carry out the distribution of goods on similar lines to all their customers at reasonable prices.

### **JAPANESE TO DEVELOP CHINESE IRON MINE.**

An agreement for the development of the Taochung iron mine, at Taochung, Fanchang-Hsien, Anhui Province, China, has been made by Japanese interests according to the *Far Eastern Review*. This mine is said to contain 60,000,000 tons of ore containing 65 per cent of pure iron against 60 per cent usually contained in Taya ores. Negotiations which have been carried on since 1914 with the Chinese authorities by the Sino-Japanese Industrial Development Co. have recently been concluded and the rights to work the mine have been definitely conceded.



**AMERICAN COAL COMPANY ENTERS BRAZIL.**

[Commercial Attaché William C. Downs, Rio de Janeiro, June 20.]

On June 11, 1916, the President of the Republic of Brazil, by decree No. 12096, granted authority to the Berwind Terminal Co. to operate in Brazil in accordance with the statutes presented by the company, to which statutes, in accordance with the decree, the following clauses must be added:

1. The Berwind Terminal Co. is obliged to have a general representative in Brazil with full and unlimited powers to deal with and definitely settle all questions which may come up either with the Government or with private individuals, and who can be sued and summoned for the company.

2. All its operations in Brazil will be subject only to the respective laws and regulations and to the judicial and administrative tribunals, without at any time said company being able to claim any exception based on its statutes, the articles of which can not serve as a basis for any claim regarding the execution of works or services to which they refer.

3. Any change which the company may have to make in its respective statutes will be subject to authorization from the Government.

The authorization to operate in the Republic will be withdrawn if this clause is infringed.

4. It is hereby understood that the authorization is given without altering the principle that the company is subject to the corporation laws of this country.

5. The infringement of any of the clauses for which there is no penalty provided will be punished with a fine of 1 to 5 contos of milreis [\$250 to \$1,250]; and, if repeated, the authorization granted, by virtue of which these clauses were issued, will be annulled.

**Authorized Activities of the Company.**

The Berwind Terminal Co., with head office at Wilmington, Del., was incorporated under the laws of Delaware on March 27, 1916, with a capital of \$500,000, divided into 5,000 shares of \$100 each, and is authorized by its charter to establish offices throughout the United States and its dependencies and in foreign countries, its express intention being to open branches in New York City and in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. The objects of the company are stated to be: "To buy, sell, and negotiate in coal, coke, lumber, oil, and all varieties of combustibles and their subproducts, and manganese and iron ore, and to export and import these products."

It is authorized to acquire or erect such warehouses, docks, quays, etc., as may be necessary for its business in Rio de Janeiro and other places; buy, charter, and operate steamers and sailing vessels; to produce, buy, transport, store, and sell crude oil and its products and to aid other companies or persons in the production of these products; to buy and dispose of lands, concessions, rights, and privileges which, in the opinion of the company, can be used to advantage; to make explorations to obtain petroleum and other mineral oils; and to mine, extract, manipulate, and prepare for the market metals, ores, and mineral and fluid substances of all sorts.

The exploiting and mining of coal and oil is especially mentioned, and authority is granted to form subsidiary companies and to acquire existing corporations for this purpose.

Census returns for the six big cities of Japan at the end of last year, as announced by the Yokohama municipality, are published by the Far Eastern Review as follows: Tokyo, 2,244,796; Osaka, 1,460,218; Kyoto, 539,153; Kobe, 498,317; Yokohama, 428,663; Nagoya, 389,272.

**COMMITTEE TO INVESTIGATE HIGH PRICES IN PERU.**

[Commercial Attaché William F. Montavon, Lima, June 10.]

By Executive Order dated June 6, 1916, the Minister of Finance for Peru has appointed a committee to study the high prices of necessities in Peru. The Minister of Finance is ex officio chairman of the committee. It will be the duty of the committee to recommend measures tending to the increased importation of foodstuffs and to the reduction of retail prices.

Representatives of the most important sugar plantations were invited to a recent hearing given by the committee. The producers agreed to sell to the Peruvian Government current sugar at a price equal to the market price less the amount of the export tax, which is 6 pence (\$0.122) per quintal of 101.4 pounds. Should the market quotation rise to a point in excess of 16 shillings (\$3.89) per sack of 46 kilos (101.4 pounds), as at present, the producers agreed to sell their sugar to the Government at a maximum price of 16 shillings per sack.

At the same meeting a resolution was passed calling upon the Government to place an embargo on the exportation of fresh vegetables. The embargo placed recently on the exportation of rice is being criticized to some extent. It is claimed by the critics that the rice grown in Peru is of a quality superior to that imported from China; that the Chinese rice normally sells at a figure much lower than that paid for Peruvian rice, and that it would have been wiser for the Government to encourage the exportation of the higher grades of Peruvian rice and at the same time to permit the free entry of Chinese rice, to supply, at a moderate price, the demand for low-grade rice in Peru.

La Prensa, commenting on the increasing cost of articles of prime necessity in the Lima market, recommends that an effort be made to revive the hog-raising industry and advises the imposition of protective tariff rates against imported lard and pork.

**AMERICAN CONSULAR OFFICERS ON LEAVE OF ABSENCE.**

The following American consular officers are on leave of absence in the United States and will be glad to confer with business men and commercial organizations relative to conditions in their respective jurisdictions. The consul's time is available primarily for personal interviews. He has limited facilities for correspondence, and except in urgent cases letters should be directed to the consulate.

Name.	Post.	Expiration of leave.	Address.
West, George N.....	Kobé, Japan.....	Aug. 15	Department of State, Washington, D.C.
Cooke, A. B.....	Patras, Greece.....	Aug. 10	121 West Charlotte Street, Norfolk, Va.
Hale, F. D.....	Huddersfield, England	Sept. 5	Lunenburg, Vt.
Fisher, Fred D.....	Tientsin, China.....	Aug. 5	Albany, Oreg.
Masterson, William W.....	Durban, Natal, South Africa.	Sept. 1	Carrollton, Ky.
Seltzer, Harry G.....	Breslau, Germany.....	Aug. 1	Gibraltar, Pa.
Baker, E. Carlton.....	Nagasaki, Japan.....	Aug. 30	Apartment No. 75, The Brunswick, Washington, D. C.
Monaghan, J. C.....	Kingston, Jamaica....	Sept. 1	Avenue A and Fourteenth Street, Bayonne, N. J.
Jewell, John F.....	Chefoo, China.....	Oct. 1	Department of State, Washington, D.C.
Kemper, Graham H.....	Erfurt, Germany.....	Sept. 10	Do.

**RAILWAY GAUGES OF AUSTRALIA.**

[Consul General J. I. Brittain, Sydney, New South Wales, June 20.]

The question of standardizing the gauge of the railway lines of Australia is being freely discussed, as the people keenly realize the great handicap under which they would be obliged to operate were the country to be involved with a foreign foe. It would necessitate the transfer of troops and munitions from the Victorian railroad to the New South Wales railroad in bringing troops from Melbourne or elsewhere in Victoria into New South Wales, as the gauge of the line in the former State is 5 feet 3 inches, while that of the latter is 4 feet 8½ inches. Similar inconvenience and expense are encountered when transferring merchandise from one State into another by rail.

There are many persons who advocate overcoming the difficulty by laying down a third rail, while others oppose the third-rail proposition. It is stated that, in order to unify the gauges between the States of Queensland, New South Wales, Victoria, South Australia, and Western Australia, an expenditure of £37,000,000 to £47,000,000 (\$180,060,000 to \$228,725,000) would be involved, while it is claimed that a third rail could be placed at an expenditure of about £2,500,000 (\$12,165,000).

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**ASSISTING THE FISH INDUSTRY OF NEW SOUTH WALES.**

[Consul General J. I. Brittain, Sydney, New South Wales, Australia, June 20.]

About a year ago the Government of New South Wales purchased and began operating a number of deep-sea trawlers, and shortly thereafter four Government fish shops, fully equipped for handling fresh fish, were opened in Sydney. [See COMMERCE REPORTS for June 5, Oct. 9, and Nov. 3, 1915.] The Government now intends to more thoroughly organize the fish industry, which will involve the construction of one wooden and four new steel trawlers, also a wooden fish carrier.

In addition to these expenditures there will be constructed new wharves and depots at coastal towns north of Sydney, also the establishment of freezing plants where fresh fish can be bought in quantities from fishermen. There the fish will be cleaned and placed in cooling chambers whence they can be transported to the chief populated centers by rail or water. There will also be opened in Sydney and suburbs six new Government fish shops. In all the Government anticipates expending about \$500,000 additional in improving the service.

[Mention of the proposed coastal depots was made in COMMERCE REPORTS for Apr. 18, 1916.]

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The domestic production of pyrite in 1915 reached a new high level, due chiefly to the unprecedented demand for the mineral in making sulphuric acid. The production was 394,124 long tons, valued at \$1,674,933, an increase of 57,462 tons in quantity and of \$391,587 in value compared with 1914, the United States Geological Survey reports.

**TRADE CONDITIONS IN NEW BRUNSWICK.**

[Consul Edward A. Dow, St. Stephen, New Brunswick, Canada, June 10.]

**Large Increase in Production of Eggs.**

Largely as a result of cooperation among farmers, higher prices have existed in the egg market in Canada than in earlier years. Government statistics show that during the past 20 years Canada and Cuba have received about three-fourths of the eggs exported from the United States. However, Canada's importation of eggs decreased from 13,240,111 dozen in 1913 to only 3,783,952 dozen in 1915. On the other hand the Dominion exported 7,898,322 dozen in 1915, as compared with only 147,149 dozen in 1913. Assuming that the local consumption of eggs was the same in both periods, a net increase of more than 17,000,000 dozen in production is shown, the exports nearly all going to Great Britain.

A high level of prices was maintained in the Canadian egg market during March, April, and May, 1916. For the first three months of 1916 the price to consumers averaged 4 cents per dozen in excess of the price for the corresponding period in 1915.

**Sale of Paints and Paint Materials.**

So far as can be learned, most of the paint sold in this district is made in Canada. It is procured from regular Canadian manufacturers and jobbers. Moreover, most of the larger American paint manufacturers have established branch factories, or, at least, branch jobbing houses, and these do a considerable business.

American manufacturers of paints and paint materials should confine their efforts, first, to the sale of raw materials to manufacturers, and, secondly, to the sale of so-called specialties. Retailers in this district say that they have occasional calls for patent varieties of floor varnishes, furniture finishes prepared for household use, cold-water paints, etc. The demand for these articles in many cases is not great enough to justify American manufacturers in establishing Canadian branch houses. Meantime, these paint specialties are being sold despite the duty and small quantities in which they are being ordered. Since this and many other populous parts of Canada can be reached with as little expense as many parts of the United States, American manufacturers should send salesmen to wholesalers, manufacturers, and retailers here.

**Duties on Various Classes of Paints and Paint Materials.**

In addition to the surtax of  $7\frac{1}{2}$  per cent levied on practically all kinds of goods since the beginning of the war, paints and paint materials are charged with the following duties:

Tariff item 246, including oxides, fireproofs, rough stuff, fillers, laundry bluing, and dry colors, not otherwise provided for, 22 $\frac{1}{2}$  per cent.

Tariff item 247, including liquid fillers, anticorrosive and anti-fouling paints, and ground and liquid paints, not otherwise provided for, 30 per cent.

Tariff item 248, including paints and colors, ground in spirits, and all spirits, varnishes, and lacquers, \$1.25 per imperial gallon (containing 20 per cent more than the United States wine gallon).

There are various other classes of tariff items under which such materials may fall, but these examples suffice to show the obstacles Americans must meet with in this respect.

[A list of retail paint dealers in the leading towns in the St. Stephen consular district may be obtained from the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce or its district offices. Refer to file No. 70631.]

**Market for Boat Oars in District.**

Many rowboats are used in this county, which comprises the greater part of the district devoted to fisheries. The southern boundary of the county is the Bay of Fundy, into which flows the St. Croix River, which is navigable the year round down from St. Stephen. Boat oars are largely used by fishermen from three Canadian islands near the mouth of the St. Croix River. Purchases for Grand Manan are made at St. John, the chief city of New Brunswick, but outside of this district. Purchases for Deer Island and Campobello are made from Eastport, Me. St. Andrews, an important boating point, which has a large summer-resort patronage, has its own dealer.

On the St. John River boat oars are purchased in Fredericton.

It is probably best to establish an agency in St. John, from which all dealers in this district, as well as in other parts of the Province, may be supplied. Ash oars are the most popular.

[List of dealers in the several places mentioned may be obtained from the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce or its district offices. Refer to file No. 77438.]

**AMERICAN SHIPS IN CANADIAN FISHING STATISTICS.**

[Vice Consul Irving N. Linnell, Prince Rupert, British Columbia, July 6.]

Statistics recently prepared show the quantities of halibut landed at Prince Rupert, British Columbia, under the provisions of the Canadian Fisheries Order in Council, during the first six months of 1916 by American fishing vessels and the declared values of halibut shipped from Prince Rupert to the United States during that period. These figures, by months, are:

Month.	American fishing vessels.	Halibut sold by vessels.	Price received for catches.	Halibut shipped to United States.
		<i>Pounds.</i>		
January .....	22	805,899	\$43,325	\$92,003
February .....	46	957,633	51,159	134,273
March .....	29	440,487	32,094	138,429
April .....	37	506,608	49,241	107,614
May .....	47	727,893	39,478	113,814
June .....	60	940,063	58,644	120,894
Total .....	241	4,468,503	273,941	707,027

**District Offices of the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce.**

New York, Room 409 United States Customhouse; Boston, eighteenth floor United States Customhouse; Chicago, 504 Federal Building; St. Louis, 402 Third National Bank Building; Atlanta, 521 Post Office Building; New Orleans, 1090 Hibernia Bank Building; San Francisco, 307 United States Customhouse; Seattle, 448 Henry Building. Cooperative district offices: Cleveland, Chamber of Commerce; Cincinnati, Chamber of Commerce; Ast. Gen'l Bt. Agt., C. W. O. & T. P. Ry. Co., Cincinnati; Los Angeles, Chamber of Commerce; Detroit, Board of Commerce; Philadelphia, Chamber of Commerce; South American Agent, Southern Ry. Co., Chattanooga, Tenn.

## FOREIGN TRADE OPPORTUNITIES.

Reserved addresses may be obtained from the Bureau and its district offices. Request for each opportunity should be on a separate sheet and state opportunity number. The Bureau does not furnish credit ratings or assume responsibility as to the standing of foreign inquirers; the usual precautions should be taken in all cases.

*Jewelry*, No. 21892.—The proprietor of a small jewelry establishment in Venezuela informs an American consular officer of his desire to receive catalogues and price lists from American exporters of jewelry. Correspondence, etc., preferably in Spanish.

*Time recorders*, No. 21893.—An American consular officer in Latin America reports that a Government lighthouse inspector in his district is interested in securing time recorders for lighthouse keepers. About 100 such instruments will probably be required. Further information may be obtained from the Bureau or its district offices.

*Office supplies, hardware, etc.*, No. 21894.—Supplementing foreign trade opportunity No. 20741, a firm in India advises the Bureau of its desire to establish commercial relations with manufacturers of cutlery, including razors, scissors, and knives; stationery and office supplies; slates and crayons (school supplies); hardware; toys; and hosiery.

*Chemicals*, No. 21895.—An American consular officer in Italy writes that a firm in his district wishes to receive samples and prices on silicate of soda (solid) and carbonate of potassium. Quotations should be made f. o. b. New York, and correspondence should be in Italian or French.

*Machinery, etc.*, No. 21896.—The Bureau is in receipt of a letter from a manufacturer in the Netherlands, asking to be placed in touch with manufacturers of machinery for making incandescent mantles, the spinning of ramie yarn, and the manufacture of incandescent-mantle boxes; also with exporters of monzonite sand and China grass.

*Bottles*, No. 21897.—An American consular officer in Canada writes that a bottling company in his district wishes to receive c. i. f. quotations on bottles, pint and quart sizes, light and dark colors, for soft drinks.

*Fish*, No. 21898.—A firm in Cuba asks the Bureau to supply it with the names and addresses of packers and exporters of American sardines in oil and tomato sauce ( $\frac{1}{4}$  cans); dry codfish in cases and drums; dry haddocks, hakes, and bloaters, in drums of 128 pounds net weight.

*Photographic supplies*, No. 21899.—An American consular officer in the United Kingdom reports that a firm in his district is in the market for cameras, photo mounts, and general photographic accessories. Reference given.

*Water filters*, No. 21900.—A commercial attaché of the Department of Commerce in Europe reports that the city council of a municipality is in the market for water filters to cost about \$125,000.

*Dyewoods*, No. 21901.—The bureau is informed that a man in Central America desires to communicate with importers of dyewoods.

*Carbonic acid gas*, No. 21902.—An American consular officer in the Orient reports that a large drug store in his district seeks direct connection with American manufacturers of carbonic acid gas. Requirements about 80 cylinders annually.

*Agency*, No. 21903.—A firm in Brazil desires to represent manufacturers and exporters of American products. No particular line is specified.

*Automobiles, motors, etc.*, No. 21904.—A merchant in Spain informs an American consular officer that he is in the market for leather, cinematograph films, cordage, groceries, automobiles, motors, and paper pulp. References given. Correspondence may be in English.

*Machinery, yarns, etc.*, No. 21905.—An American consular officer in France reports that a merchant in his district desires to receive catalogues and price lists, in French, of knitting machines, knitting needles, ramie yarn, magnesla rings for inverted gas mantles, and oxalic acid.

# COMMERCE REPORTS



DAILY CONSULAR AND TRADE REPORTS  
ISSUED DAILY BY THE BUREAU OF FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC COMMERCE  
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

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No. 172

Washington, D. C., Monday, July 24

1916

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## BRAZILIAN SECURITIES SHOW FIRMER TONE.

[Commercial Attaché William C. Downs, Rio de Janeiro, June 28.]

Brazilian papers draw favorable conclusions from the recent rise in the quotations of all Brazilian securities as indicating the re-establishment of the country's credit abroad. This rise is also coincident with a firm tone in exchange, the milreis being now quoted at 12½ to 12⅞d. as against 11¾d. at the end of April. Although none of the securities have reached the level at which they were quoted just prior to the war, the recovery from the low point of September, 1915, as revealed by the following table, is quite remarkable:

	Sept., 1915.	May, 1916.
Brazil 4½ per cent, 1883.....	50½	55½
Brazil 4½ per cent, 1888.....	49	55
Brazil 5 per cent, 1895.....	59½	61
Brazil 4 per cent, 1910.....	45½	52½
Brazil 5 per cent, 1913.....	57	62
Brazil 5 per cent funding, 1914.....	74½	77½
Brazil Railway 4½ per cent bonds.....	29	34½
Brazil 5 per cent debentures.....	28½	35½
Leopoldina Railway, ordinary.....	34½	38½
São Paulo Railway, ordinary.....	178½	185½
Brazil Traction (\$100).....	56½	63½

The better feeling has probably been induced to a great extent by the emphatic declaration of the President that it is a point of honor that interest payments be resumed at the expiration of the moratorium in 1917.

## American Malted Milk for St. Pierre Hospital.

Through the efforts of Consul John J. C. Watson, of St. Pierre-Miquelon, a trial order for an American brand of malted milk was placed by the chief of the Colonial Health Service in that French colony. The order was sent through a local firm, and so satisfactory did the product prove on arrival that a small but regular demand will probably result.

**FAVORABLE CONDITIONS AT ARCHANGEL.**

[Commercial Attaché Henry D. Baker, Petrograd, Russia, June '14.]

There has been a great rush of steamers to Archangel since navigation opened last month. There is said to be still some ice in the White Sea, but not enough to make any material difference. Up to the present time about 50 large steamers have arrived at this port, of which 3 are American.

The railway facilities from Archangel are considerably improved over last year. The line is now broadgauge all the way to Vologda, and it is therefore practicable not only to use 14-ton cars instead of the 10-ton cars that were the largest possible on the narrow-gauge line, but also to ship freight to all parts of Russia without the change of cars at Vologda that was previously necessary. It is stated that an average of 300 to 400 cars per day is now leaving Archangel, but there have been days when as many as 1,000 cars have gone out of this port for the interior of Russia.

There also seems promise of considerable freight being moved from two other White Sea ports, Kem and Soroka, during the present season. These two ports now have broadgauge railway connection with Petrograd, and extensive improvements have been made for receiving goods. It is estimated that during the present season about 150,000,000 poods (2,708,000 short tons) of cargo will be shipped inland from Archangel, 20,000,000 poods (361,000 tons) from Soroka, and 8,000,000 poods (144,000 tons) from Kem.

Owing to the favorable progress of freight shipments inland from White Sea ports, it is anticipated that before the end of the season a much larger proportion of private commercial goods will be allowed to come in through these ports than is now possible. Most of the private goods now coming in include motor cars, medicinal supplies, and goods that came to Kola during the winter, but could not be shipped from there because the railway was not completed.

The recent appointment of an American consular agent at Archangel will prove of great benefit to American business interests and American ships at that port.

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**ARGENTINE WIRELESS AND CABLE REGULATIONS.**

[Ambassador Frederic Stimson, Buenos Aires, June 2.]

On May 8 the Argentinian Government promulgated the following decree relating to the transmission of cable and wireless messages proceeding from or destined to Europe, Africa, Asia, or Oceania:

ARTICLE 1. Cable and wireless messages from, for, or in transit through the Argentine Republic, proceeding from or destined to Europe, Africa, Asia, or Oceania, will be accepted at the risk of the senders and submitted to censorship.

ART. 2. Messages the contents of which might affect Argentine neutrality shall not be received.

ART. 3. Any language or speech is permitted for the form of such messages, bearing in mind the restrictions imposed by countries of transit and destination, and, with respect to messages in secret language, those the respective codes of which may have been previously authorized by the management of posts and telegraphs.

It is understood that the provisions of the decree in no wise affect messages to or from the United States nor messages in transit from South American countries.



**RUSSIAN EMIGRANT COLONIES IN SOUTH AMERICA.**

[Commercial Attaché William C. Downs, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, June 27.]

According to the *Jornal do Commercio*, the Russian colonizing commission has returned from its trip to the South. The objects of this commission, which represents private companies, are to place in South America, principally in Brazil and Argentina, Russian families left homeless in the western part of Russia on account of the war, and to establish a direct steamship service between Riga and South American ports. The members of the commission state that the immigrants would not be undesirable people, but strong and healthy families accustomed to farm life, and that most of them would bring money enough to engage here in agricultural pursuits.

As regards the commercial interchange, Russia could import from Brazil large quantities of coffee, fine woods, cacao, tobacco, and minerals, which importations were made before the war through Hamburg in a very disadvantageous manner for Russia. Once the direct lines were opened, steamers could bring immigrants and those products which Russia could furnish, and would return loaded with coffee and other Brazilian produce.

**Fares to be Paid by Government or Railways.**

In São Paulo the commissioners had a conference with the Secretary of Agriculture with reference to placing a large number of families in coffee cultivation, the government of the State paying the fares, provided the immigrants do not come in lots exceeding 500 at a time. As far as settlement by private initiative is concerned, they succeeded in closing negotiations with the Brazil Railway and the Norceste do Brazil, the São Paulo Government also being willing to pay the ocean fares of these settlers. The Brazil Railway is determined to continue the work of settling the lands close to its lines, and will receive in each settlement from 50 to 100 families, giving the immigrants all facilities to become independent and prosperous. In Argentina arrangements were made for placing settlers in the Province of Mendoza. In Chile the commissioners negotiated with the government for settling the country south of Valparaiso.

The *Jornal do Commercio* adds: "The members of the Russian commission know that this is a period of economies for Brazil, and that their plans can be carried out only after the war is over."

**UNCHARTED DANGERS TO SHIPPING IN ALASKAN WATERS.**

A report of a recent survey by the United States Coast and Geodetic Survey Steamer *Patterson*, which is operating in Kashevarof Passage and the northwest end of Clarence Strait, Alaska, indicates that the channel between Blashke Island on the north and Rose Rock on the south is extremely dangerous. Several dangerous uncharted rocks have been discovered, almost completely blocking this channel. On the existing charts, which are based upon a reconnaissance made in 1886, this channel is shown to be clear.

These dangers were made the subject of an advance Notice to Mariners, issued by the commanding officer of the *Patterson* in Alaska and by the suboffice of the Survey at Seattle, Wash. The results obtained this season demonstrate the necessity for a close survey, supplemented by wire-drag work, in these waters as soon as practicable.

### REVIEW OF FOREIGN TRADE IN BUTTONS.

A survey of button manufacturing and button markets in all parts of the world has been prepared from consular reports by the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce as a means of assisting in the further development of the industry in the United States. Foreign-trade figures for 1915 give evidence of the strides already made, with a gain in American button exports of 79 per cent over the preceding year. Prospects for still greater expansion are seen in the conditions described in this review, "Foreign Trade in Buttons," which has been issued as Special Consular Reports No. 75.

The material presented in this publication represents 207 consular districts in 56 countries. Not all of the consular reports received, and in some instances only parts of those selected, are published, for the reason that trade conditions within a given country were frequently found to be so similar that the reports would be mere duplications. The unpublished statements may be obtained from the Bureau by persons interested in particular districts. The Bureau also announces that detailed information in regard to the rates of duty on buttons in any foreign country may be obtained from the office at Washington.

It is shown that under normal conditions all the world, except the United States and Canada, buys buttons from Austria-Hungary, Germany, France, Italy, England, Japan, and to a small extent from Spain. The United States manufactures enough to meet about nine-tenths of its own requirements and more than half the supply of Canada, which has some factories of its own. Under present conditions, however, with the hitherto largest sources cut off, all the button-using countries of the world, except the central European empires, must depend more or less upon the manufacturers of the United States, Japan, Italy, and Spain, among which the United States is far the largest producer.

American consuls have studied the normal production of the countries in which they are stationed, special conditions that have changed the currents of trade, styles of buttons that are in demand, prices and terms that would interest local dealers, export channels that have been blocked, and the attitude toward American buttons. Lists of importing houses, agents, and dealers are printed in an appendix to the report. Samples of buttons in vogue in the respective countries were also forwarded and are made available for inspection by interested firms.

Special Consular Reports No. 75 may be procured from the Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington, D. C., or from the district offices of the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, at 10 cents per copy.

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### AWARD OF CONTRACT FOR WHARF AT PUERTO PLATA.

Consul Frank Anderson Henry, at Puerto Plata, Dominican Republic, reports that the Leonard Construction Co., of Chicago, Ill., has been awarded the contract for the construction of a concrete wharf at Puerto Plata by the office of public works at Santo Domingo. Its bid was \$115,890. Work will probably commence shortly.

**PLANT FOR USING CANADIAN GRAIN SCREENINGS.**

[Consul Henry P. Starrett, Fort William, Ontario, July 12.]

The Fort William Grain Co. (Ltd.), of this city, has recently purchased a local factory building which is to be converted into a plant for the production of grain-screening products. Heretofore there has been practically no market in Canada for the residue from the cleaning machinery of the grain elevators. The entire output of the elevators of this district has been purchased by American firms and shipped to Duluth and Minneapolis, with some shipments to Buffalo and New York City. This material is used as the principal element in certain kinds of cattle food.

The shipments to the United States from the twin cities of Fort William and Port Arthur have been valued as follows: In 1912, \$233,901; 1913, \$401,126; no statistics for 1914; and in 1915, 65,900 tons, valued at \$718,751. These screenings are usually sold here on a time contract running from one to three years, at a stated price per ton without regard to grade, prices being f. o. b. cars at the elevator shipping point. They consist largely of wheat screenings, although mixtures of oats, rye, and other grains are noticed. Grades run from mere elevator grain dust, valued at \$6 per ton, to high-grade "scalpings" (practically no-grade grain), valued as high as \$30 per ton. Prices for all grades thus far this season have averaged about \$8.50 per ton, with a tendency toward much lower prices during the coming fall months.

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**COMMERCIAL MUSEUM IN PERU.**

Notice has been received in the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce of the establishment in Lima, Peru, of a new commercial museum, the purpose of which is to bring together articles from Peru and all other countries of North and South America which would be of commercial or economic interest. A communication from the founders of the institution contains the following statements:

The object of the museum is to secure by all means in its power Pan American reciprocity, not only in the economic but also in the intellectual field. In order to fulfill its mission properly the institution endeavors in every way possible to promote permanent Pan American expositions which will assemble the products of each country on the largest scale and in the most graphic and definite form.

The institution publishes a periodical entitled "Evolución Peruana." It is understood that the museum would be pleased to enter into correspondence with American exporters who have no other representatives in the field. Those who wish to get in touch with the new institution can do so by addressing the "Museo Comercial e Industrial del Perú," Lima, Peru. Five cents postage is required on all letters to Peru.

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An order for \$4,000 worth of carbon paper, pencils, inks, paste, and printing paper was placed in the United States by a firm in Asuncion, Paraguay, after consultations with Consul Samuel Hamilton Wiley and an inspection of the catalogues and price lists on file in his office.

**SHORTAGE OF SUGAR IN ARGENTINA.**

[Consul William Dawson, jr., Rosario, June 5.]

About the middle of May Argentine sugar producers raised the price of refined sugar from 4.10 paper pesos per 10 kilos (7.896 cents a pound) to 4.50 paper pesos (8.667 cents a pound), and that of lump sugar from 4.20 to 4.60 pesos (from 8.089 to 8.859 cents a pound). In the case of lump sugar the packing included in the 10 kilos (22.046 pounds) reduces the quantity of sugar covered by the price quoted to 8½ kilos (18.739 pounds). The above prices are those fixed by Tucuman producers for sugar delivered to wholesalers in Buenos Aires.

A high official of the Refinería Argentina estimates, in an interview published in *La Nacion*, that the year 1915-16 (the sugar campaign starts June 1) resulted in a shortage of 64,000 metric tons (metric ton=2,204.6 pounds), which was more than covered by the stock remaining over from 1914-15. The Argentine market consumes annually some 210,000 tons of sugar. The stock on hand on June 1, 1916, is estimated at about 26,000 tons. Crop prospects are far from favorable, but even admitting that production equals that of last year, the available domestic supply will fall short of the demand by some 38,000 metric tons. The official quoted stated that last year's poor crop and the unfavorable prospects for 1916 had compelled producers to advance prices. The high cost of jute bagging and, as respects the Refinería Argentina, the difficulty of securing coal were also mentioned as increasing the cost of production. (The Refinería Argentina at Rosario refines for the account of the Tucuman producers, few of whom refine their own product.)

**Government Suspends Import Duty.**

Law No. 8877 authorizes the Government to temporarily reduce or suspend the import duty on sugar when the price exceeds 4.10 paper pesos per 10 kilos, and a decree of May 31, 1916, authorized the importation, free of duty, of 30,000 metric tons of raw or refined sugar up to October 1, 1916. The decree states that in view of conditions in the world market a mere reduction of duty would not be sufficient. It also states that after the completion of the present campaign it will be possible to estimate the shortage correctly and take further measures to insure the importation of the quantity necessary to meet the demand. The decree prohibits the exportation of sugar.

It may be noted that *La Nacion* in two recent editorials states its belief that the temporary suspension of the import duty will have no effect on the price of sugar in Argentina because of the high prices abroad.

[An interesting review of the sugar industry of Tucuman (Argentina's leading sugar Province) appeared in *COMMERCE REPORTS* for Sept. 21, 1914; a list of refineries, in the issue for May 20, 1916.]

[Supplemental report, dated June 19.]

**Sugar Offerings Exceed Authorized Limit.**

Since this office's report of June 5 the price of sugar has been further advanced. The Refinería Argentina quoted on June 19 refined sugar at 5.10 paper pesos per 10 kilos (9.822 cents a pound).

It is announced that up to June 15, 1916, 15 proposals were presented to the Government for the importation of sugar free of duty in accordance with the decree of May 31. The 15 proposals represent a total of 38,659 metric tons of sugar, consisting of 16,859 tons of refined sugar, 20,240 tons of raw sugar, and 1,560 tons without further specification. Inasmuch as this amount exceeds the 30,000 tons authorized by the decree, the Government will, in issuing permits, prorate the quantity to be imported.

### SMOKERS' ARTICLES IN DEMAND IN HAITI.

[Special Agent Garrard Harris.]

Moderate-priced cigarette and cigar cases are difficult to obtain in Haiti. About the only classes of these articles to be had are unduly ornate and expensive, made of leather and manufactured in France. A nicked cigarette case holding 12 cigarettes which could be retailed for 2 gourdes (40 cents) would prove popular; also a line of low-priced imitation amber and silver-mounted cigarette holders, with cases.

Several varieties of automatic pocket cigar lighters, operated by pressing a spring or drawing a piston over a flint, would prove a taking novelty, as matches are somewhat expensive. A line of cheap pipes made to resemble the \$1.50 quality, bowls of imitation brier, stems of imitation amber or black rubber, and trimmings of bronze or nickel plate, in assorted shapes and sizes, would find a market.

A cigarette and cigar factory at Port au Prince, owned by American capital and maintaining numerous retail depots at various places on the island, is interested in the foregoing lines and would be glad to hear from manufacturers of the above. It is preferred to deal direct with manufacturers rather than through middlemen.

[The address of the Port au Prince factory may be had upon application to the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce or its district offices. Refer to file No. 975.]

### AMERICAN CONSULAR OFFICERS ON LEAVE OF ABSENCE.

The following American consular officers are on leave of absence in the United States and will be glad to confer with business men and commercial organizations relative to conditions in their respective jurisdictions. The consul's time is available primarily for personal interviews. He has limited facilities for correspondence, and except in urgent cases letters should be directed to the consulate.

Name.	Post.	Expiration of venue.	Address.
West, George N. ....	Kobe, Japan .....	Aug. 15	Department of State, Washington, D.C.
Cooke, A. B. ....	Patras, Greece .....	Aug. 10	121 West Charlotte Street, Norfolk, Va.
Hale, F. D. ....	Huddersfield, England	Sept. 5	Lunenburg, Vt.
Flaher, Fred D. ....	Tientsin, China .....	Aug. 5	Albany, Oreg.
Masterson, William W. ....	Durban, Natal, South Africa.	Sept. 1	Carrollton, Ky.
Seltzer, Harry G. ....	Breslau, Germany .....	Aug. 1	Gibraltar, Pa.
Baker, E. Carlton .....	Nagasaki, Japan .....	Aug. 30	Apartment No. 75, The Brunswick, Washington, D. C.
Monaghan, J. C. ....	Kingston, Jamaica .....	Sept. 1	Avenue A and Fourteenth Street, Bayonne, N. J.
Jewell, John F. ....	Chefoo, China .....	Oct. 1	Department of State, Washington, D.C.
Kemper, Graham H. ....	Erfurt, Germany .....	Sept. 10	Do.
Goodier, James H. ....	Niagara Falls, Canada.	Sept. 1	27 South Hawk Street, Albany, N. Y.

**AGRICULTURAL-MACHINERY PROSPECTS IN JAPAN.**

[Weekly Bulletin of the Canadian Department of Trade and Commerce, Ottawa, July 17.]

An article in the *Implement and Machinery Review* (British) states that agricultural-machinery prospects in Japan are distinctly good, not so much, perhaps, immediately as in the not distant future, and implement and machinery firms may safely count upon this country becoming a market of considerable importance. It is impossible not to be convinced of this when one reads of the great efforts that the State is making in Japan to increase the agricultural education of the people, and also when inquiry is made into the advances in intensive agriculture that are to be observed in many parts of that country. Experts of long experience and with a knowledge of agriculture in its highest branches as pursued in Great Britain and on the Continent to-day are found to pronounce the land cultivation of the Japanese as wonderful, "even when one has seen the best that Denmark, Belgium, and Holland can do."

Every year Japanese scientific farming is getting better. Improved varieties of seed, better cultivation, and science, reinforcing experience and industry, are each year producing bigger and better crops. Mr. J. W. Robertson Scott, who has had a wide and varied experience of Continental and British agriculture, has just declared that the efforts which are being put forth in Japan by the State to improve the country's agricultural and rural conditions are "of a surprising character." Whole legions of experts, official and unofficial, are at work, aided by village agricultural associations and cooperation among the farmers. Mr. Scott is fairly astounded at what he has found in four journeys undertaken throughout the length of the country, and he declares that in England "we have nothing which rivals in the extent of their influence the county and prefectural agricultural schools and experimental stations, higher agricultural schools, and national agricultural colleges which are to be found in Japan." No more stimulating institutions for teaching the science of land cultivation and the practice of agriculture exist to-day, he says, excepting only the Danish rural high schools. Mr. Robertson adds that the colleges are "crowded with farmers' sons who are going to remain on the land," and he was struck by the close eye which the colleges keep on the most up-to-date agricultural methods as practiced not only in Great Britain and on the Continent but likewise in America. Journeys to Europe or America to gain information on intensive land cultivation are undertaken by the professors, and they are also well versed in agricultural practice in Argentina and other parts of South America. The precise financial conditions of many of the Japanese farmers is difficult to ascertain, but it is well known that plenty of them are sufficiently wealthy to carry out in practice the teaching they have received. For example, particulars are furnished of a Japanese viscount, who, having graduated at the agricultural college of the Imperial University at Tokyo, intends to buy 30 acres of pine-covered upland and to bring it into cultivation as an object lesson to the local villagers. Such instances might, doubtless, be multiplied.

The annual statement of the Geological Survey on graphite in 1915 is now available for distribution. According to this report 4,718 short tons of natural graphite, valued at \$429,631, was sold during the year.

**AMERICAN GOODS WIN NEW SPANISH CUSTOMERS.**

[Consul General Carl Bailey Hurst, Barcelona.]

In a district comprising over half of Spain, as does the jurisdiction of the Barcelona consulate general, it is difficult to ascertain exactly the quantity of goods purchased as a result of consular trade-extension efforts, but inquiry has developed some of the returns that have accrued within recent months. A firm whose desire to import surface-coated paper was made the subject of a "Trade Opportunity" has placed a trial order with a New York house that entered into communication with it following the publication of this notice, and if the goods are like the samples submitted further and larger orders will result. A local dealer whose need for sewing-machine needles and general sewing-machine supplies, also published as a "Trade Opportunity," has made a number of purchases, and he has since placed several orders for American coloring materials, printer's and lithographer's inks, and tin plate. Considerable quantities of various industrial and chemical products have been imported by another merchant who secured lists of addresses from the Barcelona consulate general.

An American visitor recently stated that so numerous are the lines of American goods displayed in the shop windows of Barcelona one might almost fancy oneself in the United States. American fountain pens fill one window, American typewriters, sewing machines, and cash registers others. One sees American automobiles, tires, agricultural machinery, photographic materials, electrical goods, hardware, haberdashery, safety razors, notions, shoe dreams, rubber overshoes, soaps, perfumeries, proprietary medicines, and many other goods. American shoes are handled by several stores, and, although the duty brings up their price, they are much liked and sell well. On the farms and in the factories and workshops American products are in evidence.

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**DEVELOPING TRADE IN SCANDINAVIAN COUNTRIES.**

[Consul Charles Forman, Bergen, Norway, June 20.]

The following is a good illustration of the advantage derived by sending traveling salesmen to develop the export trade.

An American company manufacturing a certain office appliance is sending two men through Norway, Sweden, and Denmark to sell its product, although the company is already represented in Bergen by a resident foreign agent who has the agency for all Norway. One of the traveling men works the larger cities, while his companion visits the smaller towns in the vicinity.

The former visited this office and stated that he had called on a local merchant and inquired if he had seen the machine. The merchant had seen it in the shop window but had never seen it work, and on its being demonstrated to him he gave an order for one.

No matter what other methods of selling goods may be adopted, such methods may in many cases be usefully supplemented by sending traveling salesmen to foreign countries. The Scandinavian countries are prosperous, and the demand for American goods is greater than ever. A knowledge of Norwegian would be useful in selling goods in Norway, but is by no means indispensable. English is generally understood.

**CANADIAN COMMISSION GRANTS RATE INCREASES.**

[Consul General John G. Foster, Ottawa, July 12.]

The Canadian Railway Commission, in an important decision, has granted advances varying from 1 to 6 cents per 100 pounds on nearly all eastern railway freight rates in "class tariffs." The railways had asked for a flat increase of 5 per cent, but this was refused. In addition to "class tariffs," various commodity rates were dealt with on their merits, many increases being allowed.

The commission accepted the actual results of the Grand Trunk Railway earnings as the basis of rates, but did not base these rates on the capital cost as carried on the company's books. It is claimed that the increases made are justified by the increase in Grand Trunk expenses, having regard to traffic of normal years. No increases are granted between Parry Sound and Sudbury, while in the maritime Provinces, on account of the lower level of the present rates, substantial increases are permitted. Exception is made in the St. John River Valley, where the rates instead of being advanced are to be lowered so as not to exceed St. John rates.

**Increases Made on Various Articles.**

Commodity rates have been increased on iron and steel articles by  $\frac{1}{2}$  cent per 100 pounds, 1 cent on rates between 15 and 25 cents, and  $1\frac{1}{2}$  cents on rates over 25 cents. Pig iron, billets, wire rods, rails, and crop ends bear a rate increase of about 5 per cent. Cement increases  $\frac{1}{2}$  cent per 100 pounds on all rates under 15 cents and 1 cent on all rates over 15 cents. On crushed stone, sand, and gravel there is a general increase of about 5 cents per ton. On lumber there is  $\frac{1}{2}$  cent advance on all rates under 15 cents and 1 cent on all rates over 15 cents for distances over 60 miles, with an exception covering the districts affected by the Ottawa rate.

The authority of the commission does not extend to the Canadian Government roads, although it is possible that the rates on these roads may be advanced so as to conform with the rates permitted on the railways controlled by the commission.

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**NEW RAILWAY LINES IN RUSSIA.**[Ambassador David R. Francis, Petrograd: translation from *Torgovo-Promyshlennaya Gazeta*, May 26.]

A meeting of the Russian interdepartmental conference on the plan for railway construction in the near future was held on May 25, with the Assistant Minister of Ways and Communication as chairman. Several projects for the first and second series of railway construction were submitted. After considering these projects, the conference resolved that, of the first series, the following lines should be built: (1) Polotzk-Novograd-Volynsk, (2) Ryazan-Tula-Baranovichi (for conveying timber from Polyésie); (3) Bala-Ishem-Neftedag (for the naphtha district); (4) Novobolitz-Tchernigof-Priluki; (5) Tchernigof-Kief; (6) Orsha-Vorogba; (7) Ouman-Nikolaief; (8) Dolginskaya-Pomotshnaya; (9) Pedorovka-Skadovsk-Tchorly (for the beet-sugar and agricultural districts).



**CUBAN TANNERY TO INSTALL MODERN MACHINERY.**

[Special Agent H. G. Brock.]

In the city of Santiago de Cuba there is only one tannery of any importance. Sole leather and harness leather are the types produced by this concern, the former being sent principally to Habana for use in the manufacture of cheap country shoes, and the latter being distributed to saddlery and harness makers all over the island.

Mangle bark is the chief tanning material used, an inexhaustible supply of this article being found on the shores and neighboring keys of the southern coast of Cuba. No machinery or chemicals are employed in the tanning process, and some idea of the primitive methods in use can be had when it is known that for over a hundred years all the bark has been crushed by a huge stone revolved in a circular pit by mule power.

The process of tanning is very slow, all work being done by hand. After liming and drenching, the hides are softened in a composition of honey and water for 36 hours before entering the mangle vat. At the present time the proprietor [whose address may be obtained from the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce or its district offices upon referring to file No. 981] is in the market for bark-crushing machinery to take the place of this ancient stone crusher, and it is believed that gradually presses and other modern tanning equipment will be installed in this tannery.

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**VITAL STATISTICS OF NEW SOUTH WALES.**

[Consul General J. I. Brittain, Sydney, New South Wales, Australia, June 20.]

New South Wales statistics just made public show the population of the State to be 1,868,644, an increase during the year of 6,616. Owing to the war, there was an excess of emigration over immigration of 26,659, which, however, was overcome by the births exceeding the deaths by 33,275, the birth rate being equivalent to 28.31 per 1,000 population. There were 18,129 marriages during the year.

A large increase in immigration is expected after the war. Numerous inquiries are coming from the United States as to the conditions in Australia, and it would be advisable for intending immigrants to have a thorough understanding as to the conditions and employment here before leaving the United States.

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**ESTABLISHMENT OF BANK AGENCIES IN BRAZIL.**

[Consul A. T. Haeberle, Pernambuco, June 21.]

The Banco do Brazil has just established an agency in Maceio, State of Alagoas, the first port south of Pernambuco, and one of the growing cities of this district. For collections, the agency charges will be one-tenth per cent, and no charge for drafts, checks, or telegraphic transfers. For discounting bills the charge will be 10 per cent per annum. The bank in Pernambuco buys drafts against American banks and it is possible that the agency in Maceio will make the same arrangement.

This bank has also established an agency in Parahyba, the first port north of Pernambuco.

**SWISS AUTOMOBILE INDUSTRY.**

[Consul Walter H. Schulz, Berne, June 24.]

Swiss automobile manufacturers closed the year 1915 with exports valued at \$5,790,000. By weight the exports of 1915 exceeded those of the preceding year by over 100 per cent, and by value even a larger gain is observed. Proportionally the Swiss automobile export industry, it is said, has increased at a greater rate than that of the United States.

Finished trucks and truck chassis formed the principal exports. The former export increased by more than 300 per cent and the latter by 100 per cent. They were sent largely to France.

**Imports and Exports of Chassis and Completed Vehicles.**

The imports and exports by weight were as follows:

Item.	Exports—		Imports—	
	1914	1915	1914	1915
	<i>Pounds.</i>	<i>Pounds.</i>	<i>Pounds.</i>	<i>Pounds.</i>
Chassis .....	4,098,832	7,486,997	739,209	168,006
Completed .....	841,945	2,975,137	1,129,207	406,430
Total .....	4,940,777	10,462,034	1,868,416	571,438

It will be seen from the above figures how the Swiss automobile industry is being developed by the war.

The imports fell from 1,868,416 pounds to 571,438 pounds. Among imported cars the American product is only slightly represented. But three American cars have been seen in this section during the past six months.

About 750 cars and trucks are imported annually. The most popular foreign car is the Fiat. Small 10 to 20 horsepower 5-passenger cars are in greatest demand.

Local automobile dealers declare that the absence of supply stations for American cars is the principal drawback to the sale of such automobiles here. Repairs under the circumstances are expensive.

At least two high-class cars are manufactured in the country, and in normal times these cars sell, even in France, in competition with famous French machines. The price of these Swiss cars usually is from \$1,660 to \$2,190, but 15 per cent increase has been exacted by the manufacturers since the war.

The Swiss tariff on chassis is \$4.82 per 220 pounds and on completed cars \$7.72 per 220 pounds.

The population of the country is 4,000,000. There are 26 towns with populations of over 10,000. The principal cities are: Zürich, 200,000; Basel, 135,000; Berne, 100,000; and Geneva, 60,000. Zürich appears to be the best situated for general-agency purposes.

**Commercial Directory of British Guiana.**

A classified commercial directory of British Guiana, giving a complete list of the sugar estates of the colony, their locations, and owners or agents, and the names of business houses, has been forwarded from Georgetown by Consul George E. Chamberlin. It may be consulted at the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce or its district offices. Refer to file No. 78478.

**FOREIGN TRADE OF FIJI.**

[Based upon data in Board of Trade Journal for July 6.]

According to a report by the Acting Receiver General at Suva on the trade and commerce of Fiji in 1915, the value of the merchandise imported into the colony in that year decreased by \$278,250 as compared with 1914, the falling off being due, to a large extent, to the difficulty which merchants experienced in obtaining supplies of goods. Compared with 1914 the decline was but \$31,475. The principal articles imported into Fiji during the last two years, in the order of their importance in 1915, were:

Articles.	1914	1915	Articles.	1914	1915
Drapery.....	\$675, 110	\$568, 000	Fish.....	\$52, 150	\$75, 645
Biscuits, flour, etc.....	291, 800	466, 200	Vegetables and fruit.....	64, 940	75, 175
Hardware.....	291, 620	224, 350	Meats.....	88, 375	72, 745
Machinery (excluding agricultural).....	232, 720	218, 940	Iron, black, and manufactures of.....	80, 640	57, 550
Ons.....	140, 255	179, 125	Iron, galvanised, and manufactures of.....	76, 585	54, 500
Timber.....	246, 640	165, 410	Tobacco (excluding cigars and cigarettes).....	49, 085	39, 700
Bags and sacks.....	241, 025	144, 200	All other.....	1, 403, 000	1, 303, 565
Rice.....	68, 785	140, 535			
Coal.....	133, 140	117, 670			
Fertilizers.....	106, 080	92, 530			
Butter and cheese.....	94, 900	81, 770	Total.....	4, 347, 950	4, 089, 700

The chief exports of the colony are sugar, copra, and green fruit, these three articles accounting in 1915 for \$6,911,225 of the year's total exports of \$7,168,875.

**RECENT FIRE IN COLON.**

[Consul Julius D. Dreher, Colon, Panama, July 10.]

On July 9 a fire destroyed nearly two blocks in the business part of Colon, Panama, the burned area being between Front and Bolivar and Fifth and Sixth Streets. The loss on the buildings burned, all of wood except two, is estimated at \$150,000 to \$200,000, and the total loss, including stocks of goods, at \$200,000 to \$300,000. Among the buildings destroyed was that occupied by the International Banking Corporation.

As the fire-fighting apparatus in Colon was destroyed to a large extent in the great fire of April 30, 1915, and has not yet been replaced, the city fire department was handicapped during the recent fire.

**NEW AMERICAN-OWNED BANK FOR PERU.**

There has recently been incorporated under the law of the State of Connecticut a new bank known as the "Banco Mercantil Americano del Peru," and having for its purposes the development of trade in Peru and the promotion of trade between that country and the United States. Its authorized capital stock is 1,000,000 Peruvian pounds, and to commence operations it has a paid-up capital stock of 100,000 Peruvian pounds, which is owned by the Mercantile Bank of the Americas (Inc.) of New York. This bank is entirely American owned, and will have its principal office in Lima, Peru. One of the officials of the corporation is now in Lima making arrangements for the openings of its offices, which will be located in Calle Filipinas.

## PROPOSALS FOR GOVERNMENT SUPPLIES AND CONSTRUCTION.

[Correspondence should be direct with the offices named, and specifications can usually be obtained at the points where the goods are to be delivered or the work is to be performed. In cases where the time limit is too short to permit firms to submit tenders, they should ask to be placed on the mailing lists of such offices to receive notices calling for future supplies or work of a similar nature.]

**Navy Department supplies, No. 3444.**—Sealed proposals will be received at the Bureau of Supplies and Accounts, Navy Department, Washington, D. C., to which bureau firms desiring to submit proposals should apply, giving schedule numbers, for the supply of the following: Schedule 9867, American canned sardines; schedule 9875, induction motors; schedule 9876, canned asparagus, canned catsup, canned lard, canned lard substitute, canned peas, salt, canned spinach, sugar, and canned tomatoes; schedule 9879, weather-proof sockets; schedule 9880, globes and prismatic reflectors; schedule 9881, magnesla blocks, asbestos cement, asbestos plaster cement, magnesla plastic cement, magnesla pipe covering, asbestos fiber felting, asbestos millboard, asbestos wick packing, and asbestos paper; schedule 9882, iron nails and wire nails; schedule 9883, cotton waste; schedule 9884, raw linseed oil; schedule 9885, desk and bracket fans; schedule 9886, telephones; schedule 9887, binders' board, copper stowage boxes, rubber gaskets, and single conductor wire; schedule 9888, torpedo bronze, common steel bars, and rod nickel steel; schedule 9889, metal filing cases; schedule 9890, 20-quart ice cream freezers; schedule 9891, storage-battery testing outfits; schedule 9892, painting buildings; schedule 9893, wing nuts, two-wheel torpedo trucks, and gyro wheels; schedule 9894, gate valves and buffing lathe; schedule 9895, torsion meters; schedule 9896, 2-inch feed water regulators; schedule 9897, motors; schedule 9898, engine lathe; schedule 9899, boat liquid compasses; schedule 9900, furnishing and installing electric elevators; schedule 9901, 18-inch afterbody stands; schedule 9902, boring, drilling, and milling machine and printing machine; schedule 9903, air compressors; schedule 9904, power brake; schedule 9905, screw-cutting lathe and blue-printing machine; schedule 9906, creosoted pine piles; schedule 9907, oak lumber, oak crossing plank lumber, and yellow-pine lumber; schedule 9908, cypress, North Carolina pine, yellow pine, New England spruce, and southern spruce lumber; schedule 9909, iron bark, Port Orford cedar, Douglas fir, lignum-vitæ, sugar pine, western white pine, redwood, and spruce lumber; and schedule 9910, white ash, white hickory, hackmatack knees, laurel, lignum-vitæ, Mexican or African combined mahogany, maple, white oak, white pine, juniper poles, and poplar lumber.

**Lease of lighthouse reservation, No. 3445.**—Sealed proposals will be received by the lighthouse inspector, Key West, Fla., until August 8, 1916, for the lease of a portion of Captiva Island, Fla., Lighthouse Reservation, containing 38.88 acres, located on the northern end of said island. Further information may be obtained on application to the above-named officer.

**Excavation, No. 3446.**—Sealed proposals will be received at the office of the United States Reclamation Service, Malta, Mont., until August 14, 1916, for earthwork, Nelson Reservoir South Canal, Milk River Project, involving about 617,000 cubic yards of excavation. The work is located in the vicinity of Saco and Beaverton, Mont., on the Great Northern Railway. Further information may be obtained on application to the United States Reclamation Service, Malta, Mont.; Denver, Colo.; or Washington, D. C.

**Docking and repairing light vessel, No. 3447.**—Sealed proposals will be received by the lighthouse inspector, New Orleans, La., for docking and repairing Heald Bank Light Vessel No. 81. Further information may be obtained on application to the above-named officer.

**Material for steel bridge spans, No. 3448.**—Sealed proposals will be received at the office of the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, Department of the Interior, Washington, D. C., until August 7, 1916, for furnishing material only required for the construction of two steel bridge spans, one 20-foot span and one 60-foot span. Plans, specifications, and further information may be obtained on application to the United States Indian Warehouses at Chicago, Ill.; St. Louis, Mo.; and San Francisco, Cal.; and the Builders Exchange, St. Paul, Minn.; and at the office of the Superintendent of the Klamath Indian Agency, Klamath Agency, Oreg.

*Extending and repairing sea wall, etc., No. 3449.*—Sealed proposals will be received by the lighthouse inspector, Portland, Oreg., until August 7, 1916, for extending and repairing sea wall and building small wharf at Mukilteo Light Station, Wash. Further information may be obtained on application to the above-named officer.

### THE MARODEM, OR VEGETABLE WOOL, OF HAITI.

[Special Agent Garrard Harris.]

There are two varieties of kapok fibers to be found in Haiti, both products of trees of the *Eriodendron* family and both of good quality. The local names for the fiber vary according to locality; "marodem," "cotton mapou," and "cotton noir" are those most commonly used.

Kapok is fairly abundant all over Haiti, but no commercial use has been made of it. The natives sometimes stuff pillows with it, and occasionally mattresses, but this is about the extent of its utilization. Indeed, all over the West Indies it is little used and has no fixed market value, except in Cuba, where it is a well-defined article of local trade, and where considerable quantities are bought from the Dominican Republic.

There has been interest of late some interest in the substance in the United States, and it is being advertised under fancy trade names as a new discovery for life preservers, cushions on steamers, pillows, and the like. As filling for mattresses it is an ideal substance, exceedingly light, absolutely sanitary, and possessing such resilience that even after long use it does not lump or pack. As a quilting material for comforters and other bed coverings it equals wool in warmth and excels cotton in softness and lightness. For dressing gowns, smoking jackets, and other padded garments it has much to recommend it. For upholstery it is superior to most materials now in use.

Kapok is used in England to some extent in the manufacture of hats, and certain of the longer varieties are mixed with cotton to impart a silky luster to fabrics. The regular kapok, however, has too short a fiber to spin. It is extremely inflammable, and this is its chief drawback. If the fiber could be so treated with chemicals as to eliminate this dangerous quality, it would be very much more valuable.

[By referring to file No. 973 the addresses of three Port au Prince residents who will undertake to supply Haitian kapok may be had from the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce or its branches, at which offices may also be seen samples of the two grades of Haitian fiber mentioned by Mr. Harris. A short article on the American trade in kapok appeared in *COMMERCE REPORTS* for Sept. 14, 1915.]

### AFRICAN ORCHARDISTS WANT AMERICAN PUBLICATIONS.

[Consul Edwin N. Gunsaulus, Johannesburg.]

The Transvaal Fruit Growers' Association of Johannesburg, South Africa, through its secretary, has expressed a desire to obtain for its library copies of American publications relating to fruits and fruit growing.

The association especially desires periodicals from the United States devoted to the interests of fruit culture. It is pointed out by the secretary that the receipt of such publications would undoubtedly result in many individual subscriptions from among the members of the association and promote trade in various lines.

## FOREIGN TRADE OPPORTUNITIES.

Reserved addresses may be obtained from the Bureau and its district offices. Request for each opportunity should be on a separate sheet and state opportunity number. The Bureau does not furnish credit ratings or assume responsibility as to the standing of foreign inquirers; the usual precautions should be taken in all cases.

*Tools, chemicals, etc.*, No. 21906.—Supplementing foreign trade opportunity No. 21391, an American consular officer in Siberia writes that the secretary of a commercial organization reports a demand in the mining district of that region for steel water supply pipes, 2½ to 3 inches; tools, mining, engineering, carpentering, joiners, and builders; dyes; chemicals and pharmaceutical products, and stationery. Catalogues and samples are desired for the sample museum of the chamber of commerce.

*Typewriters*, No. 21907.—A merchant in France informs an American consular officer of his desire to receive quotations and catalogues from American manufacturers of low-priced typewriters. Printed matter should be in French.

*Flour, barbed wire, etc.*, No. 21908.—The Bureau is informed that a firm in Brazil desires to form commercial relations with American manufacturers and exporters of flour, barbed wire, pitch, and hardware, etc. Reference given.

*Machinery, etc.*, No. 21909.—A manufacturer of metal corset supplies in Spain informs an American consular officer that he is desirous of receiving catalogues of machinery for making corset steels, ribs, etc. Samples are also desired of covered steels ranging from 8 to 12 inches in length. Reference given. Correspondence in Spanish or French.

*Agency*, No. 21910.—A man in Costa Rica writes the Bureau that he desires to represent American manufacturers and exporters. No particular line is specified. References given.

*Alcohol*, No. 21911.—An American consular officer in the Far East reports that a firm in his district is in the market for alcohol, 94 per cent American proof, to be shipped in barrels of 42 gallons. Requirements about 700 gallons annually.

*Platinum*, No. 21912.—The commercial attaché of the Department of Commerce in the Netherlands reports that a company offers for sale, at 5.37 florins per gram, 2,500 grams of platinum (1 florin is equal to \$0.4020). It is understood that this is scrap platinum gathered from various sources and melted.

*Carpets and linoleum*, No. 21913.—An American consular officer in a foreign colonial possession reports that a firm in his district wishes to represent American manufacturers of carpets and linoleum.

*Agricultural machinery*, No. 21914.—A commercial agent of the Bureau in South Africa transmits the name and address of an old established firm in that territory which desires to enter into commercial relations with American manufacturers of agricultural machinery, including shelter outfits, thrashing machines, etc.

*Bags*, No. 21915.—An American consular officer in Chile reports that a firm in his district desires to represent, on a commission basis, American manufacturers and exporters of bags of all descriptions.

*Chemicals, cement, etc.*, No. 21916.—A firm in the Dutch East Indies requests the Bureau to place it in touch with American manufacturers and exporters of heavy alkali, 48 per cent (soda ashes); caustic soda, 60/62 per cent; cement; jams; condensed milk; butter; flour; whisky; soda water; steel, including roof iron, ridgings, etc.; barbed wire; galvanized iron sheets; rails; copper sheets and bars; window glass; and soap. Samples, where possible, are desired.

*Slates and slate pencils*, No. 21917.—An American consular officer in India has been requested by a commission agent to furnish him with the names and addresses of American manufacturers of school slates and slate pencils.

*Cotton goods and hardware*, No. 21918.—The Bureau is informed that a man from Venezuela, who is now in the United States, desires to represent American manufacturers of cotton piece goods and small hardware. Reference.

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## MAXIMUM LEATHER PRICES IN RUSSIA.

[Vice Consul Felix Cole, Petrograd, June 27.]

The Russian Minister of Trade and Industry has issued an obligatory regulation fixing the following prices on leather, with a penalty of imprisonment up to one year and four months, without fine, for selling at higher prices:

(1) Kid, patent leather, chrome, boxcalf (black or colored), whether of foreign or Russian production, per square foot, 1.50 rubles (about \$0.47 at the current exchange rate of \$0.31 to the ruble); (2) chevette, chrome horsehide, ring-box (black or colored), whether of foreign or Russian production, per square foot, 1 ruble (about \$0.31).

These prices are franco (delivered free of all charges) at the place where the goods lie within the Empire.

## ADDITIONAL FRENCH IMPORT PROHIBITIONS.

[Cablegram from American consul general, Paris, July 21.]

A decree of July 18, promulgated on July 21, prohibits importation into France and Algeria of the following products, referred to by tariff numbers as shown in Tariff Series No. 25, Customs Tariff of France, issued by the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce:

Woods, common, of certain dimensions, in logs, squared or sawed, even if impregnated or chemically treated (128); paving blocks (129); splints (131); hoop wood and prepared poles (132); perches, pole and staffs, rough, of certain dimensions (133); resinous woods in logs of specified length (135bis); charcoal and charred boon (136); fine or tropical woods even if impregnated or chemically treated (138); platinum, crude, in lumps, ingots, bars, dust, or scrap, also drawn, rolled, or spun (ex200); aluminum (ex203); certain foundry and forge pig iron and spiegel iron as described (205); ferro alloys (205bis); also ferro aluminum containing 10 per cent and less than 20 per cent aluminum; wrought iron and steel, crude, in ingots (206); iron or steel, rolled or forged, fine steel for tools, and special steels (207, 207bis, 207ter, 207quat, 207quin); iron or steel rods for wire and nails (208); certain hoop iron or steel (209, 209bis); sheets of iron or steel as described (210); sheets of nickel steel, cut or not (210bis); hot rolled bands, "larges plates" (210ter); iron coated with tin, copper, lead, or zinc (211); iron or steel wire whether tinned, coated with copper or zinc, galvanized, or whitened or not (212); rails of iron, common

steel or special steel (213); wheels, tires, and wheel centers for railway and tramway cars and locomotives (214); straight axles for railways and tramways and axles not specified, of iron or steel (215); crank axles for locomotives, of iron or steel (216); axles for automobiles, of iron or steel (217); waste and scrap iron for resmelting (219); cables of iron and steel (561); barbed fencing wire (561bis); cement copper, copper cast in lumps, grain, ingots, or anodes; copper alloyed with zinc, tin, aluminum, or manganese, cast in lumps, crude, ingots, or plates (including aluminum bronze containing not more than 20 per cent aluminum); copper rolled or hammered in bars or plates and copper wire polished or not other than gilded, silvered, or nicked, also copper filings and scrap (ex221); lead in crude lumps, pigs, bars, or slabs; lead alloyed with antimony, in lumps; lead hammerer or rolled, also filings and scrap (ex222); tin in lumps, pigs, bars, or slabs alloyed with antimony; tin pure or alloyed, hammered or drawn into wire of any dimensions or in sheets (ex223); zinc, except ore (ex224); nickel, not including ore (ex225); native mercury (226); antimony, sulphurated, smelted, metallic, or regulus (ex227); ores not specified elsewhere in the tariff (223).

These prohibitions do not apply to merchandise shipped or warehoused before July 21 or to goods for Government account. The Minister of War may allow exceptions to the decree.

[A more detailed description of the articles exhibited may be obtained from Tariff Series No. 25, Customs Tariff of France, which may be purchased for 10 cents a copy at the district offices of the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce or from the Superintendent of Documents, Washington, D. C.]

### FINAL FORECAST OF INDIA'S WHEAT CROP.

The final official forecast of India's 1915-16 wheat crop, based on reports covering 98.6 per cent of the total acreage under this grain, places the area sown at 30,143,000 acres, as against 32,475,000 acres, the revised final area of the preceding season, or a falling off of 7 per cent. The total yield is estimated at 8,518,000 long tons (39,751,000 quarters of 480 pounds), contrasted with 10,091,000 long tons (47,091,000 quarters), the revised final estimate of last year, or a decrease of nearly 16 per cent.

The present estimate of yield shows a decline from the final figures of 1914-15 of 60 per cent in Ajmer-Merwara, 48 per cent in Sind, 47 per cent in Rajputana, 36 per cent in the Northwest Frontier Province, 33 per cent in the Punjab, 18 per cent in Bombay, and 11 per cent in the United Provinces. On the other hand, Bihar and Orissa shows an increase of 67 per cent, Hyderabad one of 47 per cent, Bengal and the Central Provinces and Berar 25 per cent each, and Central India 1 per cent.

### PURCHASE OF MEXICAN MERCHANT VESSELS.

[Vice Consul H. M. Wolcott, Habana, Cuba, July 12.]

The following-named Mexican merchant vessels have been purchased by a citizen of Cuba, and it is reported they will be placed under the flag of Cuba: *Jalisco*, 2,557 tons; *Mexico*, 2,548 tons; *Sonora*, 1,862 tons; *Sinaloa*, 1,865 tons; *Oaxaca*, 1,393 tons; and *Tabasco*, 1,022 tons.

These vessels were purchased from the Mexican Navigation Co. by Señor Carlos I. Parraga, a citizen of Cuba.



### AMERICAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE FOR BRAZIL.

There was recently incorporated in Rio de Janeiro the American Chamber of Commerce for Brazil, a member of the Chamber of Commerce of the United States of America. Its honorary president is the American ambassador, Hon. Edwin V. Morgan, and its honorary vice presidents are Mr. A. L. M. Gottschalk, American consul general at Rio; Dr. Lauro S. Muller, Minister of Foreign Relations of Brazil; Dr. Jose Bezerra, Minister of Agriculture, Industry, and Commerce of Brazil; Dr. Domicio da Gama, ambassador of Brazil to the United States; Dr. Amaro Cavalcanti, Brazilian delegate to the Pan American Financial Conference, 1915; Dr. H. C. de Martins Pinheiro, consul general of Brazil at New York City; and Dr. M. de Barros Moreira. Maj. Charles E. Lydecker, former comptroller of the city of New York, acts as national counselor in the United States.

The Chamber issues a quarterly magazine, part in English and part in Portuguese, the subscription price of which is \$2 per year. The first number (July, 1916), besides an account of the formation of the Chamber, contains articles on steamship service between the United States and Brazil, on the Brazilian tariff (by Dr. Lincoln Hutchinson, late commercial attaché of the United States at Rio de Janeiro), on the increase of American trade with Brazil, and other subjects of interest and practical value to American manufacturers and exporters. The Quarterly makes the following editorial statement as to the purposes of the Chamber:

It is the object of this Chamber to create the amount of organization necessary for establishing a bond between the commercial body of Americans residing in Brazil and their countrymen trading, on similar lines, in other foreign countries; and to link them more closely to the great mass of their countrymen engaged in manufacturing and in exporting in the United States. It is also their object to recognize the valuable work done by Brazilian merchants in promoting trade between the United States and Brazil, and to furnish Brazilian trade with every possible opportunity for closer association and more intimate contact with things American. Membership in the American Chamber of Commerce for Brazil is naturally open to Brazilian houses and individuals, as well as to American houses and individuals in the cities, both of our own country and of the Brazilian Republic.

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### INCREASING USE OF AMERICAN GOODS IN SHANGHAI.

[Special Agent Stanhope Sams, Shanghai, China.]

Upon visiting the shops in Shanghai I find that there is much more business done in American goods in this city than in Hongkong, the latter being strictly a British market. Nearly all the shops in the former city carry some American merchandise, and most of them are increasing the number of lines handled. There is evident a decided advance in every class of American goods.

Exporters in the United States desirous of marketing their wares in the Far East should certainly keep an eye on Shanghai, as it affords indeed a promising market. Even at present there is a fine opportunity for a number of lines, and the field is widening every hour. Some of the articles that are now in demand are household utensils, small hand machines, toilet articles, canned goods, especially provisions, fairly cheap hosiery for men and women, lightweight underwear, garters, suspenders, and belts.

**IMPORTANCE OF PARCEL-POST TRADE WITH PERSIA.**

[Commercial Attaché Henry D. Baker, Petrograd, Russia, June 20.]

While recently paying a brief visit to Persia, my attention was called to the extremely important influence of the parcel post as a means to trade with Persia. Since the war started the parcel post has afforded almost the only means by which a large variety of articles enter this country. The British consul at Tabriz estimates that at least half of the imports into the northern part of Persia from Great Britain now enter this country by parcel post in transit through Russia. Most of the cotton piece goods coming from Manchester are sent to this part of Persia by parcel post. It appears to be the practice to ship such goods in bulk to Norway, whence they are reshipped in smaller packages to Persia.

**Advantages of Parcel-Post Route—Possible Use by American Firms.**

As England, like the United States, had no treaty arrangements whereby parcels could be shipped to Persia in transit through Russia, it was a growing practice of British firms previous to the war to send their goods in bulk to Germany, where they were broken up and forwarded by parcel post to Persia. Now, however, Norway is used for this purpose. For many years the parcel post had been growing in favor with British merchants as a means of sending goods to Persia. All other means of communication between Europe and northern and central Persia via Russia are handicapped by the fact that no through bill of lading can be obtained for goods passing through Russia; moreover, everything is subject to the ordinary import duty for goods entering Russia, and, in addition, the Persian customs duties have to be paid. The parcel post, however, enjoys special treatment, packages in transit being exempt from the usual customs duty in Russia. The Imperial Bank of Persia collects payment for goods sent by parcel post.

The only means besides the parcel post of sending goods to the northern and most populous district of Persia has been the long caravan route from Trebizond, in Turkey, where duties were not collected on goods in transit to Persia. The cost of shipping piece goods was lower via Trebizond than by parcel post; nevertheless, as there has been an enormous saving of time in the parcel-post route over the slow caravan route from Trebizond, the former method is now considered the more economical, since it allows a far more rapid turnover of the goods sold.

American firms have not sent goods to Persia by parcel post. While the United States has no treaty arrangements for a direct parcel-post service with Persia, goods might be sent directly, as they are by British firms. The United States might greatly extend its trade with Persia by arranging with Persia and with Russia for parcel-post service, allowing goods to go through Russia without paying customs duties except on arrival in Persia.

**Increase in Persian Parcel-Post Business via Russia—Packing.**

The statistics of goods entering Persia by parcel post in transit through Russia may be given as follows for 1912 and 1914:

Countries of origin.	1912			1914		
	Ordinary parcels.	Parcels the value of which was declared.		Ordinary parcels.	Parcels the value of which was declared.	
	Number.	Number.	Value.	Number.	Number.	Value.
Total.....	278,659	53,764	\$1,649,253	297,986	67,970	\$2,847,685
Russia in Europe.....	1,097	13,238	1,053,231	2,789	25,282	2,133,941
United Kingdom.....	9,975	3,974	51,237	7,831	4,022	47,252
United States.....	10	10	58	5	3	113

On account of the length of the journey and numerous transshipments, parcels for Persia should be packed in cases, preferably of wood, or wrapped in solid leather. If they are packed in cloth or similar material, the Russian authorities return them to the office of dispatch. They may be packed in zinc or tin, hermetically sealed.

### COALING IN ARGENTINE PORTS.

[Consul William Dawson, jr., Rosario, June 14.]

Shortly after the outbreak of the European war the Argentine Government took measures restricting the amount of coal to be taken by vessels leaving Argentine ports in the foreign trade to that necessary to reach the first port of call in South America. The object was to protect the country against a possible coal shortage.

The Government has now issued a decree (June 12, 1916) which provides that mail steamers which do not call at South American ports or call at such ports for the sole purpose of landing or receiving passengers or mail, and other steamers which do not call at South American ports or, in case they do call at such ports, carry Argentine products up to at least three-fourths of their total capacity, may be supplied in Argentine ports with the coal required for the entire voyage. Such steamers can not, however, take more coal than can be carried in their bunkers, not including reserve bunkers, hold, and between decks. Steamers desiring to coal in Argentine ports must make application to the customs officials who are authorized to issue permits.

#### No Danger of Coal Shortage.

The foregoing change in regulations has been made in view of present conditions as respects the coal supply and in order to afford every facility possible to shipping. On May 30, 1916, two petitions, one from coal importers and the other from shipping circles, were presented to the Government calling attention to the advisability of the action just taken. It was pointed out that there is no danger of a coal shortage at present, and that the difficulty of securing coal in Argentine ports induced vessels to coal at Montevideo. Coal importers stated that 107,500 tons of coal were imported in April and that numerous cargoes were expected. Furthermore, the high price of coal has considerably reduced the home demand. The high price of the product in Argentine ports precludes the danger of any vessel bound for Europe or North America taking more coal than it actually requires.

[A report on the fuel problem in Argentina was published in *COMMERCE REPORTS* for Apr. 13, 1916.]

**AMERICAN AND GERMAN SHIPBUILDING.**

The American shipbuilding industry provides for three distinct kinds of navigation—ocean navigation, navigation on the Great Lakes, and, third, on our extensive river systems. The unusual increase of American steel merchant shipbuilding at the present time is wholly in the building of ocean-cargo steamships. Of the 385 steel vessels, of 1,225,784 gross tons, building or ordered in American shipyards on July 1, 1916 (see COMMERCE REPORTS for July 17, 1916), 195 vessels, aggregating 1,037,103 gross tons, are ocean merchant steamships of 1,000 gross tons or over. While this output is about half that of British yards in times of peace, it exceeds the amount of similar merchant shipbuilding in Germany at the date of the greatest activity of the industry in the history of that Empire, on December 31, 1913. The Bureau of Navigation has prepared the following comparison of the number and gross tonnage of ocean steel merchant steamships of 1,000 gross tons or over building or ordered in American yards on July 1, 1916, and in German yards on December 31, 1913, the date of maximum activity for the two countries in this form of industry.

*American yards, July 1, 1916.*

Company.	Number.	Gross tons.
Union Iron Works, San Francisco, Cal.	29	201,138
New York Shipbuilding Co., Camden, N. J.	16	115,478
Newport News Co., Newport News, Va.	16	111,947
Fore River, Quincy, Mass.	10	73,000
Cramp & Sons, Philadelphia, Pa.	11	75,700
Harlan & Hollingsworth, Wilmington, Del.	14	62,555
Maryland Steel Co., Sparrows Point, Md.	10	58,705
Chester Shipbuilding Co., Chester, Pa.	11	53,600
Construction & Dry Dock Co., Seattle, Wash.	7	42,600
Skinner & Eddy, Seattle, Wash.	6	35,720
American Shipbuilding Co., Cleveland, Ohio.	16	33,680
Standard Shipbuilding Corp., New York, N. Y.	6	28,800
Willamette Steel Co., Portland, Oreg.	5	28,500
Texas Steamship Co., Bath, Me.	4	26,600
Dry Docks & Shipbuilding Co., Baltimore, Md.	7	24,500
Great Lakes Engineering Co., Detroit, Mich.	7	16,840
Moore & Scott Iron Works, Oakland, Cal.	3	16,000
Pusey & Jones Co., Wilmington, Del.	6	9,600
Manitowoc Shipbuilding Co., Manitowoc, Wis.	4	9,500
Toledo Shipbuilding Co., Toledo, Ohio.	4	7,300
Staten Island Shipbuilding Co., Port Richmond, N. Y.	2	4,400
Merrill-Stevens Co., Jacksonville, Fla.	1	1,700
Total	195	1,037,103

The New York Shipbuilding, Newport News, and Fore River yards were building also battleships, and the Cramps destroyers.

*German yards, Dec. 31, 1913.*

Company.	Number.	Gross tons.
Blohm & Voss, Hamburg.	3	120,000
Weser Co., Bremen.	14	110,500
Bremen Vulkan Co., Vegesack.	12	110,000
Tecklenberg Co., Geestemünde.	13	92,400
Flensburg Co., Flensburg.	14	80,000
Schichau Co., Danzig.	2	70,000
Howaldtswerke Co., Kiel.	5	38,000
Neptun Co., Rostock.	6	27,000
Vulkan Co., Stettin.	1	19,200
Vulkan Co., Hamburg.	1	18,000
Kock Co., Lubeck.	8	15,610
Seebeck Co., Geestemünde.	5	15,545

*German yards, Dec. 31, 1913—Continued.*

Company.	Number.	Gross tons.
Rickmers Reismuhlen Co., Bremerhaven.....	3	15,490
Reiherslag Co., Hamburg.....	2	15,600
Stettin Oderwerke Co., Stettin.....	8	11,745
Frerichs & Co., Flinswarden.....	2	11,100
F. Krupp Co., Kiel.....	1	9,600
Luxemburg Co., Emden.....	2	7,450
Nuscke & Co., Stettin.....	3	3,950
Total.....	104	810,520

The Weser Co., Hamburg Vulkan, Howaldtswerke, and Schichau yards were building also battleships; Blohn & Voss, battle cruisers; and Vulkan Stettin, torpedo boats.

#### American Cargo Boats and Tankers.

Only 8 of the American steamships, aggregating 52,328 gross tons are for passengers and cargo, the largest being the Matson line steamer *Wakiki*, 501 feet long, twin screws, turbine engines and 10,000 horsepower, of 9,728 gross tons, for the Hawaiian and possibly the trans-Pacific trade. Two 8,000-ton passenger and cargo steamships of 17 knots speed are building for the Atlantic, Gulf, and West Indies Co., one coastwise passenger ship of 6,000 tons, 14 knots, for the Mallory Line, two 5,800-ton steamships, 13 knots, for the W. R. Grace Co. for trade to the West Coast of North and South America, and two coastwise steamers, 4,500 tons each, 12½ knots, for the Savannah Line.

The remaining tonnage is almost evenly divided between 72 steamers, of 496,138 gross tons, building especially to carry oil in bulk, and 115 steamers of 488,637 gross tons, building to carry cargo generally. The use of oil as fuel for some years past has been growing rapidly both on sea and land. The newest types of American battleships are oil burners, and many British warships use this fuel. Doubts as to whether the advantages of oil as fuel on warships might not be more than offset by the added risk of explosion and fire in battle seem to have been dispelled by the results of the naval battle of Jutland in which British warships using oil fuel were engaged. The use of oil as fuel on American merchant steamers, especially on the Pacific, is becoming general, and in replacing merchant shipping destroyed by the war both the belligerent and the neutral nations will undoubtedly use extensively oil-burning machinery. The increasing use of oil as fuel for power in manufacturing plants is generally known. That half of the tonnage of ocean cargo steamers building in the United States is made up of "tankers" is thus an evidence of judgment in anticipating the lines of development of American trade as a purveyor of modern fuel and incidentally a provision for one of the greatest future needs of the Navy. The American merchant fleet already includes 102 tank steamers of 459,656 gross tons. If the tankers now building in the United States sail under the American flag, in its oil-carrying fleet, the United States will rank first, British tank tonnage numbering 208 steamers of 875,909 gross tons, the next nation being the Netherlands with 87,080 gross tons. The ships for general cargo building in the United States are adapted in size, power, and construction to carry bulk cargoes to any part of the

world. In short, the steel ocean steamers now building in the United States are adapted not only to present conditions but also when completed, to conditions likely to obtain after the close of the European war.

#### German Tourist and Emigrant Ships.

In Germany 21 steamships, of 385,000 gross tons, nearly half of the German tonnage building at the beginning of 1914, were passenger steamships, including the following Hamburg-American and North German Lloyd liners for the American tourist and northern European and Russian emigrant trades: *Bismarck*, *Tirpitz*, *Vaterland*, *Zeppelin*, *Burchard*, *Hindenburg*, and *Columbus*. These 7 ships of from 18 to 24 knots speed, aggregating 236,200 tons, were building also as naval auxiliaries and commerce destroyers, but, so far as completed, remain in port. The totals include also the Hamburg South-American liner and commerce destroyer *Cap Trafalgar*, sunk in battle by the Cunarder *Carmania*, and its sister ship *Cap Polonio*, launched in March, 1914, and reported still building. Smaller passenger ships were 3 for the German East Africa line (19,400 tons) and 5 for the Oldenburg line to Portugal (10,600 tons).

The cargo steamers building numbered 83, of 425,000 gross tons, of which 6, aggregating 40,000 tons, were to be put in the Australian trade in 1914 by the North German Lloyd, and 7, of 8,000 tons each, in trade with East Asia, Japan, and Kaiochow. The Deutsch-Australia Line was building 7, of 36,500 tons in all, the Hansa Line, for trade with British India and South America, 14, of 92,500 gross tons, and the Kosmos Line 7, of 50,000 gross tons. Seven oil-tank steamers, aggregating 45,600 tons, were building for trade with America and Roumania. Excepting small cargo boats, the remainder of the cargo steamers were building for the Hamburg-American Co. Except the *Vaterland*, *Cap Trafalgar*, and cargo steamers, completed before August, 1914, ships building or ordered in Germany on December 31, 1913, as shown by the Germanischer Lloyd, Hamburg-American, and North German Lloyd reports for 1913-14, were yet building in Germany on June 30, 1916, according to the Copenhagen cabled interview of that date with Herr Ballin, general manager of the Hamburg-American Co.

### NEW WATER SUPPLY FOR BAHIA BLANCA.

[Commercial Attaché Albert Hale, Buenos Aires, Argentina, June 12.]

The following item, taken from a recent issue of an Argentine daily, has an unusual importance because of the scarcity of fresh water in this region:

This afternoon water was found in the artesian well at Parque de Mayo, demonstrating conclusively the existence of an enormous subterranean stream which embraces the area within the triangle formed by the borings of Argerich, Puerto Militar, and La Viticola. At a depth of 687 meters [2,254 feet] a fairly clear stream was found, and at 691 meters [2,267 feet] another stream was found which gives more than 400,000 liters [105,700 gallons] of water per hour, with a temperature of 53° C. [127° F.]. It is expected that when the size of the well is enlarged a much greater quantity of water will be obtained.

This is really an important event for Bahía Blanca, which has been realized after nine months of work and after surmounting great difficulties. There can now be no doubt as to the existence of a very great supply of pure water. Municipal Commissioner Del Gaje will study means for refrigeration and for more conveniently making use of the water of this well (the largest in this region), so great is the need of pure water.

**CHINESE METHODS OF SALT PRODUCTION.**

[Consul General Edwin S. Cunningham, Hankow, May 18.]

The production of salt is controlled in all parts of China by the Government, although actually in the hands of private producers. There is only one producing center of salt of great importance in the Hankow consular district. That is Ying Cheng Hsien in Hupeh, producing an estimated quantity of 15,000 tons per annum. Ying Cheng lies north of the Siang River, bordering on a number of shallow lakes and waterways which provide transportation to the Siang River. It is about 25 miles west of the Peking-Hankow railway station of Siaokan. The district is about 13 by 6 miles, and has produced gypsum (selenite) for some 200 years. The producing strata lie from 400 to 900 feet below the surface and are reached by shafts sunk vertically. There are 190 pits, of which only 12 are worked for brine in the manufacture of salt. The plan is to quarry the gypsum and to work each pit for this article for a period of two or three years, and then close for a year.

**Common Accompaniment of Gypsum Deposits.**

Brine is produced by natural leakage or by pouring water into the galleries which probably follow the inclined gypsum strata. Salt (sodium chloride), being a common accompaniment of gypsum deposits, appears to be either in solution as brine in the pores of soft rock which lie in layers on either side of the strata or as natural salt. The saline substance is dissolved from the rock laid bare by the quarrying, and after the pit has been closed for a year a sufficient quantity of brine is obtained for working from one to five months, when the gypsum is again worked and the former process repeated.

The brine is brought to the surface by a windlass and rope, in wooden buckets, and is poured at the pit mouth into large wooden reservoirs sunk into the ground. From the reservoirs it is emptied by buckets into mat-covered wooden troughs led across country a few hundred yards to the furnaces, where the brine is boiled in pans. The boiling pans are arranged in batteries of three to five furnaces and are set up under sheds having tiled roofs and open at the sides. Boiler-plate caldrons of foreign manufacture, 3 feet in diameter and 1½ feet deep, are arranged in sets of 9 over each brick furnace.

These furnaces are sunk in the ground so that the level of each caldron is just above the surface. Underneath is a fire box, passing below each of the 9 iron caldrons in succession to two brick chimneys at the end of the furnace. The fuel used is slack coal procured in the vicinity of Hankow.

**Distribution to Consumers by Small Dealers.**

The brine, stored in large wooden reservoirs, is ladled by coolies into the caldrons, which boil so incessantly that the water is rapidly evaporated. The salt gradually precipitates as the density of the liquid becomes greater and is dipped into split-bamboo baskets. The distribution of the salt thus produced is made to the consuming areas by small dealers from two baskets carrying about 50 pounds slung at either end of the pole. The salt produced is snow white, very fine, crystallized, and of good flavor, though described as having a bitter taste, due probably to excessive magnesium.

The 190 active gypsum pits are scattered over an area of 80 square miles. Each furnace in the manufacture of salt is limited to 9 iron

caldrons, and each of these furnaces has a capacity of production of 32,000 pounds in 24 hours.

A classification of the sources of production in other parts of China may be made as follows:

1. Salt manufactured from sea water: (a) By solar evaporation in earthen pans or salterns—Newchwang (southern Manchuria) district, Tientsin (Changlu) district, Shantung, North Kiangsu Province (Huaipei), Chekiang, Fukien, and Kwangtung; (b) by boiling—Kiangsu seacoast north of the Yangtze, where salt is made by the lixiviation of saline earth by brine or fresh water, and the strong brine thus obtained is condensed by artificial heat until salt is precipitated.

2. Salt manufactured from brine wells: (a) Szechuan (boiled in iron pans; fuel natural—earth—gas and coal); one of the great salt-producing Provinces of China; (b) Ying Ch'eng, Hupeh Province, brine boiled in iron pans (imported from Great Britain); fuel, coal.

3. Lake salt: Shansi and Mongolia.

4. Rock salt: Yunnan.

#### **Located All Along China's Seacoast.**

The Huaipei salt works are typical of those located all along China's seacoast. They produced more than 500,000 yin of 440 catties each (catty=1.4 pounds) per annum. Away from the seacoast there are many factories for the manufacture of salt from brine drawn from wells. The product is of good color and edible, resulting from the condensation by solar heat of this subterranean brine.

The Tientsin (Changlu) arrangements for the production of salt are as follows: There are three large groups of salt works, one on each bank of the Peiho River and one on the Peitang River. These localities are large mud flats commanded by the tides and are very favorable for salt manufacture. The levels permit brine to be brought from the sea to the works by flow at spring tides, in canals or channels dug for the purpose. When the brine canals are full, temporary dams prevent any oversupply, either of brine from the sea or fresh water from the rivers, and keep the brine in the canals at the required level. The brine is raised from the brine canals into the reservoirs and evaporation pans by an ingenious system of lifts operated by wind sails.

#### **Several Provinces Produce Large Quantities.**

Shantung produces about 2,125,325 piculs (of 140 pounds each) per annum from sea water. The Provinces of Chekiang, Fukien, and Kwangtung all produce large quantities of sea salt.

Undoubtedly the Province of Szechuan, some 1,200 miles up the Yangtze River from the sea, offers the greatest opportunities for the development of the sale of salt-manufacturing appliances. Salt in that Province is the product exclusively of brine drawn from wells. The total quantity produced during one year is estimated at 5,500,000 piculs (picul=140 pounds). In most parts the wells are few and far between; at Tzu Liu Ching a great number is found within a small area. Szechuan not only supplies its own millions of inhabitants with salt but some 1,171,000 piculs (of 140 pounds each)



to Hupeh Province annually; also to Yunnan and Kweichow, two neighboring Provinces. Many millions are invested in the industry.

The points at which rock salt and lake salt are produced are remote places where it is doubtful if modern methods could be introduced at present.

#### **Opportunities for Sale of Pans.**

There is no question that the Szechuan district furnishes great opportunities for the sale of pans for salt manufacture, but freight rates through the gorges and rapids are so high that it would be difficult to deliver machinery into that district at a reasonable price. It is understood that a British company has maintained a special representative at Peking, with a view to inducing the Government to install modern salt-manufacturing appliances. It is not known how successful it was, but it is thought that certain improvements at the great Tientsin saltern are now underway, and probably some foreign machinery is being installed. Inasmuch as salt production is everywhere controlled by the Chinese Government, an attempt to introduce modern equipments should be made through the Government at Peking, as it is not likely that private concerns, although they are the actual producers, would undertake any radical changes without the approval of the Government.

[Statements regarding various features of the salt administration of China were published in *COMMERCE REPORTS* for June 23, 1916, and a report on the salt industry of Kwangtung leased territory in the issue of July 1, 1916.]

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### **NEW METHODS OF UTILIZING BABUL PODS FOR TANNING.**

[London Times Imperial and Foreign Trade Supplement, July.]

Babul pods, obtained from the tree that also produces the gum arabic of commerce, have long been known to contain a notable quantity of tannin (18 to 20 per cent). Owing to the fact that the tan liquor prepared from the pods rapidly undergoes fermentation and thus deteriorates before the hides or skins immersed in it have become completely tanned, the use of this material has not hitherto been adopted by tanners. As the result of laboratory experiments conducted by the Department of Industries at Cawnpore, it is claimed that this obstacle to the utilization of the product can be removed. It is found that by the addition of a very small quantity (0.3 to 0.5 per cent of the weight of the pods) of crude carbolic acid to the infusion of the pods, fermentation is retarded to such an extent that the tan liquor can be used with satisfactory results. It has also been observed that the tendency of the tan liquor to ferment varies with its temperature. Below 60° Fahrenheit babul pods may be used with a very small addition of antiseptic or with none at all. As an alternative to carbolic acid, phenazole slightly acidified with acetic acid may be used.

The pods can be had in India for the cost of collecting them. From the Sudan, where they are known as garad (or sunt) pods, there is already a small export, which could be largely increased if a sufficient demand arose. The export value in the Sudan is about \$34 per ton. The same product has also been occasionally exported from West Africa under the name of Gambia pods.

**CHILEAN EXCHANGE AND THE NITRATE SITUATION.**

[Commercial Attaché V. L. Havens, Santiago, June 9.]

For the 11 months ended May 31 the production of Chilean saltpeter was 67 per cent greater than for the corresponding period of the preceding nitrate year. In this fact lies one of the chief explanations of the improvement in the value of the Chilean paper peso and also in the purchasing power of the country.

No one knows what the effect of peace is going to be on the nitrate industry, and it would seem reasonable that when the use of explosives ceases there will be immediate stoppage in orders for nitrate. The farmers are on the battle field, and although they might be returned to their homes in time to use nitrate (nitrate being used in the months of March, April, and May for fertilizer), on the other hand peace may be declared later than April and the nitrate industry would receive a very serious blow, as the use of the material for explosives would cease and there would be no agricultural demand for that particular year. Peace in November or December would mean the immediate placing of orders for nitrate for fertilizer, and the market might not be seriously affected except temporarily.

**Nitrate Prices Normal in Chile.**

One of the surprising features of the nitrate industry, at least to a casual observer, has been that, in spite of the great demand and the high prices obtained abroad, the price of nitrate in Chile has not risen much above the normal figure of previous years. This is undoubtedly due to the fact that when the sudden stoppage of shipments occurred and many men were thrown out of employment in the nitrate fields, thereby making it impossible for them to buy the agricultural products of the South, the Government advanced large sums of money to the producers solely for the purpose of keeping their plants running. They, of course, piled up an enormous supply, which, coupled with a general resumption of work, meant that there was always more nitrate available than ships to carry it. The difference between the price received for nitrate in Chile and that paid by purchasers in foreign countries has been absorbed in ocean freight rates.

Exchange was down when there were no ships to transport the nitrate. Cargo space is a little more plentiful now, and vast quantities of saltpeter are being sold. Gold is coming in, and, being abundant, it becomes cheap; or, to put it another way, one buys dollars with fewer pesos than when gold was dear.

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**District Offices of the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce.**

New York, Room 409 United States Customhouse; Boston, eighteenth floor United States Customhouse; Chicago, 504 Federal Building; St. Louis, 403 Third National Bank Building; Atlanta, 521 Post Office Building; New Orleans, 1020 Hibernia Bank Building; San Francisco, 307 United States Customhouse; Seattle, 848 Henry Building. Cooperative district offices: Cleveland, Chamber of Commerce; Cincinnati, Chamber of Commerce; Asst. Gen'l Frt. Agt., C. N. O. & T. P. Ry. Co., Cincinnati; Los Angeles, Chamber of Commerce; Detroit, Board of Commerce; Philadelphia, Chamber of Commerce; South American Agent, Southern Ry. Co., Chattanooga, Tenn.

**PRODUCTION OF ATROPINE POSSIBLE IN THE PHILIPPINES.**

[J. F. Boomer, correspondent, Manila, June 1.]

It has been ascertained that the plant *Datura alba*, which grows wild in abundance in almost every part of the Philippine Islands, contains a large amount of atropine, now currently obtained for the drug trade from *Atropa Belladonna* L., a plant of the temperate zone. Local chemists state that *Datura alba* also contains in addition to atropine, hyoscyamine, an alkaloid now employed in producing "twilight sleep."

The plant grows in practically all the islands of the Philippine group. In some localities it reaches a height of 6 feet. It is not cultivated, and no use is made of it commercially. Consequently, should the plant be needed for export, there is no present means of collecting it in commercial amounts. One prominent American drug manufacturer, to whom samples of the plant were sent, has ordered a large quantity of the leaves.

Business men desiring this or any other plant for manufacturing purposes must make arrangements with some local agent for the collection and preparation for shipment, and count upon considerable delay. In the case of many valuable plants, for which the Philippine soil and climate are peculiarly favorable, it would be necessary to wait until local enterprise undertakes the systematic cultivation.

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**OPENING FOR GRAMOPHONES IN HAITI.**

[Special Agent Garrard Harris.]

There is an opening in Haiti for an inexpensive gramophone or phonograph. It should be as simple and durable as it is possible to make and as near "fool proof" as ingenuity can devise. Wax records will not do, on account of their liability to breakage and also because of climatic conditions. The flat rubber records should be provided and, if possible, should contain a selection on each side.

If an agency could be established to sell instruments on the installment plan, the number disposed of would be large. The Haitians, or the vast majority of them, are not able to make purchases involving a considerable outlay at one time, but on a payment down and a certain sum per week will undertake and carry through financial outlays otherwise impossible. They are very fond of music and would undoubtedly welcome the opportunity to purchase gramophones, of which there are very few, indeed, on the island. There would be a limited demand for the more expensive kinds also.

Records in French would prove most popular. Representatives should be thoroughly familiar with and fluent in the French language to be successful.

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**Street Repairing in Habana.**

The American minister at Habana, Cuba, cables, under date of July 19, 1916, that he is informed that the Cuban Government is considering the issuing of a call for bids for the repair of streets.

**PROPOSALS FOR GOVERNMENT SUPPLIES AND CONSTRUCTION.**

[Correspondence should be direct with the offices named, and specifications can usually be obtained at the points where the goods are to be delivered or the work is to be performed. In cases where the time limit is too short to permit firms to submit tenders, they should ask to be placed on the mailing lists of such offices to receive notices calling for future supplies or work of a similar nature.]

**Navy Department supplies, No. 3450.**—Sealed proposals will be received at the Bureau of Supplies and Accounts, Navy Department, Washington, D. C., to which bureau firms desiring to submit proposals should apply, giving schedule numbers, for the supply of the following: Schedule 9911, range boilers; schedule 9912, sheathing sheet copper and yellow sheathing metal; schedule 9913, garden hose, pump leather, worm-gear chain blocks, galvanized-steel bolts and nuts, 1-quart brass oil feeders, padlocks, steel nuts, platform counter scales, long-handle cast-steel shovels, powdered dry aluminum, calcium carbide, and galvanized-steel pipe; schedule 9914, castor oil; schedule 9915, hard and soft sheet brass and cold-rolled sheet copper; schedule 9916, ingot aluminum, naval rolled bar brass, ingot copper, ferromanganese, foundry pig iron, and slab zinc; schedule 9917, copper flexible steam hose, composition pipe fittings, copper pipe, composition unions, and brass angle valves; schedule 9918, canvas-laid rubber hose, hard sheet rubber, loofa sponges, Turkish toweling, square-end scoop shovels, castor oil, and galvanized-steel conduit; schedule 9919, 1-horsepower potato peelers; schedule 9920, wire half-and-half solder, spelter solder, and wiping solder; schedule 9921, burlap, billiard cloth, unbleached cotton cheesecloth, and cotton mattress ticking; schedule 9922, tarred sheathing felt, rubber wash deck hose, metal lockers, hand sewing machines, spun oakum, heaving roping palms, steel safes for mail clerks, galvanized-steel buckets, sheet tin, and flexible brass voice tubing; schedule 9923, technical nitric acid, Japan drier, yellow ochre in oil, and turpentine; schedule 9924, combined hand and power pipe-cutting and threading machine; schedule 9925, labor and material to reshingle, retin, and paint roof; schedule 9926, milling cutters, drills and countersinks, reamers, etc., steel slitting saws, and emergency valves; schedule 9927, printing booklet; schedule 9928, lumber and millwork, pine, cypress, window sash, sill, etc.; schedule 9929, metal lath, etc., fittings, door, sash pulleys, chain, clips, etc., galvanized corrugated sheet steel, structural steel, and terneplate tin; schedule 9930, clear spruce lumber; schedule 9931, steel boiler tubes; schedule 9932, safety valves; schedule 9933, raw linseed oil; schedule 9934, adjustable tap wrenches, motor-driven test pump, and sulphur; schedule 9935, steam turbine driven blowers; schedule 9936, steel rivets, boiler steel plates, and common steel shapes; and schedule 9937, medium eagle buttons, white watch mark braid, cotton handkerchiefs, black cotton socks, and light cotton undershirts.

**Subsistence supplies, No. 3451.**—Sealed proposals will be received by the Depot Quartermaster, United States Army, 115 East Ontario Street, Chicago, Ill., until July 28, 1916, for furnishing and delivering corned beef, fresh roast beef, and corned-beef hash.

**Telephones and buzzers, No. 3452.**—Sealed proposals will be received at the office of the Chief Signal Officer, War Department, Washington, D. C., until August 2, 1916, for furnishing camp telephones and service buzzers.

**Buoys, No. 3453.**—Sealed proposals will be received by the Lighthouse Inspector, Tompkinsville, N. Y., until August 4, 1916, for furnishing and delivering two spherical mooring buoys and six cone buoys.

**Construction work, No. 3454.**—Sealed proposals will be received at the office of the United States Reclamation Service, Powell, Wyo., until August 18, 1916, for the construction of canals on the Shoshone project, Wyoming, involving about 572,000 cubic yards of excavation. The work is located near the stations of Mantua and Frannie, Wyo., on the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy Railroad. Further information may be obtained on application to the United States Reclamation Service, Washington, D. C.; Denver, Colo.; or Powell, Wyo.

*Dictating and transcribing machines, etc., No. 3455.*—Sealed proposals will be received by the Chief Clerk, Department of Commerce, Washington, D. C., until July 26, 1916, for furnishing the Department with dictating and transcribing machines and necessary equipment. Specifications and further information may be obtained on application to the above-named officer.

*Docking and repairing lighthouse tender, No. 3456.*—Sealed proposals will be received by the Lighthouse Inspector, Buffalo, N. Y., for docking, cleaning, and painting hull, and repairs to shaft and rudder bearings of lighthouse tender *Crocus*.

*Construction work, No. 3457.*—Sealed proposals will be received by the Commissioner of Fisheries, Department of Commerce, Washington, D. C., until August 18, 1916, for the construction of a retaining basin for fish at the Fisheries Station, Gloucester, Mass. Further information may be obtained on application to the Commissioner of Fisheries, Washington.

### AMERICAN CONSULAR OFFICERS ON LEAVE OF ABSENCE.

The following American consular officers are on leave of absence in the United States and will be glad to confer with business men and commercial organizations relative to conditions in their respective jurisdictions. The consul's time is available primarily for personal interviews. He has limited facilities for correspondence, and except in urgent cases letters should be directed to the consulate.

Name.	Post.	Expira- tion of venue.	Address.
West, George N. ....	Kobe, Japan .....	Aug. 15	Department of State, Washington, D.C.
Cooke, A. B. ....	Patras, Greece .....	Aug. 10	121 West Charlotte Street, Norfolk, Va.
Hale, F. D. ....	Huddersfield, England .....	Sept. 5	Lunenburg, Vt.
Fisher, Fred D. ....	Tientsin, China .....	Aug. 5	Albany, Oreg.
Masterson, William W. ....	Durban, Natal, South Africa.	Sept. 1	Carrollton, Ky.
Seltzer, Harry G. ....	Breslau, Germany ....	Aug. 1	Gibraltar, Pa.
Baker, E. Carlton .....	Nagasaki, Japan .....	Aug. 30	Apartment No. 75, The Brunswick, Washington, D. C.
Monaghan, J. C. ....	Kingston, Jamaica ....	Sept. 1	Avenue A and Fourteenth Street, Ba- yonne, N. J.
Jewell, John F. ....	Chefoo, China .....	Oct. 1	Department of State, Washington, D.C.
Kemper, Graham H. ....	Erlurt, Germany .....	Sept. 10	Do.
Goodier, James H. ....	Niagara Falls, Canada .....	Sept. 1	27 South Hawk Street, Albany, N. Y.

### LARGE INCREASE IN SHIPMENTS FROM ALASKA.

Alaska's sales to the United States in the fiscal year 1916 aggregated \$48,966,000, which is double the annual average since 1912. The amounts for the fiscal years 1915 and 1914 were, respectively, \$27,039,000 and \$21,480,000. In addition to domestic merchandise, Alaska shipped to the United States in 1915-16 gold valued at \$16,000,000 and silver to the value of \$760,000, both from its own mines.

The predominant feature of the year's trade, according to an analysis made by the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, was the rise of copper to first place among Alaska's export staples, thereby supplanting salmon and gold as the leading items. Receipts of copper in ore, matte, and regulus from Alaska aggregated 117,000,000 pounds, valued at \$26,500,000. This is four times the average for the preceding three years and exceeds the combined imports of that class from Chile, Cuba, Canada, and Mexico, the leading foreign sources of this form of copper.

## FOREIGN TRADE OPPORTUNITIES.

Reserved addresses may be obtained from the **Bureau** and its **district offices**. Request for each opportunity should be on a separate sheet and **state opportunity number**. The Bureau does not furnish credit ratings or assume responsibility as to the standing of foreign inquirers; the usual precautions should be taken in all cases.

*Copper*, No. 21919.—An American consular officer in Switzerland reports that a man in that country desires to enter into commercial relations with American refiners and exporters of ordinary copper in pigs for foundry purposes. Correspondence in French or German. References.

*Molybdenite*, No. 21920.—The Bureau is in receipt of an inquiry from Canada asking for the names and addresses of companies in the United States which handle or use molybdenite.

*Beer and stout*, No. 21921.—An American consular officer in South America reports that a firm in his district is in the market for light beer and stout, particularly light beer put up in 10½-ounce black bottles, to cost f. o. b. New York about 60 cents per dozen bottles. Commission allowance should be stated.

*Drugs and chemicals, etc.*, No. 21922.—A firm in India requests the Bureau to place it in touch with American manufacturers and exporters of millinery and hosiery; drugs, chemicals, and rubber goods; perfumery and toilet articles; leather beltings and leather goods; hardware and cutlery; iron hoops; synthetic and artificial essential oils; shoes for women; and patent medicines.

*Tallow*, No. 21923.—An American consular officer in Spain writes that a wholesale lard merchant is in the market for beef and mutton tallow. Correspondence should be in Spanish. References given.

*Wire nails*, No. 21924.—A commercial agent of the Bureau in South Africa writes that a firm in that territory is in the market for wire nails in 1½-inch, 2½-inch, 3-inch, 4-inch, 5-inch, and 6-inch sizes, to be packed in cases weighing 100 pounds net, each containing 20 5-pound paper boxes.

*Office and stationery supplies*, No. 21925.—The commercial attaché of the Department of Commerce in Chile reports that an agent in that country desires to receive catalogues of office and stationery supplies, such as punches, clips, filing cases, and other similar articles.

*Floor cloths*, No. 31926.—A man from England who is now in the United States desires to represent American manufacturers of floor cloths for dusting and cleaning floors.

*Soda*, No. 21927.—The Bureau is informed that an established firm in Northern Africa desires to represent American manufacturers of soda used in making soap.

*Textiles, household articles, etc.*, No. 21928.—Supplementing foreign trade opportunity No. 21241, a commission merchant in the West Indies transmits to the Bureau a list of additional articles, including textiles, household articles, motors, rice, and corn meal, etc. for which he desires to secure the agencies, on a commission basis. References are given. A copy of the list, together with further information, may be obtained from the Bureau or its district offices.

*Paper and paper bags, etc.*, No. 21929.—An American consular officer in a foreign colonial possession reports that a firm in his district is in the market for print and wrapping paper and paper bags, etc. Prices should be f. o. b. port of shipment, or, if possible, c. l. f. destination.

*Commission agent*, No. 21930.—A commission agent in Brazil writes the Bureau that he desires to represent a general export commission house in the United States. Correspondence may be in English.. References given.

SEP 2 1916

BOSTON, N. H.

# COMMERCE REPORTS



DAILY CONSULAR AND TRADE REPORTS  
ISSUED DAILY BY THE BUREAU OF FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC COMMERCE  
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No. 174      Washington, D. C., Wednesday, July 26      1916

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## BOHEMIAN CROP CONDITION.

[Consul Wallace J. Young, Carlsbad, Bohemia, Austria, June 27.]

Present indications are that there will be an exceptionally good crop of oats and barley this year in Bohemia. A fair crop of wheat and rye, about 15 per cent larger than last year, is forecasted. Much depends on the weather from now on. While the overabundant rains have not adversely affected the grain crops, they have seriously damaged hay and other forage crops.

## FINAL FORECAST OF INDIA'S OILSEED CROP.

The final official forecast of India's winter oilseed crop (season of 1915-16) is based on reports that cover 99.2 per cent of the total area under rape and mustard and 98.9 per cent of that under linseed in British India. Of the Native States, estimates are furnished only for His Highness the Nizam's Territory and the States in the Bombay Presidency (including Baroda).

The total area under rape and mustard is now reported to be 6,347,000 acres, which is 2 per cent below the revised final estimate for the 1914-15 season. The total yield is estimated at 1,081,000 tons, as compared with 1,219,000 tons, the revised final figure of the preceding year, or a decrease of 11 per cent.

The total area under linseed amounts to 3,317,000 acres, which is 0.2 per cent below the revised figures for 1914-15. The total estimated yield is 474,000 tons, an increase of 77,000 tons, or 19.4 per cent.

In addition to the areas for which particulars are given, the crops are grown in certain other tracts in British India, and the average areas so grown for the last five years have been some 50,000 acres of rape and mustard and some 36,000 acres of linseed. An addition of approximately 0.8 per cent (9,000 tons) should be made to the estimated total yield of rape and mustard and of 1 per cent (4,000 tons) to that of linseed, on this account.

**SOUTH AMERICAN FREIGHT CHARGES FAVOR EUROPE.**

[Consul General W. Henry Robertson, Buenos Aires, Argentina, June 6.]

The Buenos Aires consulate general has repeatedly pointed out the great disadvantages under which American commerce in this and other markets labor on account of the lack of American vessels in which to carry American products, or to carry articles either way between the United States and the Argentine Republic. An illustration of these disadvantages is seen in an item published by the Times of Argentina. It stated:

It is satisfactory to note that a very important contract has recently been closed with British manufacturers. Mr. F. de C. M. Heriot, representative of the Stavely Coal & Iron Co., has obtained an order for 26,000 tons of iron piping for the National Sanitary Works Department, at an approximate cost of \$3,000,000.

**Contract One of Great Importance.**

This is possibly the most important contract signed since the declaration of war, and it proves that British factories, despite the war, can still compete on favorable terms with neutral concerns. There were seven tenders for this order, one being from a combination of five or six of the most important factories of the United States. We congratulate Mr. Heriot and the Stavely Coal & Iron Co. on the success of their efforts. It is probable that the lower freights from Europe, as compared with those now ruling from the States, permitted the British offer to be lower than those of other competitors.

The lower freights from Europe, as compared with those now ruling from the United States, were responsible for the lower British offer. It must not be forgotten, however, that the voyage from New York to Buenos Aires is materially shorter in nautical miles than that from the most southwesterly port in the British Isles.

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**MARKET FOR AMERICAN CHOCOLATE IN HAITI.**

[Special Agent Garrard Harris.]

In 1913 a firm in Port au Prince was importing a line of American cocoa, which was sold in 5-pound tins at \$3 per tin. Quite a business was being worked up, too, in 5-cent bars of milk chocolate, almond chocolate, and the like. The firm went out of business in the early part of 1915, since which time no one has been handling the American product.

A Dutch make of cocoa and chocolate is being pushed vigorously and has an extensive sale. This Dutch cocoa retails at \$1 gold per pound and \$1.80 for a 2-pound tin and, so far as can be ascertained, has no competition whatever.

The ideal sizes for the Haitian market would be 1, 2, and 5 pound tins of cocoa. There is no demand for the 1-pound cakes of bitter or cooking chocolate; the people employ the native product, which, though badly prepared and containing an excess of fat, is cheap and they are accustomed to it. The various forms of milk chocolates for eating purposes are popular, especially when put in small packages to sell at not more than 5 or 6 cents.

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A list of sugar factories in Java at the close of 1915 has been forwarded from Batavia by Consul B. S. Rairden, and may be inspected at the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce or its district offices. Refer to file No. 78552.



**PRODUCTION OF RICE IN ARGENTINA.**

[Consul William Dawson, jr., Rosario, June 2; supplementing article in **COMMERCE REPORTS** for Aug. 5, 1915.]

The Argentine Ministry of Agriculture is continuing its efforts to foster the domestic rice industry. The principal varieties of Chinese, Japanese, Italian, and Spanish rice have been experimented with, and black vialonne, kinsku, and Valencian have given satisfactory results. The production of these varieties has been actively encouraged in the Province of Tucuman, Salta, and Jujuy, and on a smaller scale in San Juan, Mendoza, La Rioja, Catamarca, Corrientes, the Chaco, and Misiones.

The reports received by the Ministry of Agriculture indicate an excellent yield for 1916. The area devoted to rice in the three Provinces of Tucuman, Salta, and Jujuy is stated to be five times that under the cereal in the same region in 1915. According to *La Nacion*, Buenos Aires, the output of rice in the Province of Tucuman was 4,190,000 pounds in 1913, 7,120,000 pounds in 1914, and 15,430,000 pounds in 1915.

Reports from Corrientes indicate that rice can be successfully grown in that Province, although this year's crop was damaged by drought.

**Milling the Native Product.**

In order to insure rice growers the maximum return for their product, measures have been taken to provide for its milling. The Government of the Province of Tucuman has contracted with a concern operating rice mills in that Province to shell, whiten, polish, and classify Tucuman rice under conditions considered very favorable to the grower.

The Ministry of Agriculture has reached an agreement with the proprietor of a rice mill at General Güemes, Salta, by which the latter will prepare for the market the output of the Provinces of Salta and Jujuy. The agreement provides for a commission composed of the manager of the Salta branch of the Banco de la Nación, the agricultural expert representing the Ministry in that region, and the proprietor of the mill. This commission will receive and classify the raw product and market the milled rice. The grower will receive the market price, less the cost of milling. The Banco de la Nación will afford financial assistance to the mill owners and rice growers. Efforts will be made to organize cooperative societies among the latter.

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**CANADIAN LIVE-STOCK STATISTICS.**

[Consul General John G. Foster, Ottawa, July 19.]

According to figures issued by the Census and Statistics Office there were in Canada on June 30, 1916, 2,990,635 horses, 2,608,645 milch cows, 3,826,519 other cattle, 1,965,101 sheep, and 2,814,065 swine. As compared with 1915 these figures represent decreases in the number of horses by 5,464, of milch cows by 63,501, of sheep by 73,561, of swine by 297,228, but an increase of "other cattle" by 427,364.

The decreases apply principally to eastern Canada, while in the west all descriptions of animals show increases over last year, except swine in all three Provinces and "other cattle" in Manitoba.

**SUGAR SITUATION IN SWITZERLAND.**

[Vice Consul Thomas H. Bevan, Berne, June 26.]

There is much concern in Switzerland over the sugar situation. Before the outbreak of the European war the country's needs were supplied almost entirely by the German and Austrian beet sugar refineries, but these sources have been suddenly closed to the Swiss. The Germans and Austrians have demanded certain commodities in compensation for their sugar. Switzerland was therefore forced to import sugar from North and South America at more than double the cost of German and Austrian sugar.

An embargo was placed on sugar by Argentina, which has further restricted the Swiss supply.

Switzerland began to buy in trans-Atlantic markets first in October, 1915, when orders for 8,000 tons of sugar, valued at \$225,000, were placed in the United States. Since January, 1916, large quantities, valued at more than \$2,100,000, have been purchased in the same market.

**Imports of Sugar.**

The following table shows the imports into Switzerland for 1913 and 1914 of raw and crystalized, loaf, and cut and pulverized sugar and the countries whence imported:

Kind of sugar and country of origin.	1913	1914	Kind of sugar and country of origin.	1913	1914
<b>RAW AND CRYSTALIZED.</b>			<b>LOAF.</b>		
	<i>Pounds.</i>	<i>Pounds.</i>		<i>Pounds.</i>	<i>Pounds.</i>
Germany.....	42,211,620	59,473,260	Germany.....	10,696,400	8,980,400
Austria-Hungary.....	129,002,500	158,860,520	Austria-Hungary.....	22,782,100	29,165,400
France.....	5,872,660	1,821,380	France.....	9,966,200	4,728,240
Italy.....	655,900	1,701,380	Italy.....	21,780	9,240
Belgium.....	680,240	278,080	Total.....	43,468,480	42,883,280
Great Britain.....	77,000		<b>CUT AND PULVERIZED.</b>		
Russia.....	1,398,760		Germany.....	19,975,780	19,784,160
Africa.....	102,740		Austria-Hungary.....	13,032,580	14,455,760
Other countries.....	94,880	126,280	France.....	2,878,920	1,637,240
Total.....	180,396,300	217,261,000	Italy.....	2,420	4,400
			Total.....	35,880,700	35,881,560

The statistics for the year 1915 have not yet been published, but the total imports for the year have been placed at 267,726,487 pounds, as compared with 296,025,840 pounds for 1914.

**Sugar Production—Exports.**

Switzerland's production of sugar is small. The entire country does not produce over 51,744,000 pounds of sugar beets per year, which yield on an average about 5,044,160 pounds of sugar.

The Zuckerrfabrik & Raffinerie Aarberg, A. G., is the only sugar refinery in Switzerland. Its total output before the war was about 5,000 tons per year, but at present its production has been reduced to about one-half, owing to the embargo placed by Germany and Austria on the exportation of the sugar beet. During 1913 there was no sugar exported from Switzerland, and during 1914 but 2,568,359 pounds. This went to France, with the exception of 8,377 pounds to Germany. It is safe to say there have been no exports during 1915 and 1916.

**Government Control of Sugar Supplies.**

By a law passed on February 8, 1916, all stocks of sugar in the country were sequestered by the Government, and an inventory of the supply was taken and the right of importation reserved solely to the Government.

The maximum price for all the different grades has been fixed by the Government on three different occasions, the last being on May 10, 1916. Up to this date the manufacturing establishments were paying the current wholesale price for their sugar, but the act of May 10 contained a provision to the effect that the prices there laid down applied only to that sold to the retail trade, and that sugar sold to factories in wholesale lots should be sold for prices fixed by the military authorities. This price was fixed at 90 centimes per kilo ( $7\frac{1}{2}$  cents per pound). The same grade of sugar before the war cost  $48\frac{1}{10}$  centimes per kilo ( $4\frac{1}{4}$  cents per pound), an increase of 87 per cent. The factories are therefore forced to pay almost as high as the retail price for sugar, the retail price being 95 centimes per kilo ( $8\frac{1}{4}$  cents per pound).

To-day Switzerland is almost entirely dependent upon the United States for its sugar supply, which is being shipped here through the designated ports of Cette and Marseille, in southern France. However, if the war should continue much longer there is doubt as to whether Switzerland would be able to secure an adequate supply of sugar to keep the big manufacturing plants in operation.

Shipping difficulties, perhaps, form the most serious drawback to the continuation of the trade. The Swiss are not only having great difficulty in obtaining shipping space in New York, but are also experiencing the same troubles in securing the necessary rolling stock in France and Italy.

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**SPAIN REDUCES SHIPPING COST ON AMERICAN GOODS.**

[Consul General Carl Bailey Hurst, Barcelona, June 17.]

The commission known as the Junta de Transportes Maritimos was empowered to utilize Spanish vessels of a total capacity of 100,000 tons for the transport of necessities, especially wheat and coal, for consumption in Spain. It fixes, at the end of each month, the freight rates that shall obtain during the following month for the importation of merchandise. This commission reports that, from the date of its creation on March 3, 1916, until now, it has utilized space for 138,000 tons of commodities urgently needed in this country, of which 53,760 tons have already arrived, 47,700 tons are now in transit, and 36,540 tons are awaiting shipment. There were 18 vessels that transported wheat and 10 coal. The freight on the wheat has been reduced, so that the grain could be sold in Spain at 36 pesetas (\$6.48) per 220.4 pounds, a reduction of 50 and 60 per cent from the current price. The reduction on freight rates for coal has been uniformly 40 per cent of that quoted for vessels not chartered by the commission. Nearly all of the shipments of wheat and coal are from the United States.

[A statement of the formation of the board to regulate maritime transportation in Spain, and of the powers conferred upon it, was published in **COMMERCE REPORTS** for Apr. 28, 1916.]

**COAL RECEIPTS AT TWO SPANISH TRADE CENTERS.**

[Consul General Carl Bailey Hurst, Barcelona, June 2.]

Coal brought by sea to the port of Barcelona amounted to 237,608 metric tons of 2,204.6 pounds each during the first four months of 1916. There were 113,400 tons of domestic and 124,208 of foreign origin. The imports during April showed a falling off, compared with March, of 14,400 tons, an amount of considerable importance in view of the threatened coal famine here.

Imports of foreign coal during 1914 averaged 72,326 tons monthly, and the monthly imports of foreign coal this year have averaged only 31,052 tons. Spanish coal arriving here by sea during 1914 averaged 16,817 tons a month, but increased in 1915 to an average of 33,264 tons. The monthly average of domestic coal thus far in 1916 has been 28,350 tons, a decrease compared with 1915 of nearly 5,000 tons a month. As this city requires 300,000 tons a month, the scarcity of coal is keenly felt.

**Receipts at Bilbao for First Four Months.**

The receipts of coal at Bilbao, which, with Barcelona, is among the chief ports of Spain, amounted during the first four months of 1916 to 321,852 tons. Of this quantity 155,430 tons were Spanish and 166,422 tons foreign coal. During the corresponding periods of 1914 and 1915 there were 322,639 and 270,700 tons, respectively, received at Bilbao. The quantity of domestic coal decreased and that of foreign coal increased, compared with the preceding two years, but during April, 1916, nearly 20,000 tons more of domestic coal was brought in than during the preceding month. Supplies of domestic coal have gradually increased in Bilbao during the current year, although not at a rate to replace foreign coal, without which manufacturing and other interests in that important center would be jeopardized.

[Previous discussions of the Spanish coal situation appeared in **COMMERCE REPORTS** for Jan. 17 and 19 and Feb. 23, 1916.]

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**BRAZILIAN SCHOOL OF JOURNALISM.**

[Consul General Alfred L. Moreau Gottschalk, Rio de Janeiro, June 23.]

There is considerable talk in Rio de Janeiro of the founding of a school of journalism whose purposes are generally to train young men for newspaper work and inculcate in them the higher ideals of that profession. The American consulate general has been approached with a request to furnish, if possible, some statement as to the studies covered by the curricula of similar schools in the United States, together with a schedule of the number of hours of work exacted in the various major and minor studies before a degree can be obtained. The consulate general will be glad to receive, in duplicate, and to transmit to the interested parties, any documents bearing on this subject that may be available.

Institutions of this sort in the United States which may desire to exchange publications with the prospective school here are respectfully requested to communicate direct with the Associação Brasileira de Imprensa, Avenida Rio Branco 131, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

**PERU'S TAX-COLLECTING COMPANY.**

The war with Chile in 1879-1883 deprived Peru of part of its revenue-producing guano and nitrate beds, and it became necessary to create a regular system of taxation of various other articles from which, with the aid of customs duties, to meet the expenses of the Government. Accordingly, a local private joint-stock company called the Sociedad Recaudadora de Impuestos was formed in 1895 with a capital of \$973,300 its purpose being to assist the Government in the organization and collection of the new taxes.

In 1900 this company was succeeded by a similar private joint-stock concern, called the Compañía Nacional de Recaudación, with a capital of \$1,460,000, and this company collected the greater part of the national income under Federal contract and supervision until December 31, 1911, when its contract with the Peruvian Government expired. In March, 1912, the President of Peru was authorized to negotiate a contract with a new company, the contract of the old company to remain in force until its functions were taken over by the new organization, and under date of February 13, 1913, a decree was issued entrusting the Banco del Peru y Londres with the formation of a corporation to take over the collection of the items of fiscal revenue entrusted to the old company.

**Statutes of New Company.**

The capital of the new company is \$7,300,000, and it is authorized to collect the taxes on alcohol, matches, and sugar; to sell revenue stamps, and stamped paper for official use; to levy the income tax; to collect the opium, tobacco, and denatured alcohol taxes, etc. The company receives a commission of 1 per cent on the total amount collected after deducting running expenses. The management consists of a board of nine directors, six appointed by the shareholders and three by the Government. In sending a copy of the company's statutes (as given in a recent issue of *The West Coast Leader*), Consul General William W. Handley, of Callao-Lima, remarks:

Inasmuch as at least a part of the revenues collected by this company will probably form the principal guaranty for the payment of the interest and amortization of the loan of \$15,000,000 which the Peruvian Government is at present endeavoring to negotiate in the United States, I believe a perusal of this translation at the present time will be of some interest to American banking and other financial institutions who may be interested in the above-mentioned loan.

[The translation of the statutes referred to may be inspected at the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce or its district offices. Ask for file No. 78585.]

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**AMERICAN TRADE-MARKS AND PATENTS IN PERU.**

According to a report made by the Ministerio de Fomento to the Peruvian Congress in August, 1915, the number of trade-marks registered for the year 1914-15 was 286, as against 406 for the year 1913-14. Notwithstanding this decrease, the number of marks emanating from the United States increased not less than 50 per cent. The number of patents granted during the year was 95, a record number, as against 51 for the preceding year. More than 40 per cent of these were for improvements invented in the United States.

**FOREIGN BUYERS AT SHOE AND LEATHER FAIR.**

[Commercial Agent in charge of District Office of Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, Boston, Mass.]

Buyers from foreign countries were largely represented at the Eighth National Shoe and Leather Market Fair, held at Boston, Mass., from July 12 to July 19, inclusive. Fully 100 were present from Canada, Chile, Netherlands, Australia, Argentina, Brazil, Panama, and Cuba. Many orders were placed by these buyers, one having a deal pending which calls for 27 stitching machines and 17 finishing machines, which will be shipped to European countries.

The Department of State had issued special instructions to its various consular officers in foreign countries to bring the market fair to the attention of firms in their respective districts.

The Government was represented by the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, whose exhibit consisted of samples of shoes collected in Argentina (made in Buenos Aires), a number of pieces of leather of different kinds, and charts showing imports of hides and skins and exports of leather and leather boots and shoes.

The management of the market fair considers it to have been the most successful event of its kind ever held in this country. The attendance was between 50,000 and 60,000 for the week. About three-quarters of the number attending were business men.

Not only manufacturers of shoes but also manufacturers of lasts, shoe machinery, tanning extracts, imitation leather, hides and leather, shoe findings, etc., sent exhibits.

Approximately \$2,000,000 worth of business was booked by the firms represented, one in particular disposing of every piece of machinery at its booth.

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**TRADE PRODUCTS OF THE BRITISH EMPIRE.**

One of the most important of the recent reviews of British trade is that contained in a Special Supplement to the July issue of the London Chamber of Commerce Journal, wherein the United Kingdom's imports of foodstuffs and raw materials are discussed not only as regards quantities and sources, but also as to the extent to which these same products are being or could be supplied by the British over-sea dominions. To quote the Supplement's own words:

The aim and scope of this Supplement are to present, in a concise form for ready and frequent reference, a statistical review of the import trade of the United Kingdom in food products and raw materials for industries, special attention being given to the trade sources of these imports within the British Empire. All the foodstuffs and raw products used in manufactures in the United Kingdom which are produced within the Empire are reviewed, either in groups or separately, and the latest available statistics of the quantities and value of the imports of these goods to the United Kingdom from each possession are shown in comparison with those from foreign countries.

The extent and importance of the production in each part of the Empire are indicated and the condition of development in such production is mentioned. In this way many opportunities for expansion and investment of capital in promising agricultural, planting, and mining enterprises are revealed, while attention is also drawn to new sources of supply within the Empire of products in which British importers, merchants, and manufacturers are interested and to directions in which extension of business may be possible.

**THE GERMAN SAND-LIME BRICK INDUSTRY.**

[Consul General Julius G. Lay, Berlin, July 1.]

Sand-lime bricks are manufactured in 65 cities, scattered over the major portion of the German Empire. The most important producing sections besides the Mark of Brandenburg (in which Berlin is located) are Mecklenburg, Pomerania, East Prussia, Anhalt, and Schleswig-Holstein. No recent official statistics are available showing the total amount of sand-lime bricks produced annually in Germany. In Berlin alone there are six important factories manufacturing these bricks. One of these factories has an annual production of approximately 100,000,000 brick. The local industry has been crippled by the increased use of concrete and cement products in building construction. The Berlin sand-lime brick manufacturers have generally entered into a convention with their competitors, by which prices have been regulated. In 1913, however, and at various other times, dissatisfaction has been noticed and attempts to withdraw from the convention have been recorded.

**Their Use on Government Buildings—Effect of War.**

Orders for municipal and governmental buildings are carefully placed between the sand-lime brick manufacturers and their competitors. In the building of military barracks these bricks are especially in demand. Quite recently large orders were placed in the construction of certain barracks in Berlin, Spandau, and Doberitz. Besides using the sand-lime products for interior wall purposes they are often used in municipal buildings for the face or outside brick. So many improved exterior bricks are now placed upon the market that the ordinary sand-lime product is losing ground in this respect. Rough-cast masonry is generally done with sand-lime brick. Some brick in cloister-shapes are manufactured in Berlin.

The sand-lime brick companies have been hard pressed by the war. Most companies closed their doors in August and September, 1914, and have not opened them. Sales in Berlin during the war have been very small. Some orders have been placed by the usual governmental undertakings, but these have progressed so slowly that the manufacturers are discontented. In 1914, before the outbreak of the war, the price generally asked for "Berlin" sand-lime brick was about 18 marks (\$4.28) per thousand. During the war prices have increased about one-third, and now 24 marks (\$5.71) to 25 marks (\$5.95) per thousand are obtained.

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**COLLECTING COMMERCIAL MARBLES OF UNITED STATES.**

A collection of commercial marbles which, when completed, will embrace samples of all those produced in the United States and several important types from foreign countries, is being made by the United States Bureau of Standards. During the month of June, the bureau prepared specimens for expansion tests of 50 commercial marbles. Freezing tests were made on 14 of these. During the progress of this work, 61 samples of polished marble, 8 by 12 inches, have been received from various quarries in the Eastern and Southern States, and plans have been worked out for displaying these to permit persons interested to study and compare the different types.

**BRITISH PLAN TO CONTROL PALM-KERNEL INDUSTRY.**

[Consul Charles M. Hathaway, jr., Hull, England, June 22.]

The report of the Committee on Edible and Oil-Producing Nuts and Seeds, appointed by the British Government in the summer of 1915, has just become available. It is practically a treatise on the palm-kernel industry. Peanuts, copra, shea nuts, and palm oil are considered only with respect to their effect on the palm-kernel industry. After showing statistically the magnitude of the trade and the industries relating to it, outlining the state of the industry at the outbreak of war, and stating probable demands for palm-kernel oil after the war and its probable competitors, it describes the development of the trade in England since the war and outlines the conclusions the committee has reached as to what measures are necessary to retain and develop the trade in the United Kingdom in the face of German competition after the war.

**Supplies of Palm Kernels and Methods of Using Them.**

It is pointed out that the export trade in palm kernels in 1913 amounted to over \$25,000,000, and that three-quarters of the kernels went to Germany, though four-fifths of them were grown in British and nearly all the rest in French colonies. In 1913, 234,208 tons of palm kernels, valued at \$20,434,434, were exported from British West Africa, and 5,174 tons, valued at \$3,289,754, from French West Africa in 1912. Palm-kernel oil is generally used for making soap, compound lard, or margarin, and the cake and meal resulting from the manufacturing process go for animal feed. The kernels may be crushed in powerful presses or the oil may be extracted from them by a chemical solvent, such as benzine or trichlorethylene. The extraction process is estimated to cost from \$1.22 to \$2.43 a ton more than the crushing. On the other hand, the crushing usually leaves as much as 6 per cent of oil in the cake, while extraction often leaves not more than 1 per cent. However, the cake resulting from crushing commands a higher price than the meal that results from extraction. There is also the risk in extraction that a trace of the flavor of the solvent may prevent the product from being edible. The committee expresses no opinion as to which process is more satisfactory commercially. In Hull both processes have been carried on for a year and a half, and inquiry from both crushers and extractors fails to disclose any settled opinion that one process is preferable to the other. Indeed, one firm that is now crushing is installing a plant for extraction and apparently intends to carry on both processes.

Considerable space is given in the report to discussion of palm-kernel cake and meal as cattle feeds. Their tendency to increase the percentage of butter fat in milk and to impart a firmer texture to butter is especially noted. In an appendix is given an extended summary of the results of feeding experiments with palm-kernel cake, coconut cake, and peanut cake, drawn up by an expert in animal nutrition. Palm-kernel oil as a staple hard fat competes with coconut oil, with palm oil, with hydrogenated soft fats, and with the fat of animals. The most serious competitors, except for the possible introduction of new oil nuts, are, in the committee's opinion, the artificially hardened oils, but the probable future demands for fats seem great enough to take all that may be had.



**European Trade in Palm Kernels—Transportation, Port Charges, Etc.**

The report states that before the war the total European imports of palm kernels were about 300,000 tons, of palm oil some 200,000 tons, and of groundnuts (peanuts) 670,000 tons. Of palm kernels, three-quarters were crushed in Germany and only a small proportion in the United Kingdom. Of palm oil, the United Kingdom took three-quarters, and the remainder was divided between France and Germany in almost equal proportions. Of groundnuts, France took three-quarters, and Germany and the Netherlands nearly all the remainder, Germany taking nearly 100,000 tons and the Netherlands two-thirds of that amount. The European imports of copra amounted to rather under 600,000 tons, and were more evenly distributed, Germany coming first with a third of the whole and France next with one-fifth. Hamburg was the only great market for kernels before the war, and great quantities were regularly consigned there for forwarding to other ports as well as for use in the near-by mills of Harburg. By reason of its huge trade Hamburg shipments were generally made in bulk, while shipments elsewhere were in bags at an added expense of \$0.73 to \$1.22 per ton.

The report considers at some length various problems of ocean and inland transportation, port charges, and port-delivery costs, in which last item Bristol, Hull, and Leith have the advantage of other British ports, with total cost per ton from ship to mill (on a prewar basis) of \$0.47, \$0.49, and \$0.51, respectively (port charges included). It also discusses the possibility of improving the quality of the palm fruit by selective cultivation and the possibility of producing edible palm oil by better handling of the fruit, both of which the committee considers practicable. British developments since the war are summed up as follows:

**British Trade in Palm Kernels Since the War Started.**

The initiation of this movement was undertaken in the first place by the West African sections of the Chambers of Commerce in London, Liverpool, and Manchester, whose members naturally realized at once the serious results to be apprehended from the closing of the principal market for the produce of the West African colonies. The problem before them was to find a fresh outlet for the crops of palm kernels and other nuts and seeds already awaiting shipment, and a new market for the produce which would be coming forward during the war period. Efforts were directed to create widespread interest in the whole subject throughout the country, and, in particular, representations were made to the millers and crushers, the margarin manufacturers, and agriculturists.

As a result several of the largest crushing concerns—more especially those in the neighborhood of Hull—took the matter up from a practical standpoint, and commenced to import palm kernels and to crush them for the first time in their mills, adapting their existing machinery for the purpose. This adaptation did not give the best results in practice, and a new plant has been ordered to deal with palm kernels by the most up-to-date methods. Very considerable quantities, however, have been and are still being dealt with by existing machinery.

To meet the new demand for the delivery of palm kernels to Hull, the shipping interests concerned arranged to deliver kernels at Hull at the same ocean rate of freight as to Liverpool by themselves defraying the cost of on-carriage from Liverpool to Hull so as to encourage the commencement of the new industry. Since the beginning of 1915 they afforded direct facilities from West Africa to Hull. During the year 15 steamers arrived at Hull direct from the West African coast, and these vessels discharged at that port 42,549 tons of palm kernels, valued at £681,408 (\$3,316,072). In addition, three steamers brought kernels to London in 1915, the quantity discharged being 8,729 tons, valued at £146,245 (\$711,701).

These figures indicate the extent to which palm kernels are now being handled in Hull and the surrounding district, although prior to the war no

palm kernels were delivered to this port and none had been crushed in that neighborhood.

As regards Liverpool, 178,060 tons were discharged in 1915, compared with 73,187 tons in 1914, and 36,012 tons in 1913. The figures for the total imports of palm kernels into the United Kingdom were as follows: 1913, 36,012 tons; 1914, 74,797 tons; 1915, 233,249 tons. At the same time considerable quantities of kernels delivered at British ports during the war have either been stored on account of companies operating in neutral countries or have been reshipped to neutral ports.

Since the war palm-kernel oil, instead of going to soap makers, as the British-crushed product formerly did, has been in keen demand by the margarin manufacturers, to replace the oil they formerly imported from the Continent. Moreover, owing to the high price of butter, and perhaps also to its improved quality and more attractive character, the popularity of margarin is rapidly increasing, and the public demand is growing. This is encouraging the erection of new factories which will absorb an increasing quantity of edible oil.

Through an organized effort of the Government agricultural authorities and the Imperial Institute, favored by the increased cost of the cattle foods commonly used by the farmers, palm-kernel cake and meal have been widely introduced to farmers and the whole of the product has been readily disposed of.

#### **Export Duty on Palm Kernels Recommended for West Africa.**

The committee concludes that after the war the bulk of the trade will revert to Germany in the absence of specific measures to the contrary, and recommends that for the period of the war and for five years thereafter an export duty of \$9.73 per ton be placed upon all kernels exported from West Africa, except those dealt with in some part of the British Empire. The committee also recommends further experiments in the feeding value of the palm-kernel cake and meal, and experimentation in the West African colonies in the cultivation of the better types of palm tree. It sees the principal market for palm-kernel oil in margarin manufacture and suggests that the addition of the words "British-made" on the margarin wrapper might help to popularize the British article. The British Government has recommended to the colonial authorities the imposition of the export duty suggested by the committee, and presumably it will shortly be in effect.

[A copy of the committee's report (47 pages) and a copy of the committee's minutes (233 pages), forwarded by the consul, may be examined at the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce or its district offices. Refer to file No. 78104.]

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#### **INCREASED EXPORTS FROM GUATEMALA TO UNITED STATES.**

Consul Lupton reports that the exports from Guatemala to the United States, as declared at the consulate at Guatemala City during the first six months of 1916, show a marked increase. The total for the first six months of 1914 was \$766,819; for 1915, \$1,131,662; and for 1916, \$2,092,653.

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Petroleum marketed from the "salt-dome" pools of southeastern Texas and southern Louisiana, which constitute the Gulf field, amounted to 20,577,103 barrels in 1915, greater by 7,459,575 barrels than the output from these sources in 1914. Texas gained 65 per cent and Louisiana 24 per cent, the United States Geological Survey reports.

### AMERICAN CONSULAR OFFICERS ON LEAVE OF ABSENCE.

The following American consular officers are on leave of absence in the United States and will be glad to confer with business men and commercial organizations relative to conditions in their respective jurisdictions. The consul's time is available primarily for personal interviews. He has limited facilities for correspondence, and except in urgent cases letters should be directed to the consulate.

Name.	Post.	Expira- tion of venue.	Address.
West, George N.....	Kobé, Japan.....	Aug. 15	Department of State, Washington, D.C.
Cooke, A. B.....	Patras, Greece.....	Aug. 10	121 West Charlotte Street, Norfolk, Va.
Hale, F. D.....	Huddersfield, England	Sept. 5	Lunenburg, Vt.
Fisher, Fred D.....	Tientsin, China.....	Aug. 5	Albany, Oreg.
Masterson, William W.....	Durban, Natal, South Africa.	Sept. 1	Carrollton, Ky.
Seltzer, Harry G.....	Breslau, Germany....	Aug. 1	Gibraltar, Pa.
Baker, E. Carlton.....	Nagasaki, Japan.....	Aug. 30	Apartment No. 75, The Brunswick, Washington, D. C.
Moneghan, J. C.....	Kingston, Jamaica....	Sept. 1	Avenue A and Fourteenth Street, Ba- yonne, N. J.
Jewell, John F.....	Chefoo, China.....	Oct. 1	Department of State, Washington, D.C.
Kemper, Graham H.....	Erfurt, Germany.....	Sept. 10	Do.
Goodler, James H.....	Niagara Falls, Canada.	Sept. 1	27 South Hawk Street, Albany, N. Y.

### SEAMEN ON AMERICAN SHIPS.

United States Shipping Commissioners at the 12 principal seaports during the fiscal year ended June 30, 1916, shipped, reshipped, and discharged 487,524 seamen on American ships (including repeated voyages of the same men), compared with 410,576 seamen during the previous fiscal year. The following table shows the details:

Port.	Dis- charged.	Shipped and re- shipped.	Total—	
			1915	1916
Baltimore.....	3,960	6,276	5,591	10,226
Boston.....	10,700	14,422	19,842	25,122
New Bedford.....	281	911	1,007	1,142
New Orleans.....	17,675	18,697	27,687	36,372
New York.....	142,243	143,765	247,833	285,998
Norfolk.....	2,048	4,504	3,689	7,152
Philadelphia.....	8,708	10,474	15,117	19,182
Portland, Me.....	980	2,564	3,253	3,494
Providence.....	450	3,519	2,940	3,969
Rockland.....	422	1,290	2,069	1,712
San Francisco.....	20,068	19,770	29,285	39,838
Seattle.....	26,818	26,499	52,263	58,317
Total.....	234,843	252,681	410,576	487,524

### District Offices of the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce.

New York, Room 409 United States Customhouse; Boston, eighteenth floor United States Customhouse; Chicago, 504 Federal Building; St. Louis, 402 Third National Bank Building; Atlanta, 521 Post Office Building; New Orleans, 1030 Hibernia Bank Building; San Francisco, 397 United States Customhouse; Seattle, 848 Henry Building. Cooperative district offices: Cleveland, Chamber of Commerce; Cincinnati, Chamber of Commerce; Asst. Gen'l Frt. Agt., C. N. O. & T. P. Ry. Co., Cincinnati; Los Angeles, Chamber of Commerce; Detroit, Board of Commerce; Philadelphia, Chamber of Commerce; South American Agent, Southern Ry. Co., Chattanooga, Tenn.

**BRAZILIAN BUDGET ESTIMATES FOR 1917.**

[Commercial Attaché William C. Downs, Rio de Janeiro, June 9; all values given in United States gold.]

The budget estimate for the fiscal year 1917, presented on June 5, 1916, to the Brazilian Congress by the President of the Republic, shows total expenses of \$152,400,890, total revenues of \$144,827,395, and a deficit of \$7,573,495. The general expenses are distributed among the different Government departments as follows:

Ministry.	Allotment.	Ministry.	Allotment.
Justice and Internal Affairs .....	\$11, 196, 965	Agriculture .....	\$3, 794, 517
Foreign Relations .....	1, 679, 005	Treasury .....	67, 244, 421
Navy .....	9, 350, 084		
War .....	15, 912, 289	Total .....	152, 400, 890
Transportation and Public Works ....	43, 193, 599		

The estimate of the year's revenue is made up of: Ordinary, \$103,690,090; extraordinary, \$5,178,315; special, \$9,817,920; and resources, \$26,141,070.

**Increased Consumption Taxes—Interest Payments.**

In his budget message to the President the Minister of the Treasury proposes to cover the deficit of some \$7,500,000 by imposing additional taxes on specified articles of general consumption to raise the following amounts: Tobacco, \$1,703,275; perfumery, \$121,665; jerked beef, \$1,459,950; sugar, \$2,189,925; kerosene, \$243,325; gasoline, \$437,985; roasted coffee, \$729,975; butter, \$364,990; matte, \$364,985; revenue, \$243,325; total, \$7,859,400. A careful study of the message, however, reveals the fact that in these estimated receipts the Minister has included an item of \$1,824,938 that is not based upon actual revenue, but represents in the opinion of the Minister the sum that can be added to the revenue by a judicious revision of the freight tariffs of the Government-owned railroads and steamship lines, taking into consideration that the existing tariffs were framed when coal cost only one-fourth the present price.

In his report to the President the Minister of the Treasury calls attention to the fact that the moratorium under the funding-loan contract of October 19, 1914, suspending the payment of interest on 16 Government loans for three years and providing for the issue of 5 per cent funding bonds to cover the three years' interest, expires on September 1, 1917, and that it is a point of honor with the Brazilian Government that payments be then resumed. The amount outstanding of the 16 loans on December 31, 1915, according to the President's message of May 5, 1916, was \$449,499,918, the annual interest service of which would aggregate \$18,222,365. (Amortization of these loans was suspended for 13 years, beginning September 1, 1914.) According to the same message, the amount of funding bonds issued up to March 31, 1916, was \$36,538,695, and the proposed budget under "Resources" provides for the issue of \$16,408,200 more, making a total of \$52,946,895.

**Funding Obligations.**

It would appear, therefore, that the amount to be provided for the redemption of funding obligations should be \$18,222,365 (resumption-interest payments), plus about \$3,971,065 to cover the interest on \$52,946,897, and \$264,710 to cover amortization, in all \$22,458,140.

There are also outstanding the funding loan of 1898 (\$40,725,790) and Rio Port Works loan of 1903 (\$37,463,805), which were not

included in the 1914 funding, and for which the annual interest service would amount to \$3,909,430. Hence, the total to be covered would seem to be \$26,367,570. Under the proposed budget the Minister of the Treasury is authorized to expend for "interest, amortization, and other expenses of the foreign debt" \$35,341,995. There would appear, therefore, to be a surplus on this account of \$8,974,425.

On the other hand, it does not appear proper that the \$16,408,200 of new funding certificates to be issued should be considered as a "resource," as they do not represent money received, but are simply to cover accrued interest; hence there is really a shortage of \$7,438,775.

#### **All Ministries Ask Larger Allotments.**

The expense budget for 1916 was \$145,915,223, as compared with \$152,400,890 for 1917. An increase of expenses is shown in all the seven ministries.

For the Ministry of the Interior the additional credits solicited are for the campaign against tuberculosis, increase of the subventions to the medical colleges at Bahia and Rio de Janeiro, and to cover the expenses of old territorial companies transferred to this ministry by law.

The increase in the Ministry of the Exterior's allotments is due to establishing a consulate at Panama and to laws regulating gratuities for length of service.

In the Ministries of War, Marine, and Agriculture the differences are accounted for principally by the transfer of the accounts relating to the cost of pensioners, etc., from the Treasury Department.

The largest increase in the expense account of the Ministry of Transportation and Public Works is in the item "Inspection of Ports," namely, about \$6,400,000, and is accounted for by the provision of funds to pay the guaranty of interest and balance of credit destined for the Port of Recife.

The increase required for the Ministry of the Treasury is to cover the foreign debt falling due in 1917.

#### **GAS SERVICE AFFECTED BY COAL SHORTAGE.**

[Consul B. Harvey Carroll, Jr., Venice, Italy, June 28.]

Shortage of coal has not only diminished train movements and increased greatly the price of coal itself, but its effect is reflected in the increased cost of the manufacture of many articles, notably glass, and in the supply of gas in various towns in the Venice consular district and especially in the increased prices for gas.

The gas plants have been shut down in Monselice, Rovigo, Udine, and Mestre, no gas having been furnished to the last-named town since May of this year. The plant at Treviso also closed down, but has resumed operations and expects to continue until September. In Venice there has been discussion the possibility of shutting down the gas plant, but the contract with the city would endanger the charter of the company if this were done. Under the same contract the gas company can only charge 20 centesimi (less than 4 cents) per cubic meter, but the company has served notice on consumers that, beginning July 1, the price of gas will be increased from 20 to 44 centesimi (approximately 8 cents) per cubic meter.

**FOREIGN TRADE OPPORTUNITIES.**

Reserved addresses may be obtained from the **Bureau** and its **district offices**. Request for each opportunity should be on a separate sheet and **state opportunity number**. The **Bureau** does not furnish credit ratings or assume responsibility as to the standing of foreign inquirers; the usual precautions should be taken in all cases.

*Optical goods, etc.*, No. 21931.—An American consular officer in the Far East writes that an oculist contemplates the establishment of a small factory and desires to be placed in communication with American manufacturers of all kinds of machinery, etc., for making eyeglasses, such as are required for smelting glass metal and grinding the lenses. The oculist also desires to be placed in communication with manufacturers of all lines of optical goods.

*Agency*, No. 21932.—The commercial attaché of the Department of Commerce in Peru reports that an American in that country desires to represent American manufacturers and exporters. No particular line is specified. References.

*Washing machines, etc.*, No. 21933.—A firm in France informs an American consular officer of its desire to be placed in communication with American manufacturers of washing machines and wringers with rubber rollers. Correspondence should be in French, and dimensions, etc., stated in the metric system.

*Paper*, No. 21934.—The commercial attaché of the Department of Commerce in Australia reports that quotations are desired on white and colored paper, 850 tons (reel) 1½-inch core, 4,000 yards to reel, 14½ inches to 30 inches. Also on 150 tons of other paper. Samples may be inspected at the Bureau or its district offices. (Refer to file No. 1605.) The agency of a paper manufacturer is also desired. Payment by letter of credit. Reference.

*Waterworks system*, No. 21935.—An American consular officer in Canada writes that a town in his district contemplates installing a waterworks system to cost about \$60,000. The population is 1,000. Communications should be addressed to the town clerk. The Bureau has no further information in regard to this opportunity.

*Bookcases*, No. 21936.—The commercial attaché of the Department of Commerce in Russia writes that the manager of a company dealing in furniture is interested in receiving catalogues and price lists of wood sectional bookcases.

*Agency*, No. 21937.—The commercial attaché of the Department of Commerce in Chile reports that a man with extensive experience in the import and dry goods business in that country wishes to represent American manufacturers and exporters of any line for which a market in that territory is desired. References. Further information may be obtained from the Bureau or its district offices.

*Drugs and chemicals*, No. 21938.—An American consular officer in Spain reports that a wholesale commission agent in his district is in the market for American drugs and chemicals. Correspondence may be in English. References.

*Rock drills*, No. 21939.—A commercial agent of the Bureau in South Africa reports that a firm in that territory is interested in rock drills for water boring, to a depth of 400 feet, with 6-inch bore. The drill truck should be strongly built and have broad wheels.

*Hexagon nipples*, No. 21940.—An American consular officer in the United Kingdom writes that a firm in his district wishes to receive quotations on hexagon nipples for use in connection with gas, water, and steam pipes. Illustration may be inspected at the Bureau or its district offices. (Refer to file No. 78181.)

# COMMERCE REPORTS



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## NEW RUSSIAN NOTE ISSUE.

[Vice Consul Felix Cole, Petrograd, June 27.]

The Russian Minister of Finance has been authorized by an Imperial ukase to issue new short-term treasury notes for 3,000,000,000 rubles (\$1,545,000,000 at the normal exchange rate of \$0.515 to the ruble) for use in Russia, and treasury notes for the amount of 225,000,000 rubles (\$116,000,000) at 5½ per cent, maturing in 15 years, to be realized abroad. As the short-term notes become due in Russia, new notes may be issued to replace them, provided that the general sum of short-term treasury notes in circulation does not exceed 9,000,000,000 rubles (\$4,635,000,000).

## DUTCH CENTRAL AGRICULTURAL EXPORT BUREAU.

[Commercial Attaché Erwin W. Thompson, The Hague, July 1.]

The Dutch Government has organized what is called a Central Agricultural Export Bureau for the purpose of consolidating the work of numerous private organizations in the Kingdom concerned with the export of domestic products. The Government restricts the exports of all of these articles in accordance with domestic requirements, but it has been difficult to promulgate to the parties interested all the various consents for export. The new bureau will make this more convenient.

The various private associations, such as the cheese dealers' associations, will continue to exist, but they will report to the central bureau and receive instructions from it.

## Combination of German Engineering Societies.

Commercial Attaché Erwin W. Thompson at The Hague, Netherlands, reports, under date of July 7, that the seven principal engineering societies of Germany have combined in organizing into a new association called the Association of German Scientific Societies (Deutsche Verband Technischer Wissenschaftlicher Vereine).

**MARKET FOR TOOLS AND HARDWARE IN NORWAY.**

[Consul Charles Forman, Bergen, June 8.]

There is a good market in the Bergen consular district for tools and hardware. Although German goods enjoy an advantage in the nearness of source of supply and easy terms of payment, yet American goods are preferred by some dealers. Many American goods, such as valves, machine tools, other tools, and other hardware, are sold in this district, but more could no doubt be sold, an increasing demand for American goods in this line having manifested itself in recent years.

The latest available statistics of the imports of tools and implements into Norway are those for the year 1914. In that year imports into the Kingdom amounted in value to \$887,080, of which those imported at Bergen were valued at \$108,058. The value of tools and implements consumed in this district, however, is far in excess of the figure given, as much of this class of goods is sold through agencies established at Christiania. There are no statistics available showing the countries from which these goods were imported at Bergen, the only figures available being for the entire Kingdom.

**Countries Supplying Hardware to Norway—Credits.**

The value of tools and implements imported into Norway in 1914 and countries from which received are shown in the following table:

Country.	Value.	Country.	Value.	Country.	Value.
Germany .....	\$271,993	Denmark .....	\$78,765	Switzerland .....	\$1,152
Sweden .....	241,834	Netherlands .....	9,568	Austria .....	214
United States .....	174,977	France .....	2,198		
Great Britain .....	105,083	Belgium .....	1,796	Total .....	887,080

A credit of three months is usually extended to local firms, 2 or 2½ per cent being allowed for cash or payment in 30 days. It is preferable that prices should be quoted c. i. f., although f. o. b. New York prices may be quoted. As to currency, prices may be either in American money or Norwegian, but as the rate of exchange has for some time been unfavorable to the United States a price quoted in dollars would be to the advantage of the Norwegian importer.

**How Goods are Handled.**

The method of selling goods by sample is much to be preferred to selling by catalogue, and it is strongly recommended that American exporters of tools and hardware establish one or two agencies in Norway. Dealers much prefer to buy from a salesman who can show a varied line of samples from which they can select exactly what they want and see what they are buying, rather than order from a catalogue when only an illustration and description of the goods can be seen.

Bergen has direct steamer connection with New York by the Norwegian-America Line, this port being the first in Norway touched by that line. It would therefore be a good place for an agency, and should be exclusive for a certain well-defined territory. An agency might be also established at Christiania.

In some cases American exporters find it to their advantage to do business through an export commission house in New York, who



represent various manufacturers of noncompeting specialties. This method of doing business would be suitable for this class of trade, although some exporters would prefer to handle the business themselves.

Credit information may be obtained from credit agencies or banks. Bonnevie Angells Bureau in Bergen does a business similar to Dun and Bradstreet. The leading banks of Bergen are the Kreditbank and Privatbank.

[A list of agents and dealers in hardware in Bergen can be obtained at the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce or its district offices. Refer to file No. 78595.]

### DECREASED AREA UNDER HOPS IN AUSTRIA-HUNGARY.

[Consul Wallace J. Young, Carlsbad, June 21.]

Up to the time of writing, the growth of the hop plants has not been particularly favorable. The present stand is irregular; while some plants have reached three-fourths of their growth, others are scarcely above the ground. A period of warm and sunny weather is very necessary for a good crop.

The following shows the hop acreage of the various districts of Austria-Hungary, excepting Galicia, for the past four years:

Year.	Saaz.	Auscha.	Dauba.	Styria.	Hungary.
	<i>Acres.</i>	<i>Acres.</i>	<i>Acres.</i>	<i>Acres.</i>	<i>Acres.</i>
1913.....	29,510	9,600	1,843	4,215	6,195
1914.....	30,660	6,931	1,290	4,416	7,309
1915.....	27,198	5,951	1,055	3,783	4,942
1916.....	22,002	4,571	741	2,842	3,706

Dealers report that there is now a good demand for hops, and that the stocks are becoming depleted. This has caused a market advance in prices. During April and May prices ran from \$17 to \$18 per zentner (110 pounds) for first class, \$16 to \$17 for best middle grade, and \$14 to \$16 for middle grade. This week's prices are: Prime, \$20 to \$21 per zentner; best middle grade, \$19 to \$20; and middle grade, \$18 to \$19.

[A previous report on the hop situation in the Carlsbad district was published in COMMERCE REPORTS for Mar. 27, 1916.]

### EXPERIMENTS IN WATERPROOFING OF CONCRETE.

An investigation of the integral method of waterproofing concrete has been undertaken by the United States Bureau of Standards in cooperation with manufacturers of compounds, and with societies, engineers, and others interested in this problem. A questionnaire has been addressed to more than 800 architects, engineers, contractors, etc., and the tabulation of the replies received has been started by the bureau. An important feature of the investigation is the project for experimental concrete tanks along the river front of the city of Washington. The District Government has set aside a small piece of ground for this purpose, and plans have been completed for the construction of the tanks.

**DEMAND FOR SEED-CLEANING MACHINE IN ARGENTINA.**

[Special Agent Frank H. Von Motz.]

During a visit to several of the large houses handling agricultural implements it was learned that there is a demand for a machine for cleaning alfalfa seed. The alfalfa fields contain a great deal of wild mustard, the seed of which is about the same size and weight as alfalfa seed. Thrashing machines equipped with screens do not separate the two kinds of seeds, as a screen that will properly handle the alfalfa seed is about the right size to handle the mustard seed, which is not wanted.

Various methods of separating the seed have been tried, but none has given satisfaction. I saw in operation a French machine that had been brought out for trial, but it was not a success. This machine is made of sheet steel and resembles an inverted funnel with a hollow stem about 6 feet high, and at the top there is a funnel right side up. From the funnel at the top of the stem there is a spiral chute about 8 inches wide running to the base of the apparatus and terminating in four spouts. The mixed grain is poured into the upper funnel, passes through a slot to the spiral chute, and rapidly falls into one of the spouts at the base of the chute. The theory on which this machine is built is that the heavier seed will gain more momentum than the smaller seed and will fall toward the outside edge of the spiral pathway, whereas the lighter seed, according to their weight, will naturally seek one of the other spouts.

The machine will no doubt give good results in separating grains that vary materially in size and weight. However, since the mustard seed about equals the alfalfa seed in these particulars, this machine will not separate them, and there is, therefore, still an opening for one which will do the work satisfactorily and which can be sold for about the same price as an ordinary fanning mill or winnower.

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**FEW AUTOMOBILES IN HAITI.**

[Special Agent Garrard Harris.]

In 1913 there were some 20 automobiles in and around Port au Prince. Most of these were of a cheap make and came from the United States. Perhaps more than half of the number were operated as public conveyances. The bad condition of many of the Port au Prince streets and of the roads contiguous to the city soon shook the vehicles loose in every bolt, with no experienced mechanics available for making repairs.

Further, the chauffeurs were said to be incompetent and careless. It is related that they would start on a trip with no knowledge whatever as to how much gasoline was on hand. The car would run out of fuel at some remote place perhaps and the driver would leave it where it stalled. There it would remain for possibly a week, and meanwhile the torrential rains and blazing sun were not helping the general condition of the vehicle.

At present, outside of the trucks and automobiles used by the Marine Corps, there are not over four motor cars in Port au Prince that are running, and one belongs to the American minister. Gasoline is 60 cents a gallon.

**PROGRAM FOR BRAZILIAN CATTLE CONFERENCE.**

[Commercial Attaché William C. Downs, Rio de Janeiro, June 24.]

At the initiative of the National Agricultural Society (Sociedade Nacional de Agricultura), the first conference on Brazilian cattle will be held in Rio de Janeiro next November. Among the many questions that will be taken up are:

Probable origin of the different Brazilian breeds, causes of their degeneration, and means of improving them. Mesological influences on the various domestic animals in Brazil. Productive capacity of Brazilian cattle with reference to all modern industries derived from it. World statistics, producing and consuming countries. Study of conditions of the consuming world as to quality and quantity; production and overproduction, supply and demand; tastes of the consumer and the causes, whether permanent or temporary. Direct and indirect Federal, State, and municipal assistance in the development of the cattle industry and the improvement of its products.

Thorough and eminently practical courses on all subjects related to cattle and subordinate industries. Formation of a corps of veterinaries, bacteriological inspectors, and necessary experts, to be attached to all establishments exploiting the numerous secondary industries.

Commercial transactions in cattle and products; large and small companies; cooperation. Necessity to create standards according to the requirements of the consumer. Elements that must be taken into consideration in the location of establishments for the manufacture of and commerce in cattle products; application of natural forces in the operation of plants; shipping ports, docks, and railroad stations.

**Refrigeration and Transportation—Experiment Farms.**

Selection of different systems for the complete utilization of all by-products. Means of safeguarding the products for consumption; their preservation in the plants, during transportation, and at the distributing centers. Preservation of the various products by artificial cold, preserving substances, heat, evaporation, etc. Special study of all methods of refrigeration.

Organization of transportation service with a view to speed, comfort of animals, preservation of products, sanitary requirements, and low freight rates. Direct Government supervision over transportation, from both industrial and sanitary points of view.

Study of all cattle diseases, local and imported, their prevention and cure. How to avoid propagation, and the extinction of animals, parasites, and plants injurious to cattle. Improvement of pastures, extension of alfalfa culture, value of agricultural subproducts as food for cattle.

Also the best methods of raising full-bred saddle, army, and truck horses, mules, donkeys, sheep, goats, pigs, and fowls; how to improve the breeds; and a detailed study of all the industries derived from these animals.

Establishment of zootechnic stations and model farms. Practical and economical means of collecting statistics of all the animals of Brazil. Necessity of studying a progressive taxation system to assist the production, consistent with the Government's interests. Legislation. Uniform sanitary inspection of animals in all the States. Prizes to raisers who introduce new processes to improve breeding. Abolition of duties on any imported useful animals for breeding purposes. Genealogical registers. Credits and banking.

**SPANISH SYNDICATE TO PROMOTE NEW ENTERPRISES.**

[Consul General Carl Bailey Hurst, Barcelona, June 19.]

Among the recent new offerings of stock to the Spanish public was that of the Sindicato de Promoción Industrial, capitalized at \$45,000. Its object is to study and found industrial and financial enterprises. Those under immediate consideration by the syndicate are an industrial bank, which shall be a bank of issue for the companies it is proposed to finance; commercial docks at Cartagena, Spain; a zinc factory; an agricultural bank for Fernando Po, Spanish West Africa; and an agricultural bank in Spain.

**RUSSIAN ASBESTOS INDUSTRY.**

[Consul General John H. Snodgrass, Moscow, May 23.]

Asbestos is found in insignificant quantities in the Caucasus and in Siberia, but about 99 per cent of the Russian output is mined in the Ural Mountains. Some of the best asbestos mined in the Urals is produced at mines 60 miles northwest of Ekaterinburg, in a zone of serpentine rocks, which extends about 6 miles and is about 1,400 yards broad. The quality of this asbestos is believed to be as high as that of Canada and Piedmont. The veins are directly broken off either by hand or by a hard hammer. The operation of mining asbestos in the Urals is of a primitive character, but in some cases the production is being made more systematic.

**Ekaterinburg Asbestos Mines and Their Output.**

The most important of the Ekaterinburg asbestos mines are the Voznesensky and Zoe-Anonsky asbestos mines, situated 19 miles from the station of Bazhenof, on the Perm-Tyumen Railway. A third of the asbestos produced in the Urals is obtained here, and all the asbestos produced was dispatched abroad, untreated, through Reval. The Shchougy asbestos mines in the village of Mostovsky produce less than the above mines, all the asbestos produced being worked up in the factory, where sheeting, bands, twine, insertion, thread, etc., are made. The Govorikhinsky asbestos mines lie in a line with the Voznesensky mines and yielded 3,183 tons of asbestos in 1911. Six miles from the Meivo-Shaitansky factory of the Alapievsky Mining Works are the Kirtanovsky asbestos mines, with a sorting factory where 2,000 tons of asbestos can be sorted per annum. Close to these mines are the mines of the Russo-Italian Asbestos Co., the N. V. Mikhanov Co., the "Uralite Co.," etc. The following figures show the output of the Ural (Ekaterinburg) asbestos from 1906 to 1913: 1906, 8,001 short tons; 1907, 8,743 short tons; 1908, 10,694 short tons; 1909, 13,129 short tons; 1910, 10,936 short tons; 1911, 15,872 short tons; 1912, 16,584 short tons; 1913, 16,661 short tons. Practically the whole of the output was exported via Riga.

**Other Mines of the Urals—Asbestos Syndicate.**

North of Ekaterinburg asbestos is found in the Bogolsof mining area, in the Kortiakovsky mines (where the vein is about 2 feet thick), near the Alapievsky works, the Veniansky works, on the River Uktussa, near the Beresovka works, etc. In the southern Urals asbestos deposits are found at the Khristogor and Petropavlovsky ore mines, near the Miask works on the River Krasnacht, in the Gavrilof copper mines (of excellent quality), in the Atliansky gold placer, near the River Imian Yurt (in talcous schist); there are veins of asbestos near the Kisnikaievsky copper mine at the foot of the Naralinsky hills; also amongst the serpentine of the River Kara, near the Kachinsky factory, and along the River Guberle, near the fort of that name. The best mineral is considered to be that of the Asbestovoy Hill, on the River Sissert, and the asbestos deposits of the Shelkovoy Hill, on the land of the Nizhni-Tagil works, between the Shouralinsky and the Teploy Hills. To the south of the Ural range of hills in the Government of Orenburg, there are some exploited

asbestos mines—the Natalievsky in the Upper Ural district, the Issergansky in the Orsk district, and the Kholmisty in the Troitzk district.

The following companies have joined the syndicate of Ural asbestos producers: (1) Voznesensky Asbestos Mines, with an annual output of 3,106 tons; (2) Yakovlev Succs., with an annual output of 1,806 tons; (3) Poklevsky-Kozell Succs., with an annual output of 5,416 tons; (4) Korievo Asbestos Mines, with an annual output of 2,709 tons; (5) Girard de Soukanton, with an annual output of 3,611 tons; (6) Russo-Italian Asbestos Mining Co., with an annual output of 1,806 tons; total, 18,454 tons.

#### Exports of Asbestos.

It is stated that all the companies operating in this district are privately owned and managed. The present transport facilities from the mines are confined to the single-track line of the Perm Railroad, connecting with the Northern Railroad to Petrograd. Asbestos is now on the embargo list, but application for special export licenses may be made to the Department of Customs, Petrograd. Even should such license be granted, the great congestion on all the railroads and in all the parts of Russia makes transportation extremely difficult. Under a recent order of the Russian Government, no goods other than those approved by the Government as being specially imported for military purposes are allowed to enter Russia by any of the White Sea ports. This, of course, reduces the amount of available tonnage, as fewer ships will arrive than formerly.

According to official statistics, the exports of asbestos from Russia for the last seven years were as follows: 1909, 9,160 short tons; 1910, 9,689 short tons; 1911, 13,524 short tons; 1912, 15,547 short tons; 1913, 13,669 short tons; 1914, 8,577 short tons; 1915, 975 short tons. These exports, before the war, went to Germany, Austria, the United Kingdom, Belgium, and the Netherlands.

#### Asbestos in the Caucasus and Siberia.

Asbestos is produced in the Caucasus in an insignificant quantity in the Sharopan district of the Kutais Government at the Vzhinevi-asbestos mines. In the same Government of Kutais asbestos is known to exist far from the deposits already named to the northwest, in the Lechgoumsky district in the Savanetsky police circuit. It is also found in the extreme southeastern corner of the Caucasus, not far from the Persian frontier, 12 miles from the town of Shusha.

In Siberia asbestos is exploited only in the Government of Irkutsk in the Angar district at the Angar asbestos mines. In the Government of Yenissei there are asbestos mines on the left bank of the River Kamuisht, near the Saksar and the Ak-kay Hills, near Bishtak Hill, at a distance of 25 miles from the village of Askeisk, and on the River Karagan, on the boundary of the Mausky and the Serievsky gold placers. In the Tomsk Government it is found in the system of the River Katum, in the Semiriechensk territory, on the northern slope of the Dzhigla Range, in the Dzuban-Arychsky district, and in the Transbaikalian Province, in the serpentine of the Klinchinsky ore mine, near the Shilkinsky factory, and in the neighborhood of the tin mines of the Nerchinsk circuit.

On the Mongol-Dabansky gold placers (now worked out), which belong to the Crown, very rich asbestos and mica mines have been

discovered. The Mongol-Dabansky gold placers are situated on the River Mongol-Daban, which falls into the River Didi, a tributary of the River Oka. The new mines lie 75 miles from the station Zima, on the Transsiberian Railway.

[The names of Russian manufacturers of asbestos goods may be obtained from the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce or its district offices. Refer to file No. 77721.]

## HUNGARIAN PORT TO MEET CHANGES IN COMMERCE.

[Consul Benjamin R. Chase, Fiume, June 26.]

Il Giornale, a local newspaper of Fiume, in the Italian language, publishes an article on "Fiume and the Problem of Central Europe." It discusses especially the importance of the Danube as offering a river route to connect central Europe with the Orient. It expresses the belief that in future developments this river will provide the means of transportation to a very large territory. "By such means," it says, "the importance of the ports of the Black Sea, Bulgarian, and Roumanian will increase, which will strongly influence their traffic, especially since they are situated in countries rich in products for exportation, where every importing boat will easily secure sufficient cargo." In describing the resulting local situation the paper says:

The importance of Fiume, on account of its situation, will be gravely shaken by this change, and its port will offer strong competition, as much to the ports of the German Empire as to those of the Black Sea.

### Unable to Furnish Extensive Cargoes for Exportation.

Our city, which is only connected with the economic center of the mother country by a single-track railway line, and which does not possess a rich background, will not be able to furnish conveniently the cargoes for exportation such as will be required by the rapid development of maritime commerce. Moreover, it is certain that after the conclusion of peace, railway lines will quickly be constructed running toward the Dalmatian ports, which will serve for the central Balkan traffic, and which will also greatly divert a great deal of the commerce from our port. Such objections, however, would be neither reasonable nor patriotic.

Therefore to maintain and increase the importance of our port, there remains nothing further than to urge effectively: (1) The construction of the Danube-Adriatic Canal, long since projected; (2) the construction of a double track on the railway line between Fiume and Budapest.

### Economic Bodies Urged to Take Action.

That which before the war might have been arranged merely by a second railway line now can not be arranged otherwise than with the river connection, which would render cheaper the traffic and be more adaptable for the merchandise in bulk. The commerce of the Danube would become, on the whole, only for transitory traffic, which would award a rather diminutive profit to the national economy of our State. It is therefore desirable that all economic bodies urgently occupy themselves in this question so as to dissipate the crises and dangers in commerce and insure for the future a development for our port.

Imports of dynamite from the United States into Ecuador fell from 140,789 pounds in 1914 to 48,438 pounds in 1915, according to a report forwarded from Guayaquil by Consul General Frederic W. Goding. The United States was practically the only source in both these years.

**UNUSUAL GREEK DEMAND FOR TYPEWRITER SUPPLIES.**

[Consul John E. Kehl, Saloniki, May 26.]

An unusual demand, now existing, creates a good opportunity for the sale of American typewriter ribbons and carbon paper in Saloniki. The small supply of these commodities now on hand is of European origin, and, although of very poor quality, the goods are selling at the following wholesale prices to local dealers: Ribbons, \$5.25 to \$5.75 per dozen, with 3 per cent off for cash; carbon paper, \$1.75 to \$2.50 per box containing 100 sheets.

Under the Greek customs tariff now in force the practice has varied with reference to classifying typewriter ribbons and carbon paper. The local customs director states that ribbons are usually placed under article 287a, "typewriter accessories," paying a duty of 5.80 drachmas per oke (\$0.40 per pound), the weight of box and spool not being counted. Carbon paper has sometimes been classified under article 306 as "colored paper," paying 2.90 drachmas per oke (\$0.20 per pound), not counting the weight of the container. It has more often been classified, however, under an omnibus clause providing that all commodities not specified in the Greek customs tariff shall pay a duty of 20 per cent ad valorem, the market price in Saloniki serving as a standard of value, after deducting 20 per cent of the price. In addition to the import tariff there is a municipal tax of  $1\frac{1}{2}$  per cent ad valorem.

**Terms Recommended to Meet Present Conditions.**

American banks probably would be able to obtain from Saloniki banks information as to the financial standing of local firms. Under normal conditions, terms of sale in the wholesale market are from 2 to 4 months' credit, with a discount of 2 to 5 per cent for cash. In view of present local business conditions and lack of transportation facilities, it is recommended that American firms quote prices cash f. o. b. New York at the pier of the National Navigation Co. of Greece.

[Lists of dealers in typewriters and dealers in stationery in Saloniki, and the name of a possible local agent may be obtained from the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce or its district offices. Refer to file No. 78113. In the list the name of the typewriter handled by each individual dealer is given.]

**COTTON EXPORTS.**

The cotton exported during the week ending July 22, 1916, at the 12 principal customs districts of the United States was as follows:

Districts.	Bales.	Districts.	Bales.	Districts.	Bales.
Georgia .....	31, 139	Philadelphia .....	1, 465	San Francisco .....	4, 032
Massachusetts .....	411	South Carolina .....		Washington .....	11, 864
Maryland .....	4, 708	Virginia .....		Total .....	95, 392
New York .....	25, 420	Galveston .....	5, 710		
North Carolina .....		New Orleans .....	10, 633		

The export of 95,392 bales of cotton during the past week makes the total since August 1, 1915, approximately 5,922,465 bales. Exports of cotton for the corresponding periods of the preceding year were respectively 45,712 bales for the week and 8,441,028 bales in the cotton year.

**CONSTRUCTION WORK.****FRANCE.**

[Consul Kenneth Stuart Patton, La Rochelle, June 28.]

**Improvements for the Port of La Pallice.**

As a result of the increase in the activities of the port of La Pallice and of the installation there of several manufacturing plants requiring large quantities of raw materials, the traffic of the port has so augmented that the quays and docking facilities are now regarded insufficient. Since the outbreak of the war, as many as 20 vessels at a time have been held in the roads awaiting their turn to enter and discharge their cargoes. The tonnage handled in 1915 totaled more than 1,000,000 tons, whereas the normal capacity of the port is only 800,000 tons. Under these circumstances, the Chamber of Commerce at La Rochelle, noting that the enlargement of the port of La Pallice as provided for by the law of April 21, 1914 [see COMMERCE REPORTS for May 12, 1914] can not possibly be completed for a long time, has asked that the inner harbor be lengthened toward the east by 150 meters (166.82 yards). This would permit the establishment of four new docking places. There will be no difficulty in arranging the railway lines so as to serve this addition to the harbor. The expense is estimated at 2,500,000 francs (\$482,500), of which the Chamber of Commerce proposes to assume two-thirds. The Ministry of Public Works considered that this project to increase the facilities of this port so as to be able to handle the increased traffic was of the highest interest inasmuch as this undertaking will in no way interfere with the present activities of the port and he consequently recommended that an inquiry be made as to the public utility of such an undertaking.

The commission named to make this inquiry has reported favorably upon the matter.

**PORTUGAL.**

[Consul General W. L. Lowrie, Lisbon, June 8.]

**Municipal Improvements of Guimaraes.**

A decree of the Portuguese Government, signed June 6, authorizes the municipality of the town of Guimaraes to contract a loan of 400,000 escudos (about \$280,000), which will be employed in municipal improvements, as follows: Installation of an electric railway line between Guimaraes and Braga (10 miles); construction of economical houses; construction of a park about the old castle of Guimaraes and the palace of the Dukes of Bragança; and increasing the water supply of Guimaraes and Visela.

The loan must be made at a maximum of 6 per cent interest. Braga and Guimaraes are about 25 miles northeast of Oporto.

Inquiries with reference to the projected improvements or loan should be addressed to the "Camara Municipal," Guimaraes, Portugal.

**SOUTH AFRICA.**

[Vice Consul Fayette L. Flexer, Port Elizabeth, May 16.]

**Port Elizabeth Drainage Scheme.**

The Port Elizabeth Town Council has decided to commence the construction of the main outfall of the new sewage system, as soon as details can be arranged.



It has been decided to let the work on contract, with the municipality appearing as an active competitor. In order to secure a uniform excellence, all materials, whether for private connections or main works, will be furnished by the municipality at cost.

The portion under consideration will be laid down with salt-glazed pipe as provided for in the original specifications. Owing to the difficulty in securing shipping space from England, the engineer has recommended an investigation of small concrete pipe and the locally made salt-glazed product.

The bond issue of \$1,460,000 to cover this construction has been 80 per cent subscribed. Plans for the remainder of the system will be completed in six months, and it is hoped that operations will be recommenced immediately.

[A previous report on this project was published in *COMMERCE REPORTS* for Nov. 10, 1915.]

[Consul Edwin N. Gunsaulus, Johannesburg, May 22.]

#### **Extension of Rand Water-Supply System.**

Immediate steps are to be taken by the Rand Water Board of Johannesburg, which is charged with the duty of supplying water for Johannesburg and outlying Rand districts, for the completion of a scheme to greatly increase the water supply, a step which has been made necessary by the growing demands and also by the uncertainty of the present supply.

It was decided a few years ago by the Rand Water Board that the most practicable means of obtaining an adequate supply of water was to take it from the Vaal River, at a distance of about 60 miles from Johannesburg, sanction to this scheme having been obtained in 1914. The outbreak of war and the consequent difficulty in the way of financing the venture necessitated an indefinite postponement of the original proposal, but the needs of the situation requiring some immediate steps to be taken, it was recently decided to proceed with the scheme in a modified form. Originally the proposal involved the impounding of 20,000,000 gallons of water in a great barrage, and the provision of a plant capable of daily pumping 10,000,000 gallons to the Rand.

#### **The Modified Scheme—Cost of Project.**

The modified scheme provides for the erection at Lindeques of the barrage as originally designed. The barrage will be composed of 36 gates, each 25 feet high and having a span of 30 feet. It will impound altogether 18,633,000,000 gallons, of which the board will be at liberty to abstract annually 7,300,000,000 gallons, or 20,000,000 gallons per day. The remaining 6,333,000,000 gallons are made up as follows: Evaporation, 3,382,000,000; storage for riparian owners, 1,560,000,000; water in river bed lying below suction of pumps at Vereeniging, 1,391,000,000.

The estimated cost of the whole scheme is £770,843 (\$3,751,308), but this includes pipes to the present value of about \$63,265 now in stock, which, deducted from the first figures, reduces the actual amount of cash required to complete the scheme to approximately \$3,688,043. Of that amount about \$204,393 has already been expended on preliminary surveys, the collection of data, legal and parliamentary expenses, the erection of weirs, and other minor works classified under the head of preliminary expenses. The chief

engineer estimates that the whole scheme can be completed, and water from it brought into service, in three years from the date on which the construction work is actually commenced.

The following is a summary of the estimates prepared by the chief engineer, showing the cost of the scheme under certain main headings, but exclusive of interest on cost during construction:

Barrage, measuring weirs, etc.....	\$1, 124, 400
River pumping station, Vereeniging, including intake.....	43, 798
Main pumping station, Vereeniging.....	291, 990
Quarters for men, Vereeniging.....	29, 199
Sundry station buildings, Vereeniging.....	19, 466
Precipitation tanks, filters, and sterilizing plant.....	267, 657
Service reservoirs and basin.....	194, 660
Laying out ground, boundary walls, etc.....	19, 466
Railway siding, Vereeniging.....	7, 300
Pipe lines.....	1, 085, 775
Extensions and new plant at Zwartkopjes station.....	158, 161
Telephone lines.....	19, 466
Land, wayleaves and legal expenses.....	224, 054
Expenditures for preliminary expenses.....	204, 393

[Previous reports on the Rand's water supply scheme were published in COMMERCE REPORTS for Nov. 4, 1913, and Apr. 14, 1915.]

#### VENEZUELA.

[Consul Homer Brett, La Gualra, June 28.]

#### Additional Water Supply for Caracas.

The Ministry of Public Works publishes an order directing its engineers to proceed with the survey of the south slope of the Avila watershed with a view to impounding the run-off and conducting all or the largest possible amount of it to the tanks which now supply the northern and upper part of the city of Caracas. The work will, in all probability, be done directly by the Department of Public Works.

#### AMERICAN CONSULAR OFFICERS ON LEAVE OF ABSENCE.

The following American consular officers are on leave of absence in the United States and will be glad to confer with business men and commercial organizations relative to conditions in their respective jurisdictions. The consul's time is available primarily for personal interviews. He has limited facilities for correspondence, and except in urgent cases letters should be directed to the consulate.

Name.	Post.	Expiration of venue.	Address.
West, George N.....	Kobe, Japan.....	Aug. 15	Department of State, Washington, D.C.
Cooke, A. B.....	Patras, Greece.....	Aug. 10	121 West Charlotte Street, Norfolk, Va.
Hale, F. D.....	Huddersfield, England.....	Sept. 5	Lunenburg, Vt.
Fisher, Fred D.....	Tientsin, China.....	Aug. 5	Albany, Oreg.
Masterson, William W.....	Durban, Natal, South Africa.....	Sept. 1	Carrollton, Ky.
Seltzer, Harry G.....	Bres au, Germany.....	Aug. 1	Gibraltar, Pa.
Baker, E. Carlton.....	Nagasaki, Japan.....	Aug. 30	Apartment No. 75, The Brunswick, Washington, D. C.
Monaghan, J. C.....	Kingston, Jamaica.....	Sept. 1	Avenue A and Fourteenth Street, Baltimore, N. J.
Jewell, John F.....	Chefoo, China.....	Oct. 1	Department of State, Washington, D.C.
Kemper, Graham H.....	Erfurt, Germany.....	Sept. 10	Do.
Goodier, James H.....	Niagara Falls, Canada.....	Sept. 1	27 South Hawk Street, Albany, N. Y.

### DEMAND FOR ALCOHOL LAMPS IN PHILIPPINES.

American manufacturers who are able to produce an alcohol lamp of simple construction adapted to conditions in the Philippines would find a good market in those islands, according to a report received by the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce from Collector of Internal Revenue James J. Rafferty of the Philippine Islands.

The use of alcohol as an illuminant in the islands has greatly increased since 1909, when the local internal-revenue law was amended by providing for the tax-free removal of denatured alcohol. During the year ended December 31, 1915, 712,829 proof liters of distilled spirits were removed as denatured alcohol for industrial purposes, principally for lighting, which is nearly double the quantity used during the fiscal year 1911 and almost four times as much as was used during the fiscal year 1910. The 1915 figures represent roughly 1,300,000 gauge liters. Considerable impetus has been given to the use of denatured alcohol as an illuminant during the past eight months, when the price of kerosene has largely increased.

There have been many complaints that the alcohol lamps available in the Philippine market, while they give a very satisfactory light, are not simple enough in construction for use in remote provincial towns where, if they get out of order, it is expensive to send them to Manila for repairs. Mr. Rafferty suggests that there may be in the American market alcohol lamps which might better suit conditions in the Philippine Islands. Practically all of those now in use are of European manufacture. It is suggested that it might be advantageous for American manufacturers to look into the market with a view of introducing their lamps.

### CANADA FINDS ADVANTAGES IN GENERAL DELIVERY.

[Consul Fred C. Slater, Sarnia, Ontario, July 18.]

Among merchants in Ontario there has been a growing tendency during recent years to favor the general delivery system in filling orders for their customers. This method of delivering goods seems to have strong advantages, and is particularly applicable to smaller cities and towns. One firm makes deliveries for all the grocers and many other merchants of a town. From two to four trips a day are made, with an additional one on Saturdays and days preceding holidays. In Sarnia the wagons gather up packages and take them to a central building, where they are sorted according to districts and each wagon sent to a particular district. The method employed is similar in principle to the city mail delivery.

#### **In Line with Modern Methods of Eliminating Waste.**

This practice eliminates the expense of maintaining separate horses and wagons for individual merchants. The development is in line with modern methods for the elimination of waste. One merchant stated recently that where the average merchant paid \$20 a week to the general delivery it would cost twice that amount to maintain a separate delivery. Another advantage was that the general delivery was more satisfactory and systematically covered the whole city. So far as known, it has also given satisfaction to the public. It has induced housewives to send in their orders with greater regularity, knowing that they must be given by a certain time to be filled by a certain delivery.

### CONDITIONS IN ORIENTAL-RUG MARKET.

The following information with regard to conditions in the oriental-rug trade was obtained by letter from five large oriental-rug dealers in the United States:

Three firms state that they have been unable to get rugs from Asia Minor or even to communicate with that district. One firm is of the opinion, from what little information it has received, that oriental rugs from this section will be much higher in price after the war, owing to the scarcity of labor and of wool. Wages, it is stated, have multiplied nearly threefold, and wool is very scarce and very high.

At the outbreak of the war Persian rugs declined sharply in price, and the exchange value of the silver kran dropped from \$0.0875 to \$0.07. There has since been a gradual improvement in prices, and the exchange value of the kran has gone up to \$0.11, which makes the goods cost considerably more.

Most of the dyes used in Asia Minor, one dealer states, came from Germany; but Persia uses its own dyes as well as its own wool. Rugs are still being woven in Persia, according to two dealers, but not in the numbers that were customary before the war, for exporting houses, owing to the risks of shipment, are not ready to make the necessary advances in money to the weavers. The markets were well stocked in 1915, but subsequent purchases by American importers and the shortage of new rugs have made present stocks much lower. The diminution, according to one firm, is noted particularly in the very popular small rugs that came from the Hamadan district. This firm adds that the most disturbed carpet center in Persia is the Kirman district, from which no goods have been shipped for some time.

#### Difficulties Regarding Shipment.

The chief obstacle at present in the Persian rug business is the difficulty of shipment, which tends to keep prices lower in Persia. It has been almost impossible to ship goods from Persia by the usual routes through the Persian Gulf or the Black Sea. Shipments through Russia are difficult and subject to delays, if not impossible, as one firm believes. Any rugs received under present conditions will cost more delivered than they did before the war, on account of additional charges for insurance, freight, etc.

One dealer tells of his personal experience in the rug-manufacturing districts as follows:

A little over a year ago, while I was in Persia and Asia Minor, the market was very much depressed. Buyers were scarce and transportation facilities were lacking. I managed, however, to bring my goods within Russian borders and from there to Russian ports. The merchandise that I bought has been on the way for over a year. I understand that at present it is impossible to secure transportation from Persia and Asia Minor through Russian ports. I would not recommend anyone to purchase goods and send them over the route that mine are taking.

Market conditions may differ now from what they were a year ago. Since my return two months ago I have been informed that many American importing houses have sent representatives to Persia, the Russian Caucasus, and the Asia Minor frontier to take up all available goods and store them there. As soon as they reach these interior points a considerable rise in prices may be expected.

There is available a considerable quantity of inferior and undesirable goods, formerly shipped to Europe, but very little of the best quality, such as is pur-

chased by the American market. No manufacturing has been done since the outbreak of the war, owing to lack of labor, material, yarns, dyes, and finance. There are on the way to New York 8,500 to 5,000 bales, which we sold at Basra and various Persian sections.

### WHITE PINE NEEDED FOR NEW ZEALAND BUTTER BOXES.

[Consul General Alfred A. Winslow, Auckland, June 14.]

There is a large demand in New Zealand for white-pine lumber for butter boxes, and the demand seems to be growing every year, with the result that the New Zealand farmer is showing anxiety about the local supply. American interests should investigate the opening for shipments of white pine here. I understand that a limited amount of excellent white pine is grown in New Zealand, but that at the present rate of consumption it will last but a few years longer, and the Government has been asked to prohibit any exports of this lumber, and to see that it is as thoroughly conserved as possible.

Figures showing the amount consumed in the way mentioned are not available, but judging from the hundreds of thousands of cases shipped annually to the United Kingdom, it must be a considerable quantity, and when the local supply is cut off, it is probable that the United States would be the only convenient source.

[A report on New Zealand's increasing demand for lumber was published in COMMERCE REPORTS for Jan. 22, 1916.]

### MACHINERY MARKETS IN PERU, BOLIVIA, AND CHILE.

A report on machinery markets in Peru, Bolivia, and Chile has been issued by the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce. The publication is based upon investigations made in those countries by Special Agent J. A. Massel, of the Bureau, and it reviews, for the benefit of American manufacturers, the general conditions found there as affecting the use and purchase of machinery. It gives, with some fullness, the latest available statistics for the imports of machinery and related classes of manufactured products, discusses the character and methods of the machinery trade, and describes in detail the equipment of the chief plants and establishments in the predominant industry or industries of each market.

Copies of Special Agents Series No. 118, "Markets for Machinery and Machine Tools in Peru, Bolivia, and Chile," may be procured from the superintendent of documents, Government Printing Office, Washington, D. C., or from the district offices of the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, at 10 cents each.

### District Offices of the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce.

New York, Room 409 United States Customhouse; Boston, eighteenth floor United States Customhouse; Chicago, 504 Federal Building; St. Louis, 402 Third National Bank Building; Atlanta, 521 Post Office Building; New Orleans, 1020 Hibernia Bank Building; San Francisco, 307 United States Customhouse; Seattle, 348 Henry Building. Cooperative district offices: Cleveland, Chamber of Commerce; Cincinnati, Chamber of Commerce; Asst. Gen'l Frt. Agt., C. N. O. & T. P. Ry. Co., Cincinnati; Los Angeles, Chamber of Commerce; Detroit, Board of Commerce; Philadelphia, Chamber of Commerce; South American Agent, Southern Ry. Co., Chattanooga, Tenn.

## FOREIGN TRADE OPPORTUNITIES.

Reserved addresses may be obtained from the Bureau and its district offices. Request for each opportunity should be on a separate sheet and state opportunity number. The Bureau does not furnish credit ratings or assume responsibility as to the standing of foreign inquirers; the usual precautions should be taken in all cases.

*Foodstuffs, furniture, automobiles, etc.*, No. 21941.—A commercial agent of the Bureau reports that a business man from Argentina is now in this country for the purpose of obtaining agencies for Chile and Argentina from American manufacturers of foodstuffs, oils, paper, chemicals, furniture, bags and bagging, notions, leather, coal, cement, agricultural machinery, automobiles, structural steel, rails, locomotives, railway cars, and rubber goods. References.

*Sheet copper*, No. 21942.—An American consular officer in Switzerland reports that a manufacturer of household and kitchen utensils, bath stoves, sanitary installations, etc., in his district desires to purchase large quantities of sheet copper. Cable quotations, c. i. f., port of entry, in francs, are desired. Reference.

*Cereals, etc.*, No. 21943.—A man in Spain informs an American consular officer that he desires to be placed in touch with American exporters of cereals and importers of olive oil, chick-peas, etc. Correspondence preferably in Spanish.

*Taximeters*, No. 21944.—A firm in Cuba writes that it desires to purchase taximeters for use on ordinary taxicabs.

*General merchandise*, No. 21945.—A commercial agent of the Bureau reports that a firm having offices in Scandinavian cities and New York City desires to represent, on a commission basis, American manufacturers of general merchandise, with a view to introducing their products in all European countries. References.

*Machinery*, No. 21946.—A man in the United States writes that he has an inquiry from South America for machinery for making tin-foil bottle caps for wine bottles, machinery for making castor oil, and machinery for making cardboard boxes for the druggist's trade.

*Dolls, toys, etc.*, No. 21947.—An American consular officer in Canada writes that he has received inquiries regarding American manufacturers of dolls, toys, play carts, wagons, velocipedes, etc., with a view of purchasing for the Christmas trade. Catalogues and wholesale price lists, f. o. b. New York, Boston, Philadelphia, or place of manufacture, should be sent to the consulate.

*Coal mining machinery*, No. 21948.—A man in England informs an American consular officer that he desires to communicate with American manufacturers of specialties suitable for the large colliery engineering firms in the coal-mining districts of England. Quotations may be c. i. f. destination or f. o. b. port of shipment. References furnished on request.

*Cocoa beans, rubber, etc.*, No. 21949.—A firm in the United States writes that a man in Africa desires to communicate with American importers of cocoa beans, palm oil, palm kernels, rubber, etc.

*Paper*, No. 21950.—An American consular officer in France reports that a firm in his district desires to be placed in touch with American manufacturers of paper for printing, paraffin paper, and sulphurized paper. Correspondence in English.

*Hats and woolen knit goods*, No. 21951.—The commercial attaché of the Department of Commerce in Chile writes that a firm in that country desires to be placed in touch with American manufacturers of hats and woolen knit goods. Correspondence preferably in Spanish.

*Machinery*, No. 21952.—A man in Greece desires to receive immediately catalogues and price lists from American manufacturers of machinery for making tanning extract.

# COMMERCE REPORTS



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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

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1916

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## EXPORTS FROM BIRMINGHAM TO UNITED STATES.

[Consul Samuel M. Taylor, Birmingham, England, July 13.]

A comparison of the value of exports from the Birmingham consular district to the United States for the first six months of 1916, compared with the corresponding period in 1915, shows an increase of \$244,371. The gain was largely in carpets, glass manufactures, fishing tackle, needles, rabbit skins, and golf balls.

The total value of the shipments for the first half of 1916 was \$1,801,771, against \$1,557,400 for the first half of 1915.

## ACTIVITY OF THE SWISS WATCH INDUSTRY.

[Consul Walter H. Schulz, Berne, July 7.]

Surprising activity in the Swiss watch industry is revealed by the country's export returns for the first three months of 1916. Almost every branch of the industry, according to the figures at hand, show good increases. In every instance the 1915 figures are exceeded from 90 to 300 per cent. The trade appears not only to have resumed normal proportions, but promises to establish a new record for the industry, as the following figures show:

Watches.	1914	1915	1916
	Number.	Number.	Number.
Finished movements .....	328,880	250,932	456,938
Cases:			
Nickel .....	645,228	415,283	506,766
Silver .....	71,951	15,125	50,376
Gold .....	28,465	5,876	10,869
Watches:			
Of base metal .....	1,805,370	1,751,980	2,755,640
Silver .....	730,894	450,550	771,312
Gold .....	211,402	73,707	109,450
Chronographs .....	5,594	2,747	4,937
Other watches with movements .....	551,684	51,105	145,349
Finished parts .....	99,607	66,882	80,159

a Pounds.

The Swiss assay office announces that 156,220 gold watches were assayed during the June quarter of 1916, as compared with 59,916 during the same period last year; silver watches, 694,257, as compared with 291,816; and platinum watches, 802, against 170.

**TURKISH AUTHORITIES TAKE CHARGE OF BAKERIES.**

[Secretary to Embassy Hoffman Philip, Constantinople, June 7.]

An Ottoman law provides for the management by the Government and local authorities of flour mills and bakeries; for maximum prices of all food supplies; and for the punishment of all persons who may fail to comply with the regulations established in regard to the distribution of food supplies to the population of cities and towns. An incidental provision is that this law shall be in force only so long as the extraordinary situation caused by the present war shall continue. Among the articles in the law are the following:

Those who persist in hiding foodstuffs and articles of first necessity, or who close their shops or the places where such articles are stored with the idea of not selling them, shall in addition to being punished by imprisonment or fine, have their property seized by the prefecture of the city or by the municipalities and have it sold at auction, the proceeds being turned over to the owner.

Heads of families who show more than the number of persons in their families, and those persons who unknowingly supply mistaken information to the questions asked by the authorities and who do not give notice within three days of any discrepancies entered in the "vessikas," shall be condemned to a fine of from 1 lira to 5 liras.

In case bakers do not use the flour which has been distributed to them for the preparation of bread and sell the same, or in case they use it or mix it in a manner improper for the preparation of bread, they shall be punished by a fine of from 5 liras to 100 liras, or by imprisonment from one month to one year, and in case they repeat the offense they shall be prevented from carrying on their trade.

Those persons who do not follow the regulations which shall be established by the officials charged by the prefecture of the city or by the municipalities with distribution, or those who oppose or ridicule the recommendations of such officials, shall be punished by a fine of from 1 to 10 liras, or by imprisonment of 24 hours to 1 week.

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**SHIPBUILDING PLANT ON THE BRISTOL CHANNEL.**

[Consul Lorin H. Lathrop, Cardiff, Wales, July 6.]

The Bristol Channel has not developed a shipbuilding industry, although many thousands of vessels are annually repaired in the numerous dry docks and pontoons of the Welsh ports. A heavy coal production, a developed steel industry, and cheap waterside sites are conditions that invite shipbuilding; but capital has not been forthcoming because of the difficulties in attracting skilled labor from the Clyde and other shipbuilding districts. A company has now been formed, however, to build ships at the meeting of the waters of the Severn River, the Wye River, and the Bristol Channel. Although its capital is only \$1,460,000, the project is especially interesting for several reasons. It will build standardized ships, thus insuring economy of construction and rapid production. It will endeavor to train a special class of labor.

It will almost certainly be followed by other shipbuilding plants in the future, and may be regarded as the beginning of an important Bristol Channel industry. In full operation, the Standard Shipbuilding and Engineering Co., whose secretary is Mr. John Paterson, 112 Fenchurch Street, London, E. C., expects to employ 2,000 workmen, and to turn out steel freight steamers of a minimum dead-weight capacity of 5,000 tons. Foundation work will begin immediately, and a dozen building slips will ultimately be laid down. The time of construction is estimated at three years.



**USE OF LIME AND FERTILIZERS IN NEW ZEALAND.**

[Consul General Alfred A. Winslow, Auckland, June 20.]

The agricultural interests of New Zealand, backed by the New Zealand Government, are devoting much attention to the study of the treatment of various soils in order to get the best possible results. The soils of New Zealand vary materially in different parts of the country. Some lack sufficient quantities of lime, containing too much acid, and must be treated before some of the more attractive crops can be grown. For liming the soil large limestone-grinding plants are located in many sections. The soils demanding it are treated by spreading from 500 pounds to 4 tons per acre, according to the quality of the soil. This is done by machinery with excellent results.

**Fertilizers of Various Sorts Extensively Used.**

Fertilizers also are extensively used, the imports for the year ended March 31, 1916, amounting to 134,002 tons, against 130,599 tons for the year ended March 31, 1915. Imports of fertilizers of various sorts during these two years, from the chief sources of supply, in tons of 2,240 pounds, were: Bone dust, 9,424 in 1915 and 11,688 in the year ended March 31, 1916; superphosphates, 50,743 and 58,088; rock phosphate, 23,934 and 51,510; basic slag, 29,165 and 10,279; nitrate of soda, 33 and 50; iron sulphate, 21 and 155.

Lime is classified under New Zealand tariff Item No. 271 and enters free of duty from all countries, excepting a war tax of 1 per cent ad valorem. Fertilizers are classified under Item No. 462 and also enter free from all countries, with the exception of the special 1 per cent war tax.

[A list of dealers in fertilizers in New Zealand may be obtained from the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce or its district offices. Refer to file No. 78549.]

**SHIPPING AT LIVERPOOL.**

[Consul Horace Lee Washington, Liverpool, England, July 11.]

Comparative statistics, showing the number and tonnage of vessels that have paid rates to the Mersey Docks and Harbor Board, together with the amount of rates and dues received on vessels and goods for the past two years, are now available. From these it appears that the number of vessels paying tonnage and harbor rates for the year ended June 30, 1916, was 18,742 as against 22,562 in the previous year, a decrease of 3,820. The total tonnage of these vessels in 1916 was 15,679,943, as compared with 18,980,913, a decrease of 3,300,970 tons. These figures represent the total net register tonnage of vessels paying rates to the board inward or outward, as the case may be. To arrive at the total tonnage that entered and the total tonnage that left the River Mersey, it is necessary to double the figures. The approximate total tonnage inward and outward for the year just ended would, therefore, be 31,359,886 tons. The aggregate rates and dues received on vessels and goods are given as \$7,245,137 for the year just ended, as against \$8,196,252 for the previous year, showing a decrease of \$951,115.

**INCREASE IN RUSSIAN IMPORTS FROM UNITED STATES.**

[Compiled in the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, from Russian official statistics.]

Imports into European Russia from the United States amounted to \$28,000,000 during the first three months of 1916, as against \$902,000 in the corresponding period of 1915. The following table shows the principal articles imported into European Russia from the United States during the two periods mentioned:

Articles.	Jan. 1- Apr. 1, 1915.	Jan. 1- Apr. 1, 1916.	Articles.	Jan. 1- Apr. 1, 1915.	Jan. 1- Apr. 1, 1916.
Hides and skins, dressed..	\$26,000	\$1,174,000	Various metal manufac- tures.....	\$500	\$812,000
Nitrate of soda.....		1,443,000	Machinery of iron and steel.....	138,000	680,000
Copper.....	18,000	5,329,000	Automobiles.....	33,000	1,153,000
Nickel.....		515,000	Motor trucks and auto- mobile chassis.....		2,958,000
Lead.....	500	1,204,000	Raw cotton.....	378,000	1,854,000
Zinc.....	4,000	1,074,000	All other articles.....	302,000	4,091,000
Iron and steel manufac- tures.....	1,000	882,000	Total.....	902,000	28,078,000
Iron and steel wire.....		1,121,000			
Wire manufactures.....	1,000	3,788,000			

Exports to the United States from European Russia in the first quarter of 1916 were valued at \$146,000, of which \$141,000 worth were bristles. There were no exports from European Russia to the United States in the corresponding period of 1915.

During the first two months of 1916 the total import trade at Vladivostok amounted to \$55,169,000, as against \$10,636,000 in the first two months of 1915 and \$1,627,000 in the first two months of 1914. Exports were valued at \$1,633,000 in the 1916 period, \$261,000 in the 1915 period, and \$84,000 in the 1914 period. In the import trade at Vladivostok for the first two months of 1916 the share of the United States was about 50 per cent. The principal articles imported from the United States, and their value, were as follows:

Articles.	Jan. 1 to Mar. 1, 1916.	Articles.	Jan. 1 to Mar. 1, 1916.
Steel in bars, rails, etc .....	\$3,539,000	Freight cars and tank cars.....	\$3,069,000
Copper .....	3,571,000	Raw cotton .....	4,761,000
Iron and steel manufactures .....	3,308,000	Woolen textiles .....	2,060,000
Barbed wire and wire nails .....	531,000	All other articles .....	2,434,000
Machines of iron and steel.....	790,000	Total.....	27,485,000
Railroad trucks.....	3,422,000		

**CHINESE TRADE SCHOOL TO HAVE PAPER PLANT.**

American machinery manufacturers may be able to obtain orders for paper-making equipment, as a result of a visit to this country by the director of the industrial department of the Chinese Y. M. C. A. at Chengtu, West China. This institution proposes to teach paper making to the natives in the large trade school and it is planning to put in a complete plant large enough to produce paper for the use of the school and give practical instruction on the subject to the pupils.

The director of the industrial department on his visit to this country inspected the paper laboratory of the United States Bureau of Standards, and the bureau has, in turn, been interested in bringing the opportunity presented to the attention of American machinery manufacturers.

**THE COAL SITUATION IN SPAIN.**

[Consul General Carl Bailey Hurst, Barcelona, June 20.]

In order to facilitate the distribution of coal throughout Spain, a royal decree was published on June 17 authorizing the presentation to the Cortes of a bill by which coal will be included in the materials referred to in the law of February 18, which empowers the Government, whenever exceptional circumstances render such a course necessary in the interest of the national food supply or the maintenance of industries or agriculture, to adopt measures for the adequate provisioning of the country. The Government is now putting into practice all means practicable to obtain the rapid development of Spanish coal mines. The project to construct secondary railroads is hoped to help in bringing to the mines new transport facilities. Other plans are under consideration for the intensification of mining, which will require some time to put into execution, while the proposed law is directed to the needs of the moment, particularly in creating a national board to cooperate in providing necessary supplies of coal.

**Suppress Premiums on Coal.**

Another royal decree, also published on June 17, authorizes the presentation to the Spanish Parliament of a bill to suppress premiums on coal. By a law of June 14, 1909, a premium of 30 centimos (\$0.054) a ton was allowed for maritime shipments of domestic coal for export or coastwise distribution. This was done to encourage mining then suffering from competition with foreign coal. When the law was enacted in 1909 coal cost \$3.96 to \$4.32 a metric ton of 2,204.6 pounds, whereas now the price is two to three times higher, in fact sufficiently remunerative for the State to withdraw its assistance. The amount distributed by the Government in premium annually was about \$65,000 up to 1915, in which year it increased to \$70,567.

**AMERICAN CONSULAR OFFICERS ON LEAVE OF ABSENCE.**

The following American consular officers are on leave of absence in the United States and will be glad to confer with business men and commercial organizations relative to conditions in their respective jurisdictions. The consul's time is available primarily for personal interviews. He has limited facilities for correspondence, and except in urgent cases letters should be directed to the consulate.

Name.	Post.	Expiration of venue.	Address.
West, George N. ....	Kobe, Japan. ....	Aug. 15	Department of State, Washington, D.C.
Cooke, A. B. ....	Patras, Greece. ....	Aug. 10	121 West Charlotte Street, Norfolk, Va.
Hale, F. D. ....	Huddersfield, England	Sept. 5	Lunenburg, Vt.
Fisher, Fred D. ....	Tientsin, China. ....	Aug. 5	Albany, Oreg.
Masterson, William W. ....	Durban, Natal, South Africa.	Sept. 1	Carrollton, Ky.
Seltzer, Harry G. ....	Breslau, Germany. ....	Aug. 1	Gibraltar, Pa.
Baker, E. Carlton. ....	Nagasaki, Japan. ....	Aug. 30	Apartment No. 75, The Brunswick, Washington, D.C.
Monaghan, J. C. ....	Kington, Jamaica. ....	Sept. 1	Avenue A and Fourteenth Street, Bayonne, N. J.
Jewell, John F. ....	Chefoo, China. ....	Oct. 1	Department of State, Washington, D.C.
Kemper, Graham H. ....	Erfurt, Germany. ....	Sept. 10	Do.
Goodler, James H. ....	Niagara Falls, Canada.	Sept. 1	27 South Hawk Street, Albany, N. Y.
Hazeltine, Ross. ....	Port Antonio, Jamaica	Oct. 1	Department of State, Washington, D.C.

**RAILROAD CONSTRUCTION IN ARGENTINA.**

[Consul William Dawson, jr., Rosario, June 9.]

The Administration of State Railways is at present engaged in the construction of six lines in this district. According to a recent report, the situation of these lines was as follows on April 1, 1916:

The branch from Pichanal to Oran, Province of Salta, will have a total length of 17.4 miles. (It should be noted that sections of this as well as some of the other lines named below have already been provisionally opened to traffic.) The roadbed has been completed and the track laid for the entire line. Lifting is also practically completed. The telegraph line is ready. Of 60 bridges and culverts with a clear span of less than 10 meters (32.8 feet), 36 have been finished. A bridge with 6 spans of 50 meters (164 feet) each is being built over the Colorado River. Excavating for the foundations of two abutments and a pillar has been completed.

**Branch from Naré to San Javier—Catamarca to Tucuman.**

The branch line from Naré to San Javier, Province of Santa Fe, will be 45 miles in length. The roadbed has been completed and entirely fenced in. Forty-one miles have been boxed in and ballasted. A two-wire telegraph line has been completed, as well as 28 out of 58 culverts and bridges with a clear span of less than 10 meters (32.8 feet).

The line from Catamarca to Tucuman will have a total length of 115 miles. Thus far the construction of only 7.5 miles has been authorized. The roadbed, track, fencing, and telegraph have been completed on this section. Of 13 culverts and bridges with a clear span of less than 10 meters, 10 have been built.

A bridge with three spans of 50 meters each is being constructed over the River del Valle. The pillars and abutments are ready and the girders are being prepared.

**Branch from Talapampa to Alemania.**

The branch line from Talapampa to Alemania, Province of Salta, will be 6.8 miles long. The roadbed has been completed and the track laid. The telegraph line is also ready and 5.6 miles of road have been fenced in. The ballasting of 6.2 miles has been completed. Plans call for 61 culverts and bridges with a clear span of less than 10 meters, of which 40 have been finished. Seven works with a span of over 10 meters are under construction. These include a bridge with a span of 30 meters (98.4 feet) over the Ayuco River, another with three spans of 50 meters (164 feet) each over the Guachipas River, and a third with a span of 30 meters over an arm of the Alemania River. Work on a bridge with three spans of 50 meters each over the Alemania River itself has not yet been commenced.

**Branch from Metan to the East—Milagro to Quines.**

The branch from Metan (Province of Salta) to the East will have a total length of 150 miles, of which 37.3 miles are being built at present. The roadbed is ready up to 28.6 miles and 12.4 miles of track have been laid. A little less than 2 miles of track have been lifted and boxed in. Fencing has been completed for 11.2 miles and the telegraph line for 21.7 miles. Forty-one culverts and bridges with a clear span of less than 10 meters have been finished.

This branch, when completed, will meet the line running westward through the Chaco from Resistencia.

The branch from Milagro (La Rioja) to Quines (San Luis) will have a total length of 85.6 miles, divided into two sections of 31 miles and 54.6 miles, respectively. Plans for the first section have been approved, and nearly 4 miles of roadbed have been completed. As soon as the remaining plans are approved work will be commenced on the second section.

### RAILWAY NOTES FOR NORTHERN ARGENTINA.

[Consul William Dawson, jr., Rosario, June 6.]

The Government has approved the budget of the Central Norte and Argentino del Norte (State) lines for 1916. The estimates provide for a total expenditure of \$6,767,818, of which \$4,562,955 is for salaries and \$2,204,863 for general expenses. The estimates represent an economy of \$634,284 as compared with those for 1915.

By a decree of May 20, 1916, the Argentine Government has declared forfeited the uncompleted section of the concession granted to the Argentine Northeastern Railway Co. for a branch line giving access to Concepcion del Uruguay, Entre Rios.

By a decree of May 20, 1916, the National Government has approved the plans for a new railway station to be erected at Concepcion del Uruguay by the Argentine Northeastern Railway Co.

By a decree of May 26, 1916, the National Government has approved the agreement by which the Entre Rios Railways Co. will operate under a three years' lease the section of the Diamante-Curuzú Cuatia (State in part) line from Puerto Diamante to Kilometer 4. The section covered by this decree had not been included in a previous working agreement on account of the necessity of making certain repairs.

### RUSSIAN COMMERCIAL HIGH SCHOOL IN MONGOLIA.

[Vice Consul Felix Cole, Petrograd, June 27.]

A Russian commercial high school, under the direction of the Ministry of Trade and Industry, has just been founded at Urga, the capital of Mongolia, which city will soon be connected with the Transsiberian Railroad by a branch line from Verkhne to Udinsk in the Transbaikal Territory. The following subjects will be taught: Orthodox religion, Russian language and literature, history, geography, arithmetic, algebra, geometry, trigonometry, analytical geometry, cosmography, natural history, physics, commercial arithmetic, bookkeeping, commercial correspondence in Russian and foreign languages, political economy, Russian commercial and industrial law, chemistry, analysis and classification of goods and samples, and the Mongolian, English, and French languages.

The school is large enough to accommodate 320 students. It is open to boys only, and the attendance of Mongolians is specially encouraged. The entrance age is fixed at 10 to 12 years. Graduates receive the usual honorary titles and the rights in regard to entering the Imperial services that are allowed graduates of other commercial institutions.

**SEEDING MACHINERY IN ARGENTINA.**

[Special Agent Frank H. Von Motz.]

About 1906 an extensive campaign for the sale of grain drills was inaugurated by the large importing houses in Buenos Aires. This lead was followed by houses of lesser importance in Buenos Aires and also by houses in Rosario. The farmers had been accustomed to sow their crops with broadcast sowers or by hand and were slow to adopt the grain drill. However, after a few drills had been sold in each important agricultural district and the attention of the farmers had been attracted to the neatness of the work, the general evenness of the resulting stand, and the fact that the seeds were sown to an uniform depth and immediately covered so that the birds could not eat them, a demand for various kinds of drills arose, which increased by leaps and bounds until 1912. In some years more than 5,000 drills were sold, 90 per cent of them coming from the United States and the remainder from Canada.

The unsettled conditions that have prevailed since 1912 in many parts of the country, the partial crop failures in some districts for two or three successive years, and the return of much land to pasture as the result of crop failures have all had an adverse effect on the sale of grain drills, and orders to American manufacturers have become smaller and smaller. The amalgamation of a number of independent American factories and the sale of others to large manufacturing interests have also affected the trade. Now, however, the large stocks that have been carried over by some firms have been greatly reduced, and it is the concensus of opinion that the stocks on hand will be entirely exhausted during the present season.

**Kind of Drills Used.**

The majority of the drills sold in this market are equipped with a well-trussed square pipe frame. There is a tendency to make the machines lighter, and it has been stated that several manufacturers will design new angle-iron frames to take the place of those now used. Double-run feed is preferred in nearly all districts, but many fluted force-feed drills have been sold and will continue to be sold in the southern and southwestern districts of the country. The most popular opener is the single-disk type, and much attention has been given to the construction of sand and dust-proof disk bearings.

Shoe drills are popular in two sizes only—17 and 22 furrows. Hoe drills and double-disk drills are not popular. Drills are used only for sowing small grains, and therefore do not have to be constructed to handle corn, beans, or other large seeds. Wide-tire wooden wheels with large hubs and hard-oil grease cups are in general demand. Simple change-speed gear drives are essential to the success of a drill, and the parts must be combined in such a manner that they will not wear quickly or be easily broken. The construction of a very simple, thoroughly efficient, change-speed gear is, next to a no-sag frame, the point requiring the greatest attention in designing a drill for this country.

The grain hopper should be so constructed that it can be used for sowing alfalfa by the simple addition of the proper size cups inserted into one-half of the stationary seed cup, the other half being closed

with a gate. Auxiliary hoppers for sowing alfalfa at the same time that the grain is sown should also be furnished when requested. Many tenants rent a tract of land for growing small grain for a period of five years, with the understanding that at the expiration of that time they will return the land to the owner sown to alfalfa. Therefore, in the fifth season they want to sow the principal grain and the alfalfa seed at the same time.

#### Equipment of Drills—Broadcast Sowers.

The usual equipment consists of eveners of the proper size, spiral ribbon grain tubes, and covering chains. Both 6 and 7 inch feeds are used, but the former is preferred. The large importers generally confine their purchases to one or the other of these sizes to simplify repair stocks. Each drill should be supplied with a comfortable seat. The drills in demand, in addition to the shoe drills mentioned, are 14, 17, 20, 22, and 24 furrow single-disk drills. There is no market for one-horse or fertilizer drills, and only an occasional call for gang press wheel attachments.

There is an annual demand for about 1,500 broadcast sowers in this country, the wide-track 14-foot force-feed sower with steel wheels being the most popular style. An auxiliary grass seeder for sowing alfalfa is much in demand. A two-horse evener is regularly supplied with all sowers. The markings on land measures and feed gauges for grain drills must be in metric units.

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#### ADDITIONS TO STEAMBOAT-INSPECTION SERVICE.

The following additions were made in the inspection force in the Steamboat-Inspection Service on July 1, 1916: At Buffalo, N. Y., Iver Rolseng and John A. Connelly, assistant inspectors of hulls, and John W. Mark and William T. Smith, assistant inspectors of boilers; at Chicago, Ill., Peter Larson, assistant inspector of hulls, and Walter Greenwood, assistant inspector of boilers; at Cleveland, Ohio, William H. Stern and Frank J. McCarty, assistant inspectors of hulls, and Albert C. Brockner and Everett D. Butler, assistant inspectors of boilers; at Detroit, Mich., John H. McDonald, assistant inspector of hulls, and William H. Dungan, assistant inspector of boilers; and at Grand Haven, Mich., Dennis T. Sullivan, assistant inspector of hulls, and Abraham Auld, assistant inspector of boilers. This makes a total addition to the force of assistant inspectors on the Great Lakes of 14.

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#### Foreign-Built Ship Admitted to American Registry.

The steam screw vessel *Clinchdale*, formerly the Mexican steamship *Puebla*, has been admitted to American registry under the act of August 18, 1914. It has been awarded the signal letters LGDR and the official number 214273. It was built at Sandefjord, Norway, in 1902, and has a tonnage of 1,430 gross and 969 net. Its home port will be New York. The total number of foreign-built vessels admitted to American registry under the act of August 18, 1914, is 187 of 623,717 gross tons, and the number admitted since June 30, 1916, is 3 of 1,646 gross tons.

**FOREIGN TRADE OF THE UNITED STATES.**

The estimate of 6½ billion dollars as the value of American foreign trade in the fiscal year which ended June 30, 1916, recently announced by the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, Department of Commerce, is confirmed by complete returns which have just been tabulated by that office.

The year's exports aggregated 4,334 million dollars, exceeding by more than 1½ billion the huge total for 1915 and by more than 2 billion dollars the annual average from 1911 to 1914. June alone gave a total of 465 million dollars, being slightly less than the record total of 475 million for May, but practically 200 million more than in June last year.

The year's imports amounted in value to 2,198 million dollars, exceeding by 524 million the 1915 total and by 476 million the annual average from 1911 to 1914. June imports totaled 246 million, the largest figure ever shown by a single month. It was 17 million dollars larger than that for May and 88 million larger than that for June last year.

The year's export balance reached the unequaled total of 2,136 million dollars, being practically double that for 1915 and more than four times that of 1914, which were 1,094 million and 471 million dollars, respectively. The month of June contributed 219 million dollars to the favorable trade balance of the year, which compares with an export balance of 111 million in June, 1915, and less than a half million dollars' import balance in June, 1914.

Of the year's imports 68 per cent entered free of duty, compared with approximately 62 per cent in 1915. Of the June imports 62.6 per cent were free of duty, as against 62.9 per cent in June, 1915.

The net inward gold movement amounted to 114 million dollars for June and 404 million for the year ending with June. The preceding fiscal year showed a net gold import of 25 million, while 1914 showed a net gold export of 45 million dollars. The year's imports of gold amounted to 494 million dollars, compared with 172 million in 1915 and 67 million in 1914; the year's exports of gold, 90 million dollars, as against 146 million in 1915 and 112 million in 1914. Gold imports averaged 58 million dollars per month for the period from August to December, 1915, averaged less than 13 million per month for the period from January to May, 1916, but in June rose to 123 million dollars. June exports of gold amounted to 8½ million dollars, or about 3 million less than the monthly average since December, 1915.

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**Trade Results of Agency Connections.**

Consul General George H. Murphy, at Cape Town, South Africa, is in receipt of a letter from a firm in that city stating that as a result of agency connections made with American houses following the publication of a notice in *COMMERCE REPORTS* in 1914, the agency's sales of American goods amounted to over \$150,000 in one year. The principal articles were boots and shoes, underclothing, wearing apparel, dry goods, pianos, electrical appliances, shovels, and hardware.



**NOTES FROM WINNIPEG.**

[Consul General Frederick M. Ryder, Winnipeg, Canada, July 11.]

**Government Grain Elevator for Winnipeg—Mining Exchange.**

It is the intention of the Government railway department to erect a modern grain elevator in Transcona, a suburb of Winnipeg, this summer in connection with the recently opened line between Winnipeg and Moncton, New Brunswick (the eastern portion of the Grand Trunk Pacific Transcontinental lines), which was recently taken over by the Government. The cost of erection will be about \$500,000.

Manitoba mining exchange was opened in Winnipeg July 1. Heretofore mining stock operations have been transacted on the Montreal and Toronto exchanges. The facilities include a leased wire to Toronto and Montreal for the accommodation of dealers in eastern stocks.

**Manitoba Government Telephones—Motion-Picture League.**

Net earnings of the Manitoba telephone system for the first half of the fiscal year ended May 31 totaled \$242,155, or the equivalent of practically 5 per cent per annum on the Government investment of \$10,761,025. The total revenue for May was \$151,599 and expenses \$112,015, leaving the net for the month at \$39,584.

An organization known as the Motion Picture Exhibitors' League is in process of formation. It will take in every theater manager in Manitoba, Saskatchewan, and Alberta, the head office being located in Winnipeg.

The association is formed for the purpose of securing certain rights from municipalities and the provincial governments which the theater proprietors consider they are entitled to. An effort will be made to have a representative of the organization on the board of censors, and also to seek a reduction in excessive taxes and licenses.

**Canadian Subsidiary of Standard Oil Co.**

The phenomenal expansion of the Imperial Oil Co. has progressed without attracting a great deal of public attention. The original capital was \$1,000,000, which was increased later to \$6,000,000; about three years ago the capital was increased to \$15,000,000, and last year the company's authorized capital was increased to \$50,000,000; the amount outstanding at present is \$22,000,000. Last December a stock dividend of 100 per cent was declared, the dividend rate now being 12 per cent and the stock quoted at 212 per cent.

The company has nearly 600 "marketing stations" and owns tank ships, barges, and 100 tank cars, with two up-to-date refineries and a third in course of construction at Halifax. During the last two years about \$1,000,000 has been expended in completing its Vancouver plant.

**Surgical Dressings and Instruments—Wool Crop.**

Winnipeg has been selected by a representative of a British concern as the location of a branch manufactory of surgical dressings and instruments which will give employment to about 600 workers.

The provincial minister of agriculture says that the wool crop is practically harvested and expects the Dominion officials to grade and sell the product, realizing an average of about 30 cents per pound.

**RATTAN TRADE OF CANTON.**

[Vice Consul P. R. Josselyn, Canton, China, May 26; see also **COMMERCE REPORTS** for May 12, 1915.]

According to the best information obtainable, there is no rattan grown in the Canton section of southern China. The rattan used here is imported to a large extent from Singapore, but whether it is grown in the district surrounding Singapore or is imported from other districts I am unable to state definitely. I am informed, however, that a certain quantity of rattan—or “bejuco,” as it is known in the Philippines—is shipped from the Philippines to Hongkong through Singapore by Chinese dealers.

The importation of rattan into Canton and Kowloon during the four years 1912–1915, was as follows:

Year.	Canton.		Kowloon.	
	Pounds.	Value.	Pounds.	Value.
1912.....	5,236,066	\$142,467	742,433	\$21,959
1913.....	6,234,833	163,380	1,624,833	43,827
1914.....	5,279,206	141,383	2,022,466	47,125
1915.....	7,906,400	247,687	(*)	(*)

\* No returns.

**Preparation and Uses.**

Upon its arrival here, the rattan is peeled, split, and cored. This work is all done by the Chinese in the villages in the vicinity of Canton. The peeling is done by hand with a sharp knife, and the coring is accomplished by running the rattan, after being peeled, through a perforated steel plate which rounds it to the size desired.

The rattan shavings (the small fibers coming out of the perforated steel plate through which the rattan is passed) are sold to the Chinese, who use them extensively for scrubbing floors and cleaning windows, as well as for stuffing mattresses and chairs. The rattan peel is much employed locally by the Chinese as a substitute for rope. It is used to bind boxes, cases, and packages of all sorts, also as a means of binding together the bamboos used in scaffolding. The better grade is used also in the manufacture of chairs, stools, and furniture of all kinds.

Rattan core, or China reed, as it is called, is not used to any great extent by the Chinese, but is exported abroad in considerable quantities. This core for the American market is sorted on the American gauge size; the most common sizes are Nos. 4, 4½, 5, 5½, 6, 6½, and 7.

**Prices and Exports.**

The present prices of rattan core per 100 pounds are: Common, \$11.25 to \$11.70 gold; selected, \$20.70; split, \$24.85. The price has risen enormously since the outbreak of the European war. In July, 1914, rattan core sold at about \$0.07 gold per pound, c. i. f. New York, while a year later the price had risen to \$0.18 gold per pound.

According to the returns of the Chinese Maritime Customs, there were exported from Canton in 1914 383,866 pounds of rattan core, pith, pulp, and skin, valued at \$25,676; in 1915, 424,533 pounds, value, \$21,765. In 1914 there was also \$7,065 worth of rattan ware shipped from Canton, but this item does not appear separately in the

1915 returns. However, much of the rattan sold here goes by junk, hence is not entered in the customs records as exported from Canton. The invoices certified at the Canton consulate general show that in 1914 1,275 bales (weighing 110 pounds each) of China reeds, valued at \$20,191, were shipped from this district to the United States; in 1915, 11,235 bales, valued at \$117,405.

### AMERICAN BRIDGES FOR CHINA.

[Far Eastern Review.]

Several new bridges have been erected recently in Shanghai and its immediate neighborhood, four being for the Shanghai-Hangchow-Ningpo Railway, Junction Line, including a 145-foot span across the Soochow Creek at Jessfield. Another of quite a new type to China is an American-design highway bridge which spans the same creek in the Chapei district on the Stone Bridge Road.

Less than a year ago the Shanghai-Hangchow-Ningpo Railway, Junction Line, placed an order with the United States Steel Products Co. for four bridges to be made in the shops of their constituent company, the American Bridge Co., at Ambridge, Pa. The completion of these bridges on schedule time, notwithstanding difficulties brought about by the war, has been most gratifying, for they were made in America, shipped to China, and erected within 11 months after the order was cabled to America. The accuracy with which all the parts of these bridges fitted when assembled in the field has been another source of gratification.

#### Provisions for Heavy Future Traffic.

In anticipation of heavy traffic in the future, which may demand a double track, provision has been made for carrying the second track by making one girder in each bridge heavier and stronger than the other. English practice rather than American practice has been followed in regard to the height of the truss, which is comparatively low, and the panel length, which is somewhat shorter than customary in America.

The new type of bridge erected across Soochow Creek connects Stone Bridge Road with Chapei. This is a typical American highway bridge, a substantial rigid steel structure, but having light graceful lines. The length is 200 feet 3 inches.

This bridge was purchased under an order from the Chapei (Chinese) Municipal Council, and was manufactured by one of the constituent companies of the United States Steel Products Co. of New York and Shanghai. The ease and rapidity with which it was erected speaks well not only for the skill of the Chinese erectors, but also for the type of the structure and the manufacturer's work. It was not assembled prior to shipment, but the accuracy with which all the parts came together when assembled in the field was all that could be desired. It is, therefore, a good example tending to illustrate that American bridge-shop methods insure accuracy of fit in the field, even though the bridges are not completely shop erected.

An American firm has rented a factory building in London, Ontario, as a Canadian branch establishment. The company, which manufactures silk and chamoisette gloves and lisle thread, will next year build a factory at London at an estimated cost of \$25,000.

### WHEAT HARVEST OF NEW SOUTH WALES.

[Consul General J. I. Brittain, Sydney, New South Wales, Australia, June 15.]

The compilation of the returns of the actual results of the 1915-16 wheat harvest of New South Wales is almost completed. While estimates have been included for several districts, the returns for which are not yet in, it is expected that the particulars now given, which were made public recently by the Government statistician, will not be affected materially in the final revision.

Notwithstanding the unfavorable results of the harvest in the previous season, the farmers sowed with wheat an area of 4,190,800 acres, against 2,758,025 acres in 1914-15 and 3,205,400 acres in 1913-14. The grain production for the season is placed at 67,323,400 bushels, contrasted with 12,830,530 bushels in 1914-15 and 38,020,380 bushels in 1913-14; or an average yield of 16 bushels per acre, against 4.7 bushels and 11.9 bushels, respectively, in the two preceding years. Allowing 15,330,000 bushels for local consumption and seed requirements, there will be available nearly 52,000,000 bushels for export either as wheat or its equivalent in flour.

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### TO ESTABLISH LIGHT AT ENTRANCE TO ST. CROIX RIVER.

Several wrecks which have occurred in the vicinity of Dog Island, at the entrance to St. Croix River, Me., emphasized the danger to navigation existing there, and the Lighthouse Service of the United States Department of Commerce will acquire a site and establish a light for the better guidance of shipping in that vicinity.

As COMMERCE REPORTS has already published, the Sundry Civil Act approved July 1, 1916, appropriated \$3,500 for establishing a light at or near Dog Island. The mean rise and fall of the tide at that point is about 18 feet. About 125,000 tons of freight are carried annually by this locality, in addition to frequent passenger service daily. The light will have acetylene gas as an illuminant, with a colored sector, on an ironwork structure. Instructions have been given by the Lighthouse Service that the work be proceeded with as promptly as possible.

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### Members of Agricultural Society of Chile.

A list of the names and addresses of members of the Agricultural Society of Chile has been forwarded from Santiago by Commercial Attaché V. L. Havens. It is believed that it will be of special interest to manufacturers of agricultural machinery and publishers of farm periodicals. The list may be inspected at the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce. Refer to file No. 1641.

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### District Offices of the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce.

New York, Room 409 United States Customhouse; Boston, eighteenth floor United States Customhouse; Chicago, 504 Federal Building; St. Louis, 402 Third National Bank Building; Atlanta, 521 Post Office Building; New Orleans, 1090 Hibernia Bank Building; San Francisco, 307 United States Customhouse; Seattle, 848 Henry Building. Cooperative district offices: Cleveland, Chamber of Commerce; Cincinnati, Chamber of Commerce; Asst. Gen'l Frt. Agt., C. N. O. & T. P. Ry. Co., Cincinnati; Los Angeles, Chamber of Commerce; Detroit, Board of Commerce; Philadelphia, Chamber of Commerce; South American Agent, Southern Ry. Co., Chattanooga, Tenn.

## FOREIGN TRADE OPPORTUNITIES.

Reserved addresses may be obtained from the Bureau and its district offices. Request for each opportunity should be on a separate sheet and state opportunity number. The Bureau does not furnish credit ratings or assume responsibility as to the standing of foreign inquirers; the usual precautions should be taken in all cases.

*Automobiles, tires, plumbing supplies, etc.*, No. 21953.—A commercial agent of the Bureau reports that a business man from Denmark is now in this country for the purpose of establishing commercial relations with American manufacturers of plumbing supplies, rubber ties, automobiles, auto trucks, motorcycles, electrical apparatus, electrical novelties, typewriters, office supplies, druggists' supplies, and general merchandise. References.

*Wall calendars*, No. 21954.—An American consular officer in Honduras reports that the commercial department of a local bank desires to be placed in touch with American manufacturers of wall calendars of the cheaper grades. Samples and price lists, with and without printing, are desired.

*Textiles, yarn, colors, etc.*, No. 21955.—A man in Argentina informs an American consular officer that he desires to represent American manufacturers of advertising novelties, textiles, cotton yarn, and aniline and other coloring substances for the textile industry. Correspondence in Spanish. References.

*Lathes*, No. 21956.—The commercial attaché of the Department of Commerce in England writes that a firm in that country desires to be placed in touch with American manufacturers of watchmakers' lathes.

*Law seed*, No. 21957.—An American consular officer in France writes that a firm in his district desires to be placed in touch with American exporters of grass seed. Terms desired are: Seed subject to examination as to purity and thrift in a municipal laboratory before acceptance; payment to be made on receipt. Quotations should be in French currency and correspondence in French language.

*Cotton goods, coal, coke, shoes, etc.*, No. 21958.—A commercial agent of the Bureau transmits a communication from a firm in New York City, with offices in Greece, stating that a representative will leave for that country within a short time and desires to represent American manufacturers of drugs and chemicals, soaps, perfumery, rubbers, men's underwear, cotton goods, shoes, starch and other corn products, electric lamps and fixtures, canned goods, hats, wood staves, lumber, coal, coke, boilers, motors, and engines. References.

*Forged and sheet steel*, No. 21959.—An American consular officer in Spain reports that a firm in his district desires to communicate with American manufacturers of forged and sheet steel for use in connection with the manufacture of boilers and foundry work.

*Machinery*, No. 21960.—A firm in Canada informs an American consular officer that it desires to be placed in touch with American manufacturers of labeling machines for cans and bottles.

*Sewing machines*, No. 21961.—An American consular officer in Australasia writes that a man in his district is in the market for American sewing machines. Quotations are desired c. i. f., if possible, or at least f. o. b. port of shipment, with the latest information as to cost of freight, insurance, etc.

*Machinery*, No. 21962.—An American consular officer in Venezuela reports that a man in his district desires to receive catalogues from American manufacturers of machinery for sawing marble. Correspondence in Spanish or English.

*Hardware, rubber goods, etc.*, No. 21963.—A commercial agent of the Bureau reports that a business man from France is now in this country for the purpose of establishing commercial relations with American manufacturers of light hardware, such as locks, etc., surgical rubber goods, knitting needles, etc. References.

*Tarpaulins*, No. 21964.—A man in the West Indies writes that he desires to communicate with American manufacturers of tarpaulins. He states that the sizes required at present are 18 feet 6 inches by 6 feet 10 inches, and 18 feet 6 inches by 13 feet 6 inches, of best quality either waterproof or of canvas material to be rendered waterproof by the application of linseed oil. About 100 of these are required.

**PROPOSALS FOR GOVERNMENT SUPPLIES AND CONSTRUCTION.**

[Correspondence should be direct with the offices named, and specifications can usually be obtained at the points where the goods are to be delivered or the work is to be performed. In cases where the time limit is too short to permit firms to submit tenders, they should ask to be placed on the mailing lists of such offices to receive notices calling for future supplies or work of a similar nature.]

- Riprap**, No. 3458.—Sealed proposals will be received by the Lighthouse Inspector, Philadelphia, Pa., until August 7, 1916, for furnishing and depositing 800 tons of large riprap at Ship John Shoal Light Station, Delaware River. Further information may be obtained on application to the above-named officer.
- Shells**, No. 3459.—Sealed proposals will be received at the office of the Chief of Ordnance, War Department, Washington, D. C., until August 10, 1916, for furnishing and delivering cast-iron shells, f. o. b. contractors' works. Drawings and specifications may be had upon application to the Chief of Ordnance.
- Ice-making and cold-storage plant**, No. 3460.—Sealed proposals will be received at the Bureau of Yards and Docks, Navy Department, Washington, D. C., until September 2, 1916, for an ice-making and cold-storage plant for the United States Marine Barracks, Peking, China. Plans and specifications may be obtained on application to the Bureau of Yards and Docks.
- Kerosene and gasoline**, No. 3461.—Sealed proposals will be received at the office of the General Purchasing Officer of the Panama Canal, Washington, D. C., until August 10, 1916, for furnishing by steamer, free of all charges, on dock at either Colon (Atlantic Port) or Port of Ancon (Balboa, Canal Zone) (Pacific Port), Isthmus of Panama, kerosene and gasoline. (Circular 1066.)
- Oil engine**, No. 3462.—Sealed proposals will be received by the lighthouse inspector, Boston, Mass., until August 10, 1916, for furnishing and delivering one horizontal oil engine. Further information may be obtained on application to above-named office.
- Dental supplies**, No. 3463.—Sealed proposals will be received by the Medical Supply Depot, U. S. A., 543 Greenwich Street, New York, N. Y., until August 1, 1916, for furnishing acid, mercury, sodium and potassium, syringes, drills, forceps, scissors, absorbent cotton, etc.
- Coal**, No. 3464.—Sealed proposals will be received at the office of the Commissioner of Fisheries, Washington, D. C., until August 22, 1916, for furnishing 350 tons of anthracite coal, delivered as follows: Gloucester, Mass., 175 tons; Boothbay Harbor, Me., 175 tons. For blank proposals, particulars, etc., address Commissioner of Fisheries, Washington, D. C.
- Door and window hardware**, No. 3465.—Sealed proposals will be received at the office of the General Purchasing Officer of the Panama Canal, Washington, D. C., until August 11, 1916, for furnishing by steamer, free of all charges, on dock at either Colon (Atlantic port) or Port of Ancon (Balboa, Canal Zone) (Pacific port), Isthmus of Panama, sash lifts, ball-bearing axle pulleys, transom catches, dumb-waiter, steel cable, refrigerator, bone black, and spud timbers. (Circular No. 1067.)
- Cords**, No. 3466.—Sealed proposals will be received at the Office of Chief Signal Officer, War Department, Washington, D. C., until August 2, 1916, for furnishing rubber insulated cords, in accordance with specification of April 12, 1916. For further information apply to above-named office.
- Marine boilers**, No. 3467.—Sealed proposals will be received by the Lighthouse Inspector, Charleston, S. C., until August 22, 1916, for constructing and delivering at Charleston, S. C., two marine boilers of the gunboat type. Information upon application to above office.
- Brass and steel rods, etc.**, No. 3468.—Sealed proposals will be received at the Office of the Chief Signal Officer, War Department, Washington, D. C., until August 3, 1916, for brass and steel rods of various dimensions. Further information may be obtained on application to the above-named office.
- Cable**, No. 3469.—Sealed proposals will be received at the Office of Chief Signal Officer, War Department, Washington, D. C., until August 9, 1916, for furnishing 21,500 feet of cable. Further information may be obtained on application at the above-named office.

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## GERMAN CROP OUTLOOK.

[Consul General Julius G. Lay, Berlin, July 11.]

The Office for the Distribution of Food Products (Kriegs-Ernährungsamt), which has been organized in Germany during the war, published the following official statement on July 10 concerning the crop outlook for the current year:

The reports concerning the condition of the crops from the different parts of the Empire are exceedingly favorable. The weather, which in general was highly propitious for the development of cereals, has almost counterbalanced the detrimental effects resulting from the lack of horses and fertilizers. Unless the weather at harvest time fails to meet expectations we are justified in anticipating an ample middling crop—at any rate, one that will to a considerable degree exceed the bad crop of 1915 as far as rough fodder, bread-stuffs, and cattle feed are concerned. If the next few weeks in which the old supplies necessarily are running low can be passed over, a considerable improvement in the entire supply of provisions can be expected.

The most difficult problem in regard to the new crop year will be the supply of meat and fat, but all possible measures have been taken in order to provide consumers with these products more regularly and with less difficulty by distributing the available quantities more equitably. On the other hand, a decrease in the price of foodstuffs is naturally desirable and will have to be effected wherever it is practicable.

## INCREASED DEMAND FOR AUTOMOBILES IN BERGEN.

[Consul Charles Forman, Bergen, Norway, June 27.]

The prosperity now prevailing in Norway is reflected in the increased use of automobiles. A local firm is quoted as stating that the demand for automobiles in Bergen is considerable, not only for pleasure cars but for cars for hire, taxis, and motor trucks. The dealer further states that it is not correct to suppose that America is the only source of supply; there is also an extensive importation from Italy. A consignment of 14 cars from Turin is shortly expected to arrive in Bergen. The United States, however, furnishes most of the cars now imported. The same firm expects in the near future about 50 automobiles from the United States.

[Reports on the automobile market in Norway were published in COMMERCE REPORTS for Feb. 2, Apr. 21, and May 12, 1916.]

## MOVEMENT OF COAL AND COKE.

The movement of coal and coke over 12 leading eastern railroads during April and four months ending April, 1915 and 1916, follows:

## APRIL.

Classes and railroads.	Originating on line.		Received from connections.		Total.	
	1915	1916	1915	1916	1915	1916
<b>FOR REVENUE ONLY.</b>						
<b>Anthracite:</b>	<i>Short tons.</i>	<i>Short tons.</i>	<i>Short tons.</i>	<i>Short tons.</i>	<i>Short tons.</i>	<i>Short tons.</i>
B. & O.			91,501	125,682	91,501	125,682
B. R. & P.			26,506	10,066	26,506	10,066
B. & Susq.			918	337	918	337
C. & O.	246	83	1,205	622	1,451	704
Erie	692,550	595,808	79,032	114,033	771,582	709,841
H. & B. T. M.			39	38	39	38
Penn.	588,179	417,702	538,511	348,838	1,126,690	766,540
P. S. & N.			1,544	532	1,544	532
Virginian	112		26	148	138	148
W. Md.			35,393	16,425	35,393	16,425
Total	1,281,087	1,013,592	774,675	616,721	2,055,762	1,630,313
<b>Bituminous:</b>						
B. & O.	2,191,502	1,822,183	470,202	482,263	2,661,704	2,304,446
B. R. & P.	526,970	641,989	6,856	5,084	533,826	647,073
B. & Susq.	76,823	94,843			76,823	94,843
C. & O.	1,669,234	1,968,914	98,894	190,070	1,667,628	2,158,984
Erie	11,556	15,930	411,789	661,985	423,325	677,924
H. & B. T. M.	52,613	65,780	18,506	30,401	71,119	96,181
N. Y. C. (Buffalo and east).	456,531	535,124			456,531	535,124
N. & W.	1,713,497	2,046,720	226,094	570,843	1,939,591	2,617,563
Penn.	3,047,750	3,415,385	310,312	463,885	3,358,062	3,879,270
P. S. & N.	149,354	213,372	1,014	384	150,368	213,756
Virginian	291,567	334,179	43,186	44,076	334,753	378,255
W. Md.	230,273	293,400	428,642	392,631	658,915	686,040
Total	10,317,670	11,447,817	2,014,975	2,841,622	12,332,645	14,289,439
<b>FOR COMPANY FUEL.</b>						
<b>Anthracite:</b>						
B. & O.						
Erie	22,607	7,779		100	22,607	7,879
Penn.	6,605	16,513	18,145	19,485	24,750	35,998
Total	29,212	24,292	18,145	19,585	47,357	43,877
<b>Bituminous:</b>						
B. & O.	467,600	375,679	14,171	11,330	481,771	387,009
B. R. & P.	40,791	53,651			40,791	53,651
B. & Susq.	8,000	5,056			8,000	5,056
C. & O.	173,726	165,812			173,726	165,812
Erie	129,779	110,103	66,343	98,196	196,122	208,298
H. & B. T. M.	2,289	3,141			2,289	3,141
N. Y. C. (Buffalo and east).	168,856	175,932			168,856	175,932
N. & W.	202,716	198,351	25,062	36,158	227,778	234,509
Penn.	581,278	667,507	29	76	581,307	667,583
P. S. & N.	5,641	8,242			5,641	8,242
Virginian	18,522	20,224	98		18,620	20,224
W. Md.	44,692	43,911		8,108	44,692	52,019
Total	1,843,890	1,827,609	105,703	153,867	1,949,593	1,981,476
<b>COKE FOR REVENUE AND FUEL.</b>						
B. & O.	265,096	211,673	93,741	80,612	358,837	292,285
B. R. & P.	32,717	30,699	10,814	15,962	43,531	46,661
B. & Susq.	44,300	32,899			44,300	32,899
C. & O.	7,265	29,603	14,166	11,713	21,421	51,313
Erie			103,327	63,737	103,327	63,737
H. & B. T. M.	5,435	6,296		446	5,435	6,741
N. & W.	75,371	182,277	2,201	7,103	77,572	189,380
Penn.	623,008	953,408	209,419	301,004	832,427	1,254,412
W. Md.	4,791	9,307	18,435	11,066	23,226	20,363
Total	1,067,983	1,466,164	452,003	491,653	1,519,976	1,967,027



FOUR MONTHS ENDING APRIL.

Classes and railroads.	Originating on line.		Received from connections.		Total.	
	1915	1916	1915	1916	1915	1916
<b>FOR REVENUE ONLY.</b>						
<b>Anthracite:</b>	<i>Short tons.</i>	<i>Short tons.</i>	<i>Short tons.</i>	<i>Short tons.</i>	<i>Short tons.</i>	<i>Short tons.</i>
B. & O.			430,594	570,440	430,594	570,440
B. R. & P.			64,809	59,965	64,809	59,965
B. & Susq.			2,585	2,624	2,585	2,624
C. & O.	617	576	3,076	3,460	3,693	3,442
Erie	2,394,157	2,705,520	456,232	641,509	2,850,389	3,347,329
H. & B. T. M.			102	135	102	135
Penn.	1,960,064	2,109,817	1,638,914	1,885,241	3,598,978	3,995,058
P. S. & N.			4,800	4,829	4,800	4,829
Virginian	223	186	26	549	249	735
W. Md.			103,090	115,056	103,090	115,056
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,355,051</b>	<b>4,816,199</b>	<b>2,704,237</b>	<b>3,283,814</b>	<b>7,059,288</b>	<b>8,100,013</b>
<b>Bituminous—</b>						
B. & O.	7,934,449	7,790,130	2,227,858	2,347,090	10,162,307	10,137,220
B. R. & P.	2,201,163	3,202,461	9,099	12,491	2,210,262	3,214,952
B. & Susq.	322,863	504,203	119	86	322,982	504,289
C. & O.	5,838,453	7,917,602	243,049	789,819	6,182,102	8,707,481
Erie	60,549	86,789	1,916,384	3,109,067	1,976,933	3,258,836
H. & B. T. M.	217,971	277,354	89,528	136,590	307,499	413,984
N. Y. C. (Buffalo and east).	1,952,764	2,854,735			1,952,764	2,854,735
N. & W.	5,987,972	8,241,722	647,080	1,445,948	6,635,052	9,687,670
Penn.	11,829,042	14,252,699	1,900,281	2,345,741	13,129,323	16,598,440
P. S. & N.	719,515	898,085	1,631	3,050	721,566	871,115
Virginian	1,070,312	1,554,664	143,488	255,886	1,213,800	1,810,550
W. Md.	1,077,361	1,166,474	1,450,777	1,457,020	2,528,088	2,623,494
<b>Total</b>	<b>30,212,314</b>	<b>48,716,938</b>	<b>8,140,694</b>	<b>11,962,228</b>	<b>47,353,008</b>	<b>60,679,166</b>
<b>FOR COMPANY FUEL.</b>						
<b>Anthracite:</b>						
B. & O.			72		72	
Erie	90,128	62,850		145	90,128	63,004
Penn.	45,256	55,783	78,449	73,763	123,706	129,546
<b>Total</b>	<b>135,384</b>	<b>118,632</b>	<b>78,521</b>	<b>73,908</b>	<b>213,905</b>	<b>192,550</b>
<b>Bituminous:</b>						
B. & O.	1,616,920	1,768,039	46,826	44,592	1,663,746	1,812,631
B. R. & P.	178,122	253,369			178,122	253,369
B. & Susq.	33,904	44,593			33,904	44,593
C. & O.	684,680	779,680			684,680	779,680
Erie	520,730	496,435	552,591	732,221	1,073,321	1,247,656
H. & B. T. M.	10,311	12,878			10,311	12,878
N. Y. C. (Buffalo and east).	865,829	873,813			865,829	873,813
N. & W.	771,551	929,943	76,785	159,751	848,336	1,089,694
Penn.	2,513,513	2,928,563	105	486	2,513,618	2,929,049
P. S. & N.	29,350	51,301			29,350	51,301
Virginian	79,680	82,730	145	27,226	79,825	109,956
W. Md.	193,403	186,010	110	33,794	193,153	219,804
<b>Total</b>	<b>7,487,493</b>	<b>8,408,352</b>	<b>676,562</b>	<b>1,018,070</b>	<b>8,164,055</b>	<b>9,424,422</b>
<b>COKE FOR REVENUE AND FUEL.</b>						
B. & O.	940,134	1,003,418	290,940	316,411	1,227,074	1,319,829
B. R. & P.	133,141	141,507	49,072	54,328	182,213	195,835
B. & Susq.	194,934	186,265			194,934	186,265
C. & O.	30,337	143,715	35,103	43,655	65,440	187,370
Erie			348,587	337,665	348,587	337,665
H. & B. T. M.	7,963	26,233	386	3,756	8,369	29,989
N. & W.	283,146	676,223	2,350	37,312	285,496	713,535
Penn.	2,314,706	3,820,712	819,488	1,112,039	3,134,194	4,932,751
P. S. & N.				70		70
W. Md.	15,544	33,846	71,089	72,762	86,633	106,608
<b>Total</b>	<b>8,921,945</b>	<b>6,011,919</b>	<b>1,613,015</b>	<b>1,977,998</b>	<b>5,534,900</b>	<b>7,989,917</b>

NOTE.—Totals do not include amounts of coal received by the N. Y. C. Railroad from connections. The Southern Railroad transported from the Tennessee and Alabama districts 293,862 short tons in April, 1916, and 274,123 short tons in April, 1915.

**GINSENG MARKET CONDITIONS IN SWATOW.**

[Consul George C. Hanson, Swatow, China.]

Ginseng is used in China as a tonic. It is the root of a species of *Panax* (*P. ginseng*), indigenous to Manchuria and Korea and belonging to the native order Araliaceæ. Other roots are substituted for the true variety, notably that of *Panax quinquefolia*, distinguished as American ginseng, and imported into China from the United States. At one time the ginseng obtained from Manchuria was considered to be the finest quality, but at present Korean ginseng is the most esteemed variety. The root of the wild plant is preferred to that of cultivated ginseng, and the older the plant the better is the quality of the root considered to be. Great care is taken in the preparation of the drug.

Ginseng of good quality generally occurs in hard, rather brittle, translucent pieces about the size of the little finger, and varying in length from 1 to 4 inches. It is mucilaginous, sweetish yet slightly bitter in taste, and aromatic. The root is frequently forked, and it is probably owing to a fancied resemblance to the human body that medicinal properties were in the first place attributed to it.

**Hongkong the Distributing Center.**

The dose of the root is 60 to 90 grains. During the use of the drug tea drinking is forbidden for at least a month, but no other change is made in the diet. It is taken in the morning before breakfast, from three to eight days together, and sometimes it is taken in the evening before going to bed. There is no evidence, however, that it possesses any pharmacological or therapeutic properties.

As far as South China is concerned, ginseng is dealt in by firms especially engaged in the business and is imported through Hongkong. The Hongkong distributing firms have branch offices in New York, where their buyers, thoroughly acquainted with ginseng, make purchases of the American article. After arrival at Hongkong the ginseng is there sorted, classified, and sent to Chinese ports. Each locality in China has its own peculiar requirements. When native wholesale druggists wish to purchase ginseng they buy from stocks kept at Hongkong, whence the goods can be secured within a week's time. It is not the custom of the trade to place long-time orders.

**Swatow's Imports for Half Decade.**

Like the markets for other goods in China, the ginseng market was depressed by the conditions immediately following the outbreak of the war in Europe and not by any falling off in the native demand for the drug. Of course, the size of the native crop affects the amount of foreign ginseng imported. As American dealers invariably demand cash and as the outbreak of the war caused a breakdown of the bank-credit system and a tight-money market, Chinese dealers were reluctant to buy. Nevertheless Swatow's imports of cultivated American ginseng were larger in 1915 than in any year since 1911, as the following table discloses:

Kinds of ginseng.	1911	1912	1913	1914	1915
Cultivated:	<i>Pounds.</i>	<i>Pounds.</i>	<i>Pounds.</i>	<i>Pounds.</i>	<i>Pounds.</i>
American.....	8,133	2,710	2,464	3,759	6,593
Japanese.....	4,880	6,629	5,067	7,771	1,770
Korean.....	3,253	188	159	256	1,421
Native.....	57,612	60,183	65,009	52,321	61,892
Beard, cutting, root, etc.....	1,227	5,521	7,332	10,740	5,916
Wild:					
Foreign.....		44	4	1	.....
Native.....		1	16	.....	369
Total.....	73,105	75,282	80,061	74,848	77,900

The market prices of ginseng vary from about \$20 U. S. per pound for the best quality of the wild variety to about \$3 U. S. for the poorest cultivated root. No dealer is willing to quote a price until the actual goods are examined by him. American quotations are \$9 per pound for the best wild and about \$3 for good cultivated.

#### Obstacles in the Way of Direct Trade.

With one exception, no Chinese dealers in Swatow import ginseng direct from the United States. Aside from the fact that Chinese merchants can not correspond in English and do not understand foreign business methods, the length of time required to secure a supply is a strong drawback to their doing a direct trade. As a rule, Chinese merchants can not give foreign bank references, as they generally have financial transactions only with native banks.

Interested growers desirous of doing business in this market might ship by parcel post one pound of each kind of ginseng to a Swatow merchant who is willing to quote prices [and whose address may be obtained from the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce or its district offices by asking for file No. 78262].

[Numerous discussions of the Chinese trade in ginseng have been published in *COMMERCE REPORTS*, among them the articles in the issues for Nov. 11, 1913, Mar. 19, 1914, May 13, 1915, and Feb. 24 and July 11, 1916.]

#### RAND GOLD MINES CLOSE CONTRACT FOR CYANIDE.

[Consul Edwin N. Gunsaulus, Johannesburg, Union of South Africa, June 13.]

It is learned on good authority that a contract has been entered into whereby a majority of the Witwatersrand gold-mining groups will draw all of their cyanide supplies during the period of the war and for five years thereafter from the Cassel Cyanide Co., of Glasgow, a minor portion of this supply to be furnished by the British Cyanide Co. It is also stated that the Rhodesian mining companies will probably enter into a similar contract for their cyanide supplies.

South Africa's imports of cyanide of sodium for mining uses amounted in 1913 to \$1,931,075; in 1914, to \$1,812,430; and in 1915, to \$2,453,015.

#### Increased American Purchases of Brandy.

Consul Jenneth S. Patton, at La Rochelle, France, reports that the brandy declared for shipment through that consulate for the United States during the first six months of 1916 was valued at \$999,299 compared with \$371,572 for the corresponding period in 1915, and \$675,738 in 1914.

**TEXTILE RESEARCH IN GREAT BRITAIN.**

[Textile Mercury, Manchester, England.]

**Research in the Silk Industry.**

For many years past silk has been subjected to scientific investigation in France, Germany, Italy, and Japan, while in this country little or nothing has been done to assist a branch of the textile trade, which has been engaged in a long struggle with adverse fortune. The result is that in the various processes of manufacture, particularly those of de-gumming, dyeing and finishing, British manufacturers have been handicapped economically and have fallen behind foreign competitors in the quality, color, and general appearance of goods at equal prices.

For some time past the need for undertaking research work has been fully realized, and a few months ago it was decided to approach the Advisory Council for Scientific and Industrial Research, which has been constituted by the Government to give financial aid to investigations for the benefit of industry, with the object of obtaining a grant to assist work in the directions indicated. It was understood, in making the application, that those engaged in the silk trade would also make a contribution toward the cost of the work.

It is satisfactory to learn that the negotiations with the advisory council have resulted in a grant which will be paid in two installments to cover a period of two years, research at the Imperial College of Science, at a cost not exceeding £1,000 (\$4,866), toward which the Silk Association has agreed to provide £400 (\$1,947), an amount that there should be no difficulty in obtaining from the influential interests represented in the association, more particularly as the investigation to be undertaken is of a sufficiently general nature to influence in one way or another all branches of the silk industry.

**Room for Development in Irish Flax Production.**

The report of the Flax Millowners' Association, adopted at the annual meeting in Belfast, stated that subscriptions had been received from 277, and that hundreds of new growers had been obtained this year. Last year the association estimated that 50,000 acres under flax in Ireland would yield more than £1,500,000 (\$7,299,750); this year, with increased acreage, the estimate was for at least £2,000,000 (\$9,733,000). The area now covered would be, however, less than 9 square miles, which was only a fractional portion of the land that could be grown with flax in this country, so that there was room for great development. It was suggested that greater interest should be taken in reviving competition in the markets. It had been shown that where the markets got the whole-hearted support of the mill owners keener interest was manifested by the growers.

**Chemical Trade Developments of Importance.**

Further evidence of the remarkable activity and development of the British chemical industry is afforded by the news that a leading Yorkshire firm has just completed negotiations for the acquisition of land at Cadishead, near Manchester, at which new chemical works are to be built, which will provide employment for 700 to 1,000 workers. No industry in this country has developed so extensively as the chemical industry since the outbreak of the war, and it may be taken

as fairly certain that further important developments are due in the near future.

It is understood that a contract has already been placed for the construction of large tanks of reinforced concrete, and the erection of the works and offices will be carried through as speedily as possible. A housing scheme is also in contemplation, and altogether the projected new works should be of great benefit to the village.

### ROYAL COMMISSION TO STUDY CANADIAN RAILWAYS.

[Consul General John G. Foster, Ottawa, July 17.]

A Royal commission was appointed last week by the Canadian Government to inquire into the general railway situation in Canada. On account of the involved condition that has resulted from the rapid and extensive railway construction in the Dominion during the past few years, great interest is attached to this work.

The commissioners appointed are: Alfred H. Smith, president of the New York Central Lines, who will act as chairman; Sir Henry Drayton, chairman of the board of railway commissioners for Canada; and Sir Robert Paish, editor of the *London Statist*.

The primary object in view is to find a way to obviate the necessity for subsidies, bond guaranties, land grants, or other forms of public assistance, which have been furnished repeatedly to the lines by the Dominion and Provincial Governments.

#### Scope of the Inquiry Summarized.

The nationalization of the three transcontinental roads will be, perhaps, the most important question to be investigated. The scope of the inquiry has been summarized under the following heads:

1. The general problem of transportation in Canada.
2. The status of each of the three transcontinental railway systems—the Canadian Pacific Railway system, the Grand Trunk Railway system (including the Grand Trunk Pacific Railway), and the Canadian Northern Railway system.
3. Special examination will be given to the following considerations:
  - a. The territories served by each system and the service which it is capable of performing in the general scheme of transportation.
  - b. Physical conditions, equipment, and capacity for handling business.
  - c. Methods of operation.
  - d. Branch lines, feeders, and connections in Canada.
  - e. Connections in the United States.
  - f. Steamship connections on both oceans.
  - g. Capitalization, fixed charges, and net earnings, having regard to present conditions, and probable future development with increase of population.
4. The reorganization of any of the railway systems or the acquisition thereof by the State, and in the latter case the most effective system of operation, whether in connection with the Intercolonial Railway or otherwise.
5. Generally speaking, all matters which the members of the board may consider pertinent or relevant to the general scope of the inquiry.

#### Inspection of Vessels.

The traveling inspector of the Steamboat-Inspection Service on the eastern coast, Charles Thompson, is now engaged in the inspection of vessels while in service in Boston and vicinity. The traveling inspector on the Pacific coast, Cecil Brown, is now engaged in the inspection of vessels while in service in southern California.

**WAR DAMAGE TO BUILDINGS IN FRANCE.**

[Commercial Attaché C. W. A. Veditz, Paris, July 3.]

M. Malvy, Minister of the Interior, has to-day made public the results of an official investigation undertaken to ascertain the extent of the damage done to property in the invaded portions of France. This investigation—which, obviously, relates solely to those parts of France that were subsequently evacuated by enemy troops and to those regions within the field of actual hostilities—covered only the damage done to real property, and attributable to the war, in the Departments of Nord, Pas-de-Calais, Somme, Oise, Seine-et-Marne, Aisne, Marne, Aube, Meuse, Meurthe-et-Moselle, and Vosges.

The communes (towns and villages) in these departments for which the required data were obtained numbered 754 (23 in Nord, 71 in Pas-de-Calais, 34 in Somme, 59 in Oise, 35 in Seine-et-Marne, 51 in Aisne, 258 in Marne, 2 in Aube, 59 in Meuse, 109 in Meurthe-et-Moselle, and 53 in Vosges), and in them 16,669 edifices were entirely destroyed and 25,594 partially wrecked. In the Department of Marne 15,106 structures were damaged, of which 3,499 were completely ruined; in Pas-de-Calais, 13,452 buildings were injured, 6,660 of them being completely razed; in Meurthe-et-Moselle, 4,930 buildings were destroyed, 1,684 of them being completely demolished. In 148 communes more than 50 per cent of the total number of edifices within their limits were destroyed; in 74 communes the wrecked buildings formed 80 per cent or more of the total; in 606 communes less than 50 per cent of the edifices were damaged, this number including 256 communes wherein the buildings demolished formed less than 5 per cent of the total number of edifices within their limits. Most of the communes wherein the investigation was conducted are predominantly agricultural.

Buildings used for public purposes or belonging to the Government were wrecked in 428 communes. The damaged public edifices included 221 city halls (mairies), 379 schools, 331 churches, 306 other structures of a public or quasi-public character, and 60 monuments or works of art. Fifty-six of the wrecked buildings were classed as "historical edifices," the city hall and the departmental archives of Arras, the cathedral, archbishop's palace, the Church of St. Rémy, and the city hall of Rheims heading the list.

The number of factories or industrial establishments more or less damaged is reported as 330. These buildings are, of course, of varied character, but the minister's report notes that in normal times they furnished employment for approximately 57,600 persons (including the families of the workmen).

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**CHANGE OF TIME IN CHILE.**

[Consul General L. J. Keena, Valparaiso, June 26.]

By decree dated June 20, 1916, the time officially used throughout Chile will be regulated from July 1, 1916, in accordance with the meridian of the National Astronomical Observatory (Observatorio Astronómico Nacional) at Santiago instead of by the meridian 75° west of Greenwich as established by the decree of December 24, 1909. The advance in time will be approximately 16 minutes.

**IMPROVEMENTS AT WOODS HOLE LIGHTHOUSE DEPOT.**

To overcome the handicap under which the work has been conducted at the Woods Hole, Mass., lighthouse depot, Congress has authorized, and the Lighthouse Service of the United States Department of Commerce will proceed to make, important improvements at that point. As already stated in *COMMERCE REPORTS*, the sundry civil act approved July 1, 1916, appropriated \$50,000 for this work. The depot is well located and protected in all weathers, but there is a serious handicap in the lack of a sufficient depth of water for lighthouse tenders and deep-draft light vessels. Under present conditions the lighthouse tender *Anemone* requires a supply of buoys on the dock of the Bureau of Fisheries and on the wharf at New Bedford, thus having the supplies located in three different places. The lighthouse tender *Azalea* is required to tend and wait on the *Anemone* when anything is required from the depot's stock. The present storehouse, which is of wood, is not adapted for the work, and is too small to accommodate the stock in a proper manner.

Instructions have been given by the Lighthouse Service to proceed as promptly as possible in carrying out the provisions of this appropriation. It is planned to dredge the channel and basin around the wharf to a depth of 17 feet, and build a brick storehouse 35 by 80 feet, two stories high.

**NEW ZEALAND'S BUDGET SHOWS INCREASED REVENUE.**

[Consul General Alfred A. Winslow, Auckland, June 20.]

Estimated expenditures for the fiscal year ending March 31, 1917, in New Zealand total \$70,031,981, which is about \$9,733,000 in excess of the expenditures for the fiscal year ended March 31, 1916. The estimated receipts for 1917 are \$71,009,053, against actual receipts of \$70,613,582 for the fiscal year ended March 31, 1916. During the year a loan of \$9,733,000 was made for general purposes. Since the middle of 1914 authority has been given to place loans to the amount of \$48,665,000, and now the Government has been asked to authorize the placing of loans for \$58,398,000 additional.

The proposals for raising increased revenue consist of a special income tax of 5 per cent on all incomes over £300 (\$1,460) and a levy of 45 per cent on all war profits, or all profits in excess of the average profits of different businesses for the past few years. It is expected that about £2,000,000 (\$9,733,000) additional revenue will be raised. There is no change in the maximum income for exemption from income tax, which remains at £300 (\$1,460) per annum. The increase in the income tax is the second since the war began. Last year's increase was about 33½ per cent.

It is recommended that the Government fix the legal rate of interest for the next year at 5½ per cent and take other steps to conserve the resources of the country until after the close of the war.

Commercial Attaché Erwin W. Thompson reports the organization of the Netherlands Association of Fruit and Vegetable Product Manufacturers at Amsterdam, for the purpose of promoting a larger industry in canning and preserving native products.

### INCREASE IN TONNAGE DUES RECEIPTS.

Tonnage dues collected on entry of American and foreign ships in foreign trade at ports of the United States during the fiscal year ending June 30, 1916, as returned to the Bureau of Navigation, amounted to \$1,454,641, compared with \$1,815,425 for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1915. The receipts from this source during the fiscal year just closed are the largest in our history, exceeding those of the fiscal year ending June 30, 1914, just before the outbreak of the European war, by \$143,882, although German and Austrian ships, which that year paid \$200,402, paid nothing this year. During the past year tonnage dues were collected on 17,346 entries of ships, compared with 13,760 entries in the fiscal year 1914. The differences in entries and receipts are due to the enormous increase in the export trade of the United States and to the substitution of slower cargo steamers for fast passenger and immigrant steamers, which comprised a large part of taxable tonnage in 1914 and a small part in 1916.

The receipts from ships in trade with Europe (excluding Belgium, Austria, Germany, and Black Sea ports), Asia, Africa, South America, and Australia amounted to \$1,322,441, or over 90 per cent of the total, on 8,390 entries, as compared with \$1,165,568 on 5,589 entries in the fiscal year 1914 from all Europe and other continents named. The receipts from ships in trade with Central America, Mexico, West Indies, and Canada for the past year were \$124,245 on 8,450 entries, compared with \$143,136 on 8,084 entries in 1914, ships from these zones paying only 2 cents per ton, while ships in over-seas trades pay 6 cents.

The receipts at New York were \$512,018, an increase of \$19,938 over 1914. Norfolk, Va., which in 1914 was the ninth port with receipts of \$45,377, this year ranks second, with \$196,918 receipts, and Baltimore third, with \$118,681. Philadelphia's receipts were \$99,878, virtually stationary, while San Francisco, with \$40,735 receipts, shows a decrease of \$11,115, all in over-sea trade. New Orleans collected \$75,967 on 769 entries in 1916, compared with \$84,164 on 741 entries in 1914. The Sabine, Tex., receipts were \$48,405, more than double those of 1914. The Massachusetts district receipts were \$85,256, a loss of \$21,900 in over-seas trade.

The general total includes \$4,623 penal-tonnage taxes and \$3,330 collected for the Philippine Islands fund.

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#### Production of Olive Oil in Madrid District.

Consul Robertson Honey, at Madrid, Spain, reports that of the 149,719 tons of olives produced in that consular district in 1915, all but 846 tons was used in the making of olive oil. This crop produced 28,412 tons of oil.

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A buoy list for the seventeenth lighthouse district, Oregon and Washington, on the Pacific coast, has been issued by the United States Lighthouse Service. It is corrected to June 1, 1916. A copy may be obtained without charge by any shipmaster or pilot from the Division of Publications, Department of Commerce, Washington, D. C.



**SIX MONTHS' OIL AND SEED TRADE AT HULL.**

[Consul Charles M. Hathaway, Jr., Hull, England, July 6.]

Imports of oil seeds for the 26 weeks ended July 4, 1916, compared with the corresponding period of 1915 were, according to the Hull Chamber of Commerce figures, as follows:

Kinds of oilseeds.	1915	1916	Kinds of oilseeds.	1915	1916
Linseed (quarters) .....	620,983	722,864	Cotton seed, other (tons) .....	18,967	55,155
Rapeseed (quarters) .....	54,341	122,246	Soya beans (tons) .....	88,224	50,178
Castor beans (quarters) .....	75,646	140,754	Palm kernels (tons) .....	20,821	32,672
Cotton seed, Egyptian (tons) ..	136,338	72,300	Oil cake (tons) .....	17,681	20,283

\* Figures of Hull Eastern Morning News.

Linseed in quarters of 416, 416, and 424 pounds; rapeseed, quarters of 416 and 424 pounds; castor seed, quarters of about 416 pounds. The ton is uniformly 2,240 pounds.

Exports of oil for the same period were: Linseed, 18,094 tons in 1915 and 581 tons in 1916; cottonseed, 4,286 in 1915 and 320 in 1916; soya, 1,974 in 1915 and none in 1916. Prices are somewhat down from the high levels maintained at the beginning of the year. Bombay linseed advanced slightly from the opening to \$21.53 per quarter of 416 pounds on February 15, dropped sharply at the beginning of April to \$16.55, and remained a little above that figure until July 4, when it stood at \$17.03. River Plate linseed rose slightly from the opening to \$19.47 per quarter of 424 pounds on February 1, dropped steadily to \$15.45 on March 28, and did not again get above \$17.03; the last transaction was at \$16.67 on June 20. Egyptian cottonseed opened at \$75.43 per long ton, went to \$76.05 the next week, fluctuated steadily downward to \$62.05 on April 4, and varied between \$69.35 and \$63.26 until July 4, when it was \$63.26. Bombay cottonseed on January 18 was \$71.17 per ton, fell to \$53.53 on April 11, and then kept between that and \$65.70 until July 4, when it was \$53.53 again.

Linseed oil rose slightly from the opening to \$10.71 per hundred-weight of 112 pounds on February 15, from which it ranged downward to \$7.79 on June 27, and \$8.15 on July 4. Refined cottonseed oil, at \$12.10 on January 18, reached \$10.71 on March 28, and after some recovery in April and May, dropped to \$10.34 on July 4.

**A Year's Excavation from Gaillard Cut.**

In the fiscal year ended June 30, 1916, excavation from the Gaillard (Culebra) Cut totaled 11,660,351 cubic yards. Of this, 10,280,371 cubic yards were removed from Culebra slides; and as between earth and rock, the quantities were 1,637,985 and 10,022,366 cubic yards, respectively. Excavation therefore averaged, says the Panama Canal Record, 971,696 cubic yards per month or 31,922 per day.

**Sardine Trade Promising in New Brunswick.**

A member of a large sardine-canning firm in Saint Stephen, New Brunswick, informs the American consul at that place that the business outlook this season is good, and that the catch is large. Prices remain at \$10 to \$12 per hogshead (900 pounds).

**DAIRYING IN SWITZERLAND.**

[Consul Walter H. Schulz, Berne, June 15.]

One of the principal industries of Switzerland is dairying, and the industry, especially in the manufacture of cheese and condensed milk, has reached proportions scarcely seemed possible in so small and mountainous a country.

There are no less than 2,100 cheese dairies in operation in Switzerland at present, with 796,909 cows.

The annual cheese exports alone are valued at more than \$13,000,000; condensed milk, including sterilized and powdered milks, \$10,000,000; milk and cream, \$675,000; and butter, \$35,000. The figures given are for the year 1914, the latest available. But little change has taken place and the 1915 figures, under the circumstances, will be much the same, except in milk, cream, and butter, because of the embargo. The 1915 census of cows, it is understood, will show an increase of from 4 to 5 per cent over the 1914 figures.

**Milk Used in Dairying Products—Average Yield Per Cow.**

It is said that of the 2,500,000,000 liters (660,449,000 gallons) of milk obtained in Switzerland in 1911, 40 per cent was used in the manufacture of dairy products, and in the following proportions: Cheese, approximately 25 per cent; condensed, sterilized, and pulverized milk, and children's flour chocolate, 15 per cent; of the residue 43 per cent is used by the people, who are great milk drinkers, and 17 per cent for cattle feeding on the country's stock farms.

Swiss milk production remains stationary despite the absence of concentrated foods (oil cakes, etc.) since the war. It is true that a slight falling off in the yield per cow has become noticeable lately, but the increase in the herds has offset the loss. In 1913 the average yield per cow in Switzerland was 3,300 liters (872 gallons) a year. While no grains and cereals are available for cattle feeding, hay is abundant, but the price is 34 per cent above normal.

Milk is now selling at 27 centimes (\$0.052) per liter (1.06 quarts) retail, an increase of about 5 centimes (\$0.01) since the war.

**The Cheese Industry.**

The cheese trade of Switzerland is essentially an export industry. As early as 1773 shipments of "Emmenthal" cheese were sent to Germany and France, and it was from these countries that the renown of Swiss dairy products spread to the United States. Since then America has grown into the greatest importer of Swiss dairy produce. In 1914 about 76,720,000 pounds of Emmenthal cheese, valued at \$12,700,000, and Bellelay, Vacherin, and other soft cheese products to the value of \$14,000 were exported.

The export of cheese from Switzerland is in the hands of an association composed, with few exceptions, of all the large cheese merchants of the country. This syndicate comprises about 50 exporters and was originated in September, 1914. It has met with great success not only in extending the Swiss cheese trade, but also in furthering the technical development of the industry. Dairy and stable inspections were also inaugurated by this organization. Its principal functions, however, may be divided into the following categories:

(1) Study of export trade, transportation conditions, and credit conditions in all countries.

(2) Confidential communications to its members as to personal experience and information of all kinds, especially as to the liabilities and trustworthiness of clients and agents.

(3) Furthering the efforts for the improvement of the manufacture, arranging lectures, recording prices, instructing through the press, etc.

(4) Making binding rules concerning the sale (and exceptionally also concerning the price) of cheese, business methods, conditions and terms of payment, and by opposing dishonest competition.

(5) Making contracts which are of service to the syndicate, especially those regarding shipping agreements.

(6) Taking part in enterprises (syndicates, companies, etc.) on the lines of the cheese export trade.

#### Kinds of Cheese Exported.

The principal kinds of cheese exported are Gruyere, Spalen, Bellelay, Vacherin, Tilsit, Herbs', and Emmenthal, the so-called king of Swiss cheese, manufactured in the Emmenthal and Bernese Oberland. Formerly this soft cheese was produced only in the mountains. Now it is made in large quantities even in the valleys of the country. This cheese weighs from 110 to 330 pounds, and the principal consumers are Americans, Germans, French, and Austrians, in the order named.

Gruyere cheese (soft) is principally exported to France and Italy. It is manufactured largely in the Canton of Fribourg, and in the valleys of the Vaud and Neuchatel. This is also of millstone shape and weighs about 65 to 99 pounds.

A hard cheese is Spalen cheese, known also as Swiss Parmesan cheese. It is made principally near Lucern. Italy buys most of this product. It is hard and fat and made in loaves weighing from 39 to 66 pounds. It closely resembles Italian Parmesan cheese. This product requires three years' aging before it is marketable. Its name is derived from the manner in which it is packed, usually in small barrels or casks, or in German "spalen."

The Bellelay is a fat, soft cheese, exported to France and made in casks of from 11 to 13 pounds. Its aromatic taste, it is claimed, can best be enjoyed by shaving or scraping. This cheese should not be cut.

Battlematt cheese is produced near the Italian frontier, and besides its sale in Italian-speaking sections of the country, it is exported to Italy. It is a fat, round, sweet cheese of slight salty taste, and made in sizes varying from 44 to 55 pounds. It is soft and doughy and ripens within three months.

Besides Emmenthal cheese, Vacherin, Herbs', Tilsit, Urseren, Goms, Appenzell Rass, and Valais are made principally for the home market. Of these, Tilsit, Vacherin, and Herbs' are the most important.

Vacherin cheese is said to be the only big soft cheese made in Switzerland. There are two kinds, one of loaves of from 6½ to 11 pounds, used in fresh condition, the other in the form of Gruyere cheese. A sort of Welsh rarebit is made with this cheese among the French Swiss of Fribourg and the Vaud sections, in which this cheese originates.

Herbs' cheese comes from near the Austrian frontier. It is green in color and very aromatic. A clover (*Melilotus coerulea*) is pul-

verized and mixed with it and thus produces its green color and aromatic flavor. Its spicy flavor and digestive qualities have added greatly to its popularity. A similar cheese is made in America.

**The Condensed-Milk Industry Started by an American—Milk Powder.**

It is not generally known that the Swiss condensed-milk industry owes its birth and progress to an American. George H. Page, of Palmyra, organized at Zug, Switzerland, in 1867, the first condensed milk company under the name of "Anglo Swiss Condensed Milk Co." This company was afterwards absorbed by a famous Swiss concern at Vevey, which has to-day no less than six factories of its own in operation in Switzerland, and 18 in foreign countries. Other concerns operating in condensed milk, both sweet and unsweetened, may be found at Stalden near Berne, at Hochdorf, near Lucerne, and at Epagny, near Fribourg.

Only within recent years have the Swiss occupied themselves with the manufacture of pulverized milk. This industry is situated principally at Thun and Steffisburg, in the Berne consular district. The factory near Lucerne, however, is also engaged in producing pulverized milk. Unskimmed and skimmed milk is used in these processes. Milk powder is used in large measure in the milk chocolate factories and confectionery shops of the country.

The so-called children's powder is also made near Lucerne, as are certain other articles, known as milk albumin preparations, which also have won for themselves a place in the Swiss export trade. These may be described better as casein products.

Of the total Swiss condensed-milk export business, amounting to 89,416,171 pounds in 1913, about 85,980,000 pounds represents the over-sea trade. Large quantities are sent to England for the use of the British Admiralty, to India, the Philippines, and the Tropics generally.

The extraordinary development of the Swiss export trade in condensed and sterilized and powdered milk, exclusive of quantities absorbed in children's flour and chocolate industries, is established by official figures, which show that the industry has grown from an export output of 9,395,658 pounds in 1870 to 89,416,171 in 1913.

**Milk for Condenseries and Chocolate Manufacture—Shortage of Tin Plate.**

As previously stated, about 15 per cent of all Swiss milk reaches the condenseries and chocolate manufacturers. The Swiss condensery pays at present an average of about 20½ centimes (\$0.039) per liter for its raw product. At Berne, where milk is somewhat dearer, condensers are paying from 21 to 24 centimes per liter. About 2 per cent of the Swiss condensery products is consumed at home. The exports in 1913 were 83,315,269 pounds; in 1914, 100,070,764 pounds; and for the first 11 months of 1915, 91,636,656 pounds. The 1915 figures are estimated at 97,864,178 pounds.

Perhaps the greatest hardship suffered by the Swiss condenser is the shortage in tin plate. This commodity has risen in price from \$7.72 to \$22.20 per 220 pounds, and great difficulty is experienced in obtaining orders even at this figure. After much effort orders have been placed lately in America, but considerable time will doubtless elapse before the goods will become available.

# AMERICAN CONSULAR OFFICERS ON LEAVE OF ABSENCE.

The following American consular officers are on leave of absence in the United States and will be glad to confer with business men and commercial organizations relative to conditions in their respective jurisdictions. The consul's time is available primarily for personal interviews. He has limited facilities for correspondence, and except in urgent cases letters should be directed to the consulate.

Name.	Post.	Expiration of venue.	Address.
West, George N.....	Kobe, Japan.....	Aug. 15	Department of State, Washington, D.C.
Cooke, A. B.....	Patras, Greece.....	Aug. 10	121 West Charlotte Street, Norfolk, Va.
Hale, F. D.....	Huddersfield, England	Sept. 5	Lunenburg, Vt.
Fisher, Fred D.....	Tientsin, China.....	Aug. 5	Albany, Oreg.
Marterson, William W.....	Durban, Natal, South Africa.	Sept. 1	Carrollton, Ky.
Seltzer, Harry G.....	Breslau, Germany....	Aug. 1	Gibraltar, Pa.
Baker, E. Carlton.....	Nagasaki, Japan.....	Aug. 30	Apartment No. 75, The Brunswick, Washington, D. C.
Monaghan, J. C.....	Kingston, Jamaica....	Sept. 1	Avenue A and Fourteenth Street, Bayonne, N. J.
Jewell, John F.....	Chefoo, China.....	Oct. 1	Department of State, Washington, D.C.
Kemper, Graham H.....	Erfurt, Germany.....	Sept. 10	Do.
Goodier, James H.....	Niagara Falls, Canada.	Sept. 1	27 South Hawk Street, Albany, N. Y.
Haseltine, Ross.....	Port Antonio, Jamaica.	Oct. 1	Department of State, Washington, D.C.

## PERU'S TRADE IN METAL BEDS.

[Commercial Attaché William F. Montavon, Lima, June 26.]

During 1913 (the latest year for which statistics are available) metal beds of an appraised value of \$48,785 were imported into Peru. The business went to the following countries in the proportions stated: Great Britain, \$44,000; United States, \$2,035; Germany, \$1,250; France, \$1,200; other countries, \$300.

Stocks are at present much reduced, and it would seem that the present might be an excellent time for American manufacturers to increase their share of this trade. Three catalogues which I am forwarding with this report, and which were obtained the other day in a local retail store, give some idea of the styles of the metal beds most favored in Peru.

[The three catalogues may be inspected by interested American manufacturers at the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce or its district offices upon asking for file No. 1610.]

## District Offices of the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce.

New York, Room 409 United States Customhouse; Boston, eighteenth floor United States Customhouse; Chicago, 504 Federal Building; St. Louis, 402 Third National Bank Building; Atlanta, 521 Post Office Building; New Orleans, 1020 Ibernia Bank Building; San Francisco, 307 United States Customhouse; Seattle, 848 Henry Building. Cooperative district offices: Cleveland, Chamber of Commerce; Cincinnati, Chamber of Commerce; Asst. Gen'l Frt. Agt., C. N. O. & T. P. Ry. Co., Cincinnati; Los Angeles, Chamber of Commerce; Detroit, Board of Commerce; Philadelphia, Chamber of Commerce; South American Agent, Southern Ry. Co., Chattanooga, Tenn.

Vice Consul Lynn W. Franklin, at San Salvador, Salvador, reports that from present indications the 1916-17 coffee crop of that country will be large.

# FOREIGN TRADE OPPORTUNITIES.

Reserved addresses may be obtained from the Bureau and its district offices. Request for each opportunity should be on a separate sheet and state opportunity number. The Bureau does not furnish credit ratings or assume responsibility as to the standing of foreign inquirers; the usual precautions should be taken in all cases.

*Butter, dry goods, boots and shoes, etc.*, No. 21965.—A firm in Dutch Guiana writes that it desires to be placed in touch with American manufacturers of butter, dry goods, boots and shoes, foodstuffs, ironware, enamel ware, crockery, etc.

*Cotton goods*, No. 21966.—A man in Canada writes that he desires to communicate with American manufacturers of napped cottonades, made in imitation of worsted patterns for boys' clothing, 27 inches wide.

*Baskets and blankets, etc.*, No. 21967.—The Bureau is informed that a man in Holland desires to import artistic baskets, especially those known as "Hopi", artistic pots or vases, and Indian blankets. Reference.

*Sewing thread, snap fasteners, etc.*, No. 21968.—A man in France writes that he desires to represent, on a commission basis, American manufacturers only of sewing thread, snap fasteners, cutlery and scissors, pencils, and glassware. Reference.

*Insurance*, No. 21969.—A man in the Philippines desires to represent American insurance companies in those islands for fire, motor car, accident, earthquake, and typhoon insurance.

*Aluminum ware and fertilizers*, No. 21970.—A commercial agent of the Bureau reports that a man in Cuba desires to communicate with American manufacturers who do an export business in aluminum goods for kitchen use and manufacturers of chemical fertilizers for sale in Spain.

*Hardware, stationery, drugs, etc.*, No. 21971.—A man in Colombia writes that he desires to receive catalogues, price lists, etc., from American manufacturers of hardware, dunnage, stationery, books, perfumes, liquors, and drugs.

*Electric globes*, No. 21972.—A man in the United States writes that he has an inquiry from a firm in Japan for the names of manufacturers of tungsten filament electric globes.

*Sandpaper, emery cloth, etc.*, No. 21973.—The commercial attaché of the Department of Commerce in France reports that a man in his district desires to receive samples and quotations from American manufacturers of sandpaper, emery paper and cloth, garnet and ruby paper, and carborundum paper and cloth.

*Hosiery, chemicals, carpets, shoes, etc.*, No. 21974.—A man in England writes that he desires to establish commercial relations, acting as shipper or buyer on commission for firms on the Continent, with American manufacturers of hosiery, chemicals, carpets, shoes, etc.

*Veneers*, No. 21975.—The commercial attaché of the Department of Commerce in Australia reports that a firm in that country desires to purchase three-ply veneers in oak, ash, mahogany, and other woods. Samples, prices, and discounts are desired by mail. Payments to be made as mutually agreed upon. References.

*Insurance*, No. 21976.—A commercial agent of the Bureau transmits an inquiry from a man in China who desires to secure the agency for American marine and fire insurance companies. Reference.

*Celluloid, acetate of copper, etc.*, No. 21977.—An American consular officer in Spain reports that an agent for motion-picture films in his district desires to purchase celluloid in sheets, chemically pure acetate of copper, and cyanide of potassium. Correspondence in Spanish. References.

*Cotton thread*, No. 21978.—A firm in Paraguay informs an American consular officer that it desires to purchase white cotton sewing thread, six cords, Nos. 20 to 60, in spools of 150 yards or greater lengths. Cash paid with order.

*Machinery, tools, etc.*, No. 21979.—An American consular officer in Chile writes that a firm in his district desires to receive catalogues, price lists, and full information from American manufacturers of machinery, tools, etc., for making all kinds of jewelry. Quotations are desired c. i. f. destination. Cash paid against documents. Correspondence in Spanish.

# COMMERCE REPORTS



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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

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No. 178

Washington, D. C., Monday, July 31

1916

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## PROPOSED MODIFICATION OF BRITISH IMPORT PROHIBITIONS.

[Cablegram from consul general, London, July 26.]

The Controller of Import Restrictions will recommend to the Board of Trade the granting of immediate relief to American shippers of prohibited goods, whereby goods ordered prior to the date of proclamations prohibiting their importation and shipped before October 1, 1916, may be forwarded if the freight situation continues favorable. The controller promises to examine all specially meritorious cases.

## EXPORT DUTY ON PLUMBAGO IN CEYLON.

[Cablegram from American consulate, Colombo, July 27.]

The Ceylon Government in a proclamation issued to-day proposes to levy an export royalty of 3 per cent ad valorem on plumbago. The former duty is to be imposed in the case of contracts antedating July 22. [The former royalty on plumbago was 0.25 rupee per hundredweight (rupee=\$0.3244; hundredweight, 112 pounds).]

## AMENDMENTS TO BRITISH EMBARGO LIST.

[Cablegram from American consul general, London, July 27, 1916.]

The proclamation of May 10, prohibiting certain exports, has been further amended.

The classes of prohibitions are indicated as follows: A signifies prohibition to all destinations; B to all destinations abroad other than British possessions and protectorates; C to all foreign countries in Europe and on the Mediterranean and Black Seas other than France, Russia (except through Baltic ports), Italy, Spain, and Portugal.

The following headings are deleted: C—Absinthe; C—Arrack; C—Black plates and black sheets under one-eighth inch thick; A—Cape garnets or rubies; A—Anthracene oil; A—Coal tar, all products (except creosote) obtainable from and derivatives thereof suitable for use in manufacture of dyes and explosives, whether obtained

from coal tar or other sources, and mixtures containing such products or derivatives; C—Creosote; A—Green oil; A—Sulphuric acid; B—Files; A—Jute piece goods; A—Steel plates and sheets one-eighth inch thick and over; C—Oils, creosote, except wood-tar oil; C—Pitch, coal tar; C—Pitch, rosin; C—Pitch, wood; B—Pitches derived from fats, greases, oils, or fatty acids; C—Food syrups, and molasses from cane sugar; C—Rum and imitation rum; C—Iron plates and sectional materials for shipbuilding; B—Stockinette.

The following headings are added: A—American cotton ties varnished or blacked; C—Black plates for tinning exported in boxes; A—Cast-iron pipes; C—Anthracene oil and mixtures and preparations containing anthracene oil; A—Coal tar, all products obtainable from and derivatives thereof suitable for use in manufacture of dyes and explosives, whether obtained from coal tar or other sources, and mixtures and preparations containing such products or derivatives (except anthracene oil and green oil and mixtures and preparations containing these oils); C—Creosote and creosote oils (except wood tar oil) and mixtures and preparations containing such creosote or creosote oils; C—Green oil and mixtures and preparations containing green oil; A—Sulphuric acid and mixtures containing sulphuric acid; A—Galvanized, corrugated, and galvanized flat sheets; A—Iron and steel plates and sheets (except black plates for tinning exported in boxes, tin plates, terneplates, and lead-coated sheets); C—Japanese tissue paper; A—Jute piece goods and piece goods mainly composed of jute; A—Molasses; A—Motor plows and motor tractors for agricultural use; B—Pickled grains and fleshes (sic); C—Pitches and all mixtures, preparations, and commodities of which pitch forms an ingredient; C—Potable spirits of a strength of less than 43 degrees above proof; B—Quercitron-bark extract; C—Sectional materials for shipbuilding; A—Small tools as follows: Boring cutters, chucks, files, hacksaws, lathe tools, measuring tools, milling cutters, reamers, screwing tackle, slitting saws, thread milling hobs, twist drills; B—Stockinette composed wholly or partly of wool; C—Sirups which may be used as food for man.

### MELBOURNE OPENS CHARGING STATIONS FOR ELECTRICS.

[Consul William C. Magelssen, Melbourne, Australia, June 8.]

The city electrical engineer of the municipal electric supply department advises the Melbourne consulate as follows:

I have pleasure in informing you that this department has decided to open a charging station for electric vehicles at our power house, Spencer Street, Melbourne. This charging station will be open day and night to receive and charge vehicles, but we shall not undertake any repairs or cleaning.

The cost of current for charging will be 1d. (\$.02) per unit between the hours of 10 p. m. and 8 a. m., and during other hours will be 1½d. (\$.035) per unit.

A charge of 10s. (\$2.43) per vehicle per week, or 2s. (\$.48) per 24 hours, will be made for accommodation.

The absence of electric vehicles from the streets of Melbourne is largely due to the lack of charging stations, and the establishment of the one referred to will do much to create a demand for American electric vehicles of all kinds.



## TO IMPROVE AIDS TO NAVIGATION IN HUDSON RIVER.

Improvements in aids to navigation on the Hudson River, N. Y., are to be made, on account of the fact that the present lighting is obsolete, and because of the poor condition of many of the existing aids to navigation while they are so constructed that it is impossible to keep them in operation when the ice commences to move. The plans for improvements include a modern system of flashing lights, on concrete foundations so as to resist ice damage. This is required on account of the large freight and passenger traffic. The sundry civil act approved July 1, 1916, appropriated \$100,000 for improving the aids to navigation and establishing new aids on the Hudson. Instructions have been given by the Lighthouse Service of the United States Department of Commerce that the work proceed as promptly as possible.

The work contemplated to carry out the provisions of this appropriation consists of rebuilding the light and fog signal at Stony Point; improving existing aids at Staats Point, Lamp-here Dock, Four Mile Point, West Flats, and Con Hook, by providing brighter and flashing lights; increasing candlepower and providing fog bell at Jeffreys Hook; rebuilding decayed foundations and providing new towers and brighter lights at Bear Island, Cow Island, Nine Mile Tree, Roha Hook, Fibe Hook Island, New Baltimore, Fitchs Wharf, Percy Reach, Catskill West Flats, Livingston Creek, Upper Coal Beds, and Esopus Island; rebuilding tower and fog-bell house and improving light at West Point, and establishing new lights at Van Wies Point, Barytown Bluffs, Magazine Point, and Anthonys Nose, improving in all 20 existing lights and establishing 4 new lights.

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## USE OF BICYCLES AND MOTORCYCLES IN INDIA.

[Consul Lucien Memmlinger, Madras, June 16.]

Many bicycles are in use in the Madras Presidency. Custom-house returns show that in the fiscal year ended March 31, 1914, a prewar year, 4,763 bicycles, valued at \$94,340, were imported into the various parts of the Madras Presidency (principally Madras), and that 4,600 bicycles, valued at \$93,336, were imported in 1914-15. The figures for motorcycles imported in these respective years were 312 and 279. This indicates to what a large extent cycle conveyances are in use in Madras and in the principal towns of this region.

Distances between residences are great, roads are good, and there are many persons who, unable to afford a motor car or horse and carriage, find it necessary or convenient to have bicycles or motorcycles. Nearly all the cycles come from the United Kingdom, but in the 1914-15 year, during the period prior to the war, 75 bicycles were received from Germany.

It has become increasingly difficult to obtain a sufficient number to supply the demand. Prices for a standard make which a few months ago sold at \$39 have now gone up to \$47, and dealers have all consignments sold out before the goods arrive in port.

## REDUCED OUTPUT OF CARPETS AND RUGS.

A report on the 1914 census of manufactures for the carpet and rug industry has been issued by the United States Bureau of the Census, including a comparison of the figures with those of the census of 1909. The total value of products reported in 1914 was less by \$2,059,967, or 2.9 per cent, than the corresponding total for the preceding census.

The report does not include statistics for establishments which manufacture carpets in which rags or jute or other vegetable fiber constitutes the sole or principal material. The number of carpet factories declined from 139 in 1909 to 97 in 1914. Several went out of business, chiefly on account of the lessened demand for ingrain carpets and rugs, due to a change in styles. Eight establishments manufacturing jute carpet were classed in this industry in 1909, but are included in the "jute and jute goods" industry in the 1914 census. The value of the products of these concerns was \$736,769 in the earlier and \$823,798 in the later year.

The chief constituent material of the carpet and rug industry is wool, either in raw or in partially prepared form. The raw wool used in 1914 amounted to 52,552,449 pounds and cost \$10,493,743, as compared with 64,135,020 pounds, costing \$11,752,396, consumed in 1909. Woolen and worsted yarns also constituted important materials. Of woolen yarn, 21,626,360 pounds, costing \$5,821,848, was used in 1914. Worsted yarn to the amount of 9,267,278 pounds, costing \$4,592,906, was used. Of materials other than wool, yarn made of jute, ramie, and other vegetable fiber is of greatest importance, this being the only material extensively used in the industry which in 1914 showed a gain as compared with 1909. The amount consumed in the later year, 59,148,266 pounds, costing \$6,040,186, represented an increase of 6.4 per cent in quantity and 53.8 per cent in value in comparison with the 1909 figures. Cotton yarn to the amount of 24,619,137 pounds, costing \$4,637,673, and linen yarn amounting to 7,602,200 pounds, costing \$1,414,924, were the other important materials used.

The quantities and values of the various products of the industry were:

Products.	1909	1914	Products.	1909	1914
Total value.....	\$71,188,152	\$69,128,185	Ingrain carpets and rugs:		
Axminster and Moquette carpets and rugs:			Square yards .....	23,931,624	8,973,370
Square yards .....	15,691,358	15,742,835	Value .....	\$9,158,632	\$3,406,381
Value .....	\$17,372,703	\$18,578,693	Smyrna rugs:		
Wilton carpets and rugs:			Square yards .....	1,400,233	822,150
Square yards .....	5,343,616	5,616,263	Value .....	\$1,660,322	\$570,891
Value .....	\$10,119,330	\$11,929,605	Colonial or rag rugs:		
Body Brussels carpets and rugs:			Square yards .....	474,631	779,732
Square yards .....	4,436,457	2,698,840	Value .....	\$250,593	\$530,259
Value .....	\$5,550,189	\$3,995,626	Wool and paper-fiber rugs:		
Tapestry velvet carpets and rugs:			Square yards .....	(a)	4,168,954
Square yards .....	10,660,170	13,227,819	Value .....	(a)	\$1,543,079
Value .....	\$9,027,193	\$12,867,635	Other wool rugs:		
Tapestry Brussels carpets and rugs:			Square yards .....	2,202,316	695,957
Square yards .....	17,078,476	13,614,354	Value .....	\$228,040	\$1,108,506
Value .....	\$12,909,333	\$9,832,647	All other products, value.	\$4,221,814	\$4,444,963

a Not reported separately.

**CHILEAN BUDGET FOR 1917.**

[Ambassador Joseph H. Shea, Santiago, June 26.]

The budget for the year 1917, submitted to the Chilean Congress on June 14, carries appropriations aggregating 194,284,356 paper pesos and 70,825,014 gold pesos of 18 pence. As compared with the budget of 1916 the amounts are less by 13,727,472 paper pesos and 3,895,152 gold pesos.

It is estimated that the Government's receipts from all sources during 1917 will be 128,550,000 paper pesos and 81,540,000 gold pesos.

The statement accompanying the budget points out that the amounts required for the several departments of the Government include 3,846,000 paper pesos and 22,463,000 gold pesos, which have already been provided by special legislation and loans. This will reduce the actual amount it is proposed to appropriate to 190,438,356 paper pesos and 48,362,014 gold pesos. It is assumed that 55,000,000 quintals (1 quintal=101.41 pounds) of nitrate will be exported during 1917, and that the export duties on this amount will be 77,770,000 gold pesos. This is slightly more than 53 per cent of the entire estimated receipts.

**Amounts Required for Departments.**

The following table gives in detail the amounts required for the several departments:

Departments.	Paper pesos. <sup>a</sup>	Gold pesos. <sup>a</sup>	Departments.	Paper pesos. <sup>a</sup>	Gold pesos. <sup>a</sup>
Interior .....	47,056,819	464,240	Navy .....	17,741,440	19,486,283
Foreign Relations, etc. .	2,826,545	1,636,860	Industry and Public Works .....	16,219,818	41,217
Justice .....	10,734,503		Railways .....	9,345,233	1,833
Public Instruction .....	31,741,262	246,313			
Treasury .....	15,181,059	40,040,566	Total .....	194,284,356	70,825,014
War .....	43,437,668	507,702			

<sup>a</sup> According to the United States Treasury statement dated July 1, 1916, the value of the Chilean paper peso is \$0.14 and that of the gold peso \$0.365.

**HUNGARIAN NATURAL-GAS CONTRACT MADE.**

[Consul General William Coffin, Budapest, June 23.]

The first general meeting of the Hungarian Natural Gas Co. (Ungarische Erdgas Aktiengesellschaft) was held June 20, 1916. The capital stock is 27,000,000 crowns (crown=\$0.2026 United States currency), of which the Ministry of Finance has received shares to the amount of 4,000,000 crowns in return for the gas fields turned over to the company and the investments thereon. The balance of the stock, 23,000,000 crowns, has been taken over against a payment of 30 per cent by the syndicate formed under the direction of the Deutsche Bank of Berlin.

At the first meeting a long-term contract for the supply of natural gas to the Hungarian Nitrogen Artificial Fertilizer Factory (Ungarische Nitrogen Kunst-Dunger-Fabriks Aktiengesellschaft) was ratified. This company will obtain its entire supply of natural gas from the Hungarian company. Work has been begun on the sinking of wells.

[A previous report on the plans for supplying natural gas in Hungary was published in COMMERCE REPORTS for May 29, 1916.]

**NETHERLANDS LAW TAXING WAR PROFITS.**

[Consul Frank W. Mahlin, Amsterdam, June 27.]

From a brochure just published at Haarlem giving the text of the Dutch law taxing war profits, with copious notes and comments by a member of the commission that framed it, the following facts are extracted:

The war greatly increased Government expenses through mobilization. At the same time it disastrously affected many Dutch industries, but augmented the profits of others. Thus on one side were industries less able to pay taxes than before the war; on the other, industries whose tax-paying ability was much increased. Exact justice demanded that the Government should ask more from one than from the other.

**Government Commission Appointed.**

In November, 1914, the first steps were taken toward a war-profit tax, but the measure proposed, which levied export duties only, encountered such wide objection that it was withdrawn. However, as sentiment in general favored a war-profit tax, discussion of ways and means continued with growing force and interest as the Scandinavian countries and also the countries at war enacted laws imposing such taxes. Furthermore, those laws gave suggestions and served as models for a similar law in Holland.

Discussion and consideration finally culminated in October, 1915, in the appointment of a Government commission of 32 members, empowered to investigate and ascertain by what method a temporary tax could be collected upon increases of income or of possessions directly or indirectly resulting from the war, and, with their report to the Minister of Finance, to present drafts of the laws which they considered necessary. Half of the commission were members of the Dutch Parliament; representatives of the Department of Finance and of large banking, shipping, and commercial interests composed the other half.

The appointment of this commission was universally approved by the country. In February, 1916, after four months' work, its report was presented to the Minister of Finance, with the draft of a proposed law. The bill went through the usual stages in Parliament, and, without great change, became a law June 21, 1916. The law is retroactive, taking effect with August 1, 1914—the beginning of the war.

**"Increases" as Defined by the Law.**

All increases of incomes or profits directly or indirectly resulting from the war are taxed; and all increases are presumed to result from the war unless the contrary is shown. The law specifies that it applies to residents of the Netherlands and to nonresidents who have real or personal property in this country, and that it applies to all business corporations established within this country, to domestic shipping companies, to domestic institutions of all kinds which conduct a pursuit or a business, and to all corporate bodies not established in this country which have real or personal property here.

As defined by the law, "increase" of income or profit means the amount thereof above the average income or profit in 1911, 1912, and

1913. In certain exceptional cases the basic income or profit is only that of the year 1913. Of corporations or other associations of persons that began business in or after 1913 the clear profits of any year above 5 per cent interest on the capital stock are considered increased profits.

In the application of these general principles, exceptional or possible cases are provided for by further articles, and certain deductions are allowed in calculating incomes. Increased pay or salary for work done, if it does not exceed what is usual in the particular occupation, is not subject to the tax. Increased or decreased income of a married woman is considered to be that of her husband.

#### **Rate of Taxation—Penalties.**

Taxable war profit or income is divided into two classes: If this profit or income is annually under \$1,000 a tax of 10 per cent is levied on all above \$400; if \$1,000 or more, the tax is 30 per cent on all above \$800.

Whoever is subject to the war-profits tax must make a declaration upon a prescribed form and must return it to the designated official within 20 days after receiving it, though longer time may be allowed in exceptional cases. Failure to make this declaration subjects the delinquent to an increase of 100 per cent in the tax levied on him. One who deliberately makes an incorrect or insufficient declaration is liable to imprisonment for a period not exceeding six months. A false declaration deliberately made subjects the offender to imprisonment for two years or less. Other offenses and shortcomings, involving neglect, evasion, etc., are punishable by fines ranging from \$40 to \$400, in some cases with the alternative of imprisonment for one to six months.

Half the tax must be paid within three months and the remainder within six months after it is duly assessed.

#### **Correcting Previous Returns—Repeal After War Closes.**

The law makes detailed provisions for the hearing and decision of complaints regarding assessments, the use of experts in examining books and records, the guidance of tax officials, and for all conceivable emergencies and contingencies that may arise. The law also provides that if it appears from the declaration of any person that he had understated his income in the years 1911, 1912, and 1913 the penalty prescribed therefor will not be inflicted, but he will be required now to pay the tax on the amount of income which he did not then report. The operation of this provision may be thus illustrated: If a person in 1911, 1912, and 1913 declared his income at \$4,000 but now declares it to have been \$8,000 in those years, he will be required to pay income tax on the additional \$4,000 per year, but will be pardoned for the offense he then committed. It is obvious that a person would now be inclined to state his full income in those three years, because the higher the average, which is the basis of the war-profits tax, the less would be the amount of his tax. The general pardon in the new law encourages him to rectify any past error.

The Government estimate of the annual amount which will be realized from the war-profits tax is stated to be \$34,170,000. This is

described as very conservative by Amsterdam business men, who inform me that in their judgment the amount will be at least twice that figure. It is understood that the proceeds of the tax will be applied chiefly to pay the cost of mobilization.

The law provides that within a year after the close of the war a proposal to repeal it shall be presented.

### VALUABLE GIFT TO THE GOVERNMENT.

On July 28, 1916, the President affixed his signature to a joint resolution of Congress, authorizing the Secretary of Commerce to accept from Mrs. Mary A. Scully, of Massachusetts, the gift of a trout hatchery located about seven miles from Great Barrington, Mass. The property comprises about 135 acres in the beautiful Berkshire Hills region, and all buildings, ponds, and other structures constituting a "going" hatchery. The establishment was founded and operated by Mrs. Scully's husband, the late Mr. John S. Scully, who was interested in fish culture for its own sake, but whose business ability enabled him to make even of his means of recreation a highly efficient organization.

Mrs. Scully's munificent gift was prompted by the desire to have the property maintained perpetually for the purpose to which it was dedicated by her husband. It will pass into the care of the Bureau of Fisheries, and officials of that service who have examined it are of the opinion that it is one of the best trout-hatchery sites in the East, and that the character of the water supply and the topography and arrangement of the plant will make it one of the most efficient owned by the Government.

Although formal possession will not be taken for some time, it is the purpose of the Bureau of Fisheries to assume immediate charge of its operations.

### AMERICAN CONSULAR OFFICERS ON LEAVE OF ABSENCE.

The following American consular officers are on leave of absence in the United States and will be glad to confer with business men and commercial organizations relative to conditions in their respective jurisdictions. The consul's time is available primarily for personal interviews. He has limited facilities for correspondence, and except in urgent cases letters should be directed to the consulate.

Name.	Post.	Expiration of venue.	Address.
West, George N. ....	Kobe, Japan. ....	Aug. 15	Department of State, Washington, D.C.
Cooke, A. B. ....	Patras, Greece. ....	Aug. 10	121 West Charlotte Street, Norfolk, Va.
Hale, F. D. ....	Huddersfield, England	Sept. 5	Lunenburg, Vt.
Fisher, Fred D. ....	Tientsin, China. ....	Aug. 5	Albany, Oreg.
Masterson, William W. ....	Durban, Natal, South Africa.	Sept. 1	Carrollton, Ky.
Seltzer, Harry G. ....	Breslau, Germany. ....	Aug. 1	Gibraltar, Pa.
Baker, E. Carlton. ....	Nagasaki, Japan. ....	Aug. 30	Apartment No. 75, The Brunswick, Washington, D. C.
Monaghan, J. C. ....	Kingston, Jamaica. ....	Sept. 1	Avenue A and Fourteenth Street, Bayonne, N. J.
Jewell, John F. ....	Chefoo, China. ....	Oct. 1	Department of State, Washington, D.C.
Kemper, Graham H. ....	Erfurt, Germany. ....	Sept. 10	Do.
Goodier, James H. ....	Niagara Falls, Canada.	Sept. 1	27 South Hawk Street, Albany, N. Y.
Hazeltine, Ross. ....	Port Antonio, Jamaica	Oct. 1	Department of State, Washington, D.C.
Laing, James Oliver. ....	Karachi, India. ....	Sept. 30	C/o University Club, Kansas City, Mo.

**FOREIGN MARKETS FOR FILING CABINETS.****BRAZIL.**

[Commercial Attaché Lincoln Hutchinson, Rio de Janeiro, Apr. 30.]

Filing cabinets of wood or steel are not so commonly used in Brazil as in the United States, but all the larger and better equipped business offices have them and their use is increasing. Both kinds are employed, the metal ones being almost wholly of foreign origin, while the wooden are of both foreign and domestic manufacture. Brazil abounds in hardwoods, which are unsurpassed for cabinet and furniture work, and nearly every town has its expert cabinet-makers who turn out work of excellent quality. In addition, in the larger cities, are to be found furniture factories, which likewise do excellent work in larger quantities, by machinery and by hand. These concerns, both large and small, are making filing cabinets more or less similar to the imported ones and, in competition with the latter, have two great advantages, which in most cases give them the preference: (1) The imported article is subject to a customs duty equivalent to about 100 per cent ad valorem; and (2) several, at least, of the Brazilian hardwoods are immune from the attacks of the white ant, which frequently destroys in a few years furniture of foreign manufacture, made of less resistant wood. Steel filing cabinets, on the other hand, are not made in Brazil; the increasing number in use are entirely of foreign origin.

The matter of preference of one or the other sort seems to be chiefly an affair of personal taste. Many men who have in recent years been using steel furniture seem greatly to prefer it to any other for such a climate as this. It does not warp, is very durable, and is not subject to attack from ants. Compared with imported wooden cabinets, there is the added reason for preference that the import duty is lower, amounting to about 1 milreis per kilo, or approximately 40 per cent of the selling price here. On the other hand, many men prefer the wooden cases, if well made of ant-resisting wood, partly because they are of better appearance and harmonize better with their other office furniture, which, in most instances, is of Brazilian wood. It is thought, however, that the use of steel is increasing.

**Opinions of Brazilian Dealer.**

The following information was obtained from the only extensive dealer in filing cabinets in Rio:

Wooden filing cabinets (archivos) are in little use and their use is not increasing, owing to the high cost of the locally made article and the high duty on imports. Steel is preferable to wood, aside from being cheaper, because it lasts longer and is easier to keep in order. The principal make sold by this house comes from the United States. The three styles that have the greatest sale in Brazil are the following: (1) Four-drawer letter or legal size, 17 inches wide by 25 inches deep by 50 inches high, selling for \$68.75 (conversion at the rate of \$0.25 to the paper milreis); one-drawer letter or legal size, 25 inches deep, 17 inches wide \$18.75; (2) size for card index, cards 3 by 5 inches, 17 deep, 17 inches wide and 12 inches high, selling for \$22.50, and 17 by 17 by 12 inches, selling for \$18.75; (3) size for card index, cards 3 by 5 inches, 17 inches deep, selling for \$8.25 with one drawer and for \$10 with two drawers. One of the four-drawer cabinets weighs 65 kilos (143 pounds) net and 110 kilos

(243 pounds) gross. The freight charged on gross weight was \$9 on the latest lot imported. Sometimes the freight is charged according to space, sometimes according to weight.

[A list of Rio dealers in office supplies who might be interested in filing cabinets may be obtained from the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce or its district offices. Refer to file No. 1444.]

### CHILE.

[R. De F. Boomer, clerk to commercial attaché, Santiago, May 16.]

It can hardly be said that filing cabinets, in the American sense of the term, are in common use in Chile. Different business houses, the Government, etc., have so-called filing cases, but they follow no standard design as to size or construction and are made by local carpenters to fit some particular need. Many of the large houses still file their correspondence in the cardboard-box letter files that one buys for \$0.25 in the United States, and practically all of them use bound ledgers for accounting, lists, etc., the card-index systems being practically unknown. This condition may be attributed to the cheapness of clerical labor, its ignorance of up-to-date office methods, and the comparative smallness of most businesses coupled with the high initial cost of imported filing cabinets. There are certain houses, especially branches of American firms, and banks that are equipped with filing cabinets, but their number is very small. There is only one bookstore in Santiago where one is able to buy plain library cards. The firms that have card indexes have to order the cards made especially for them or import them from abroad. Plain library cards, made locally, cost about \$0.90 a hundred.

#### **Gradually Increasing Sale of Cabinets—Duties.**

This condition, however, is changing and within the last few months filing cabinets have been seen on sale in three stores in Santiago. The wooden cabinets are made locally of imported American oak and are but little inferior to the American article. The duty on finished cases of common wood, under which is included oak, is, according to the new tariff just passed, \$0.18 per kilo (2.2 pounds), gross weight. The duty on pine, oak, and other common woods is \$0.11 per square meter 25 millimeters thick (\$10.17 per 1,000 board feet), when imported in the rough. Fine cabinet woods, such as mahogany, *lignum-vitæ*, walnut, rosewood, ebony, etc., pay a duty of \$0.365 per square meter 25 millimeters thick (\$33.92 per 1,000 feet). A locally made upright cabinet with four letter-filing drawers and two card-index drawers with two compartments each, made of American oak, is on sale in Santiago for about \$85. One steel case of American manufacture has also been seen on sale. It consisted of an upright cabinet with four letter-filing drawers and sold for \$109.50. It is believed that the duty on such a case under the new tariff would be \$0.18 per kilo, gross weight.

#### **Prospects and Methods of Developing Chilean Market.**

The development of a market for filing cabinets would seem to be a possibility, but one that would require considerable educative propaganda. It would seem difficult for American wooden cabinets to compete with the locally made wooden cabinets because of the cheapness of carpenter labor and the high import duties and freight



charges on such bulky articles as cabinets. If, however, steel cabinets could be shipped knocked down and thus occupying comparatively little space, they should find a market here without local competition and should appeal because of their durability and solid construction.

It would seem to the writer that some one intimately acquainted with the methods of using filing and card-index cabinets who could give a practical demonstration to local business houses, Government offices, etc., should be able to create a demand in Chile, particularly in Santiago and Valparaiso. Such a person should be able to speak Spanish fluently and should be socially acceptable to the Chileans.

[The names of firms handling filing cabinets and of firms that might be interested may be obtained from the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce or its district offices. Refer to file No. 1491.]

### PERU.

[Commercial Attaché William F. Montavon, Lima, July 3.]

The only filing cabinets in common use in Peru, Bolivia, or Ecuador are wooden. Although there may have been imported a few pieces of metal furniture by private persons, these articles seem never to have been offered for sale here. In order to decide which style of cabinet, steel or wood, is preferable in this district, it is necessary to take into consideration more than the needs of the local offices. Freight rates are very high, and the disturbed conditions have made it impossible for the Panama Canal to affect them as it probably will in normal times. Steel furniture with welded joints is bulky and pays a correspondingly high freight. Freight rates to Bolivia or to interior points in Peru and Ecuador are, of course, much higher even than those to Peruvian ports. Lumber can be shipped cheaply, and has this advantage over steel or any other kind of manufactured furniture.

It is customary in these countries to assess the customs duty against gross weight, and steel furniture, being bulky, would pay a heavier duty than wooden furniture even if the rates were the same. In Peru the tariff on steel furniture not specified is 22 centavos per kilo (\$0.049 per pound), while on corresponding wooden furniture it is only 13 centavos per kilo (\$0.029 per pound) gross weight.

#### Prospect of Success with Steel Filing Cases.

Practically no timber is produced in Peru, and that which is produced in Ecuador and Bolivia is very expensive because of the crude processes employed. It would seem, therefore, that if steel furniture can compete in price with wooden furniture anywhere, it should be able to do so in these countries. The fact that steel is less perishable than wood would give a special advantage in these countries, where there are various wood-eating insects. It is thought that most of the disadvantages to which steel furniture is subject in this market can be removed and that a serious attempt to introduce it would meet with some success.

An American firm is in a position to handle this class of merchandise at Lima (Peru), La Paz (Bolivia), or Guayaquil (Ecuador). The manager of a Lima firm that has several American agencies stated that he had ordered some American safes on trial. A firm in

Trujillo, one of the largest in the Chicama district, handling furniture, especially steel beds, might likewise be interested in this matter.

[The names of the firms referred to may be obtained from the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce or its district offices. Refer to file No. 1646.]

### **RUSSIA.**

[Commercial Attaché Henry D. Baker, Petrograd, May 29.]

Steel filing cabinets are apparently almost unknown in Russia, and even wooden cabinets of modern design are not much used. The best of the latter sort appear to be imported from Sweden, and are apparently modeled to a great extent on American cabinets. At the present time any import trade in such articles is very difficult, owing to the high freights and scarcity of cars, so that most of those being sold now are from stocks bought before the war.

I wrote to the various American consuls in the Russian Empire, asking for information about the use of office cabinets in their respective districts. With the exception of the consul at Vladivostok, who reports that there is a growing demand for steel cabinets in his district, the various consuls report that wooden cabinets are preferred, and steel cabinets are apparently almost unknown. The reports from the American consuls at Moscow, Riga, Odessa, Tiflis, and Vladivostok are appended.

[Consul William L. Jenkins, detailed as vice consul at Moscow, May 5.]

#### **Outlook in Moscow District Unpromising.**

No steel filing cabinets are used in this district; an unsuccessful attempt was made to introduce them about five years ago. The wooden cabinets in use are made in either Finland or Sweden, after American patterns. It is claimed that a firm in Reval also manufactures these cabinets in considerable quantities. It would seem to be the general opinion that owing to the high price of first-class American cabinets, the chances of introducing these goods into Russia at present are very small.

[Consul Douglas Jenkins, Riga, May 3.]

#### **American Competition with Russian and Finnish Firms Difficult.**

Neither wooden nor steel filing cabinets of modern design are in general use in this district, though wooden cabinets are gradually growing in popularity. Steel cabinets are apparently unknown in the trade here.

What demand there was for modern office furniture before the war was met, to a large extent, by the output of a factory at Reval and by a manufacturer in Finland. Both of these concerns had well-established selling branches in Riga and supplied office furniture after American designs. This office reached the conclusion that it would be difficult, if not impossible, for American makers to compete with them.

Some of the dealers in office furnishings in Riga, who may be interested in American filing cabinets, have suspended business temporarily, while others have moved to the interior. It is impossible to say what they will do after the war. However, they can be reached through the addresses given on the list sent with this report.

[Consul John A. Ray, Odessa, May 18.]

**Advertising Campaign Necessary to Create Market.**

Filing cabinets are not in common use in Russia, and are very seldom to be found in Russian offices. They are almost unknown here. However, a market can be created for filing cabinets in Russia, for use not only in business offices but also in the offices of physicians and lawyers. It is thought that the wooden cabinets would be preferred. In order to build up a market for filing cabinets in Russia, it would be advisable to carry out an energetic advertising campaign, which would show business men by means of samples the big advantages of such equipment and the superiority of American makes.

[Consul F. Willoughby Smith, Tiflis, May 17.]

**Growing Demand in the Caucasus—Imports.**

The demand for wooden and steel filing cabinets in the Caucasus district is limited. Wooden cabinets are preferred because they are cheaper.

The importation of cabinets to the Caucasus is of very recent growth, dating not further back than 1908. No statistics are available, and the data on hand are insufficient even for an estimate. However, in the large towns, such as Baku and Tiflis, the demand is notably increasing and is merely temporarily checked by war conditions. Some of the wooden cabinets are made locally and are very clumsy affairs; the better types were brought from Warsaw or imported from Finland, Sweden, and Germany. A few were imported from the United States and were received with great favor, though the price was considered too high for the general trade. The high price was due partly to high freight charges and partly to the big margin of profit that the importers were obliged to allow because they had to pay cash with order and assume the entire risk.

Steel cabinets would be very favorably received for the use of banks and notarial and Government offices, but the duty on such articles is prohibitive.

[Consul John K. Caldwell, Vladivostok, May 16.]

**Steel Cabinets Preferred in Siberia.**

Filing cabinets are not used to the same extent in the business houses in the Vladivostok consular district as in similar houses in the United States, but there is a growing demand for this class of goods, which should be of steel rather than wood, owing to the very severe climate. The American oak filing cabinets in use in this office are giving good service and are standing the climate, but unless the cabinets are of the very best quality of wood, steel would be preferable.

[The catalogue of a Swedish firm that now supplies filing cabinets to Russia may be seen at the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce or its district offices, which will also furnish, on application, the names of firms in Russia who might be interested in selling American cabinets. Refer to file No. 1518.]

Ecuador imported 15,840 pounds of crude petroleum from the United States in 1915, although it received no shipments of crude oil from this country during the preceding year, according to a report sent from Guayaquil by Consul General Frederic W. Goding.

**BRAZILIAN COMPANY TO DEVELOP MEAT PRESERVING.**

[Consul General Alfred L. M. Gottschalk, Rio de Janeiro, June 23.]

At a meeting of business men held in this city on June 20, 1916, a company was formed for the exploitation of a process for preserving meats without the use of refrigeration. The Brazilian people consume relatively very large quantities of beef and have shown great interest in the process to be employed by the new company.

Most of the meat consumption of Brazil is in the form of "xarque" (jerked beef or "biltong"), and the new process is said to produce results almost equal to those of the ordinary refrigerating methods, which are much more costly.

The treatment consists of boning the meat and putting it through a certain slight process of salting; then immersing it in special tanks containing a pickled preparation formed of meat juices and melted salt, where it is left for 10 days. It is claimed that meat so treated is preserved indefinitely, whether exposed later to air, heat, moisture, or extreme cold. It is said that the meat thus prepared has a darkish appearance, similar to that of dried meat, but that once dipped in water it resumes its original appearance.

**Process Recently Patented in Brazil.**

The process has recently been patented here. It has been tried for some years on a small scale in Ceara and other places. In 1908 there was a small factory at Quixada, and in 1910 a much larger installation was put up at Estacao de Junco. From 1908 to 1914 the company manufactured and sold meats in cases of 12 tins of 4 kilos (8.8 pounds) each, which were sent to Para and Manaos for consumption on the upper Amazon. The product sold per kilo at Para from 32½ to 39½ cents United States currency (kilo=2.2 pounds).

Those interested in the process lay stress upon its usefulness, in view of the enormous difficulties and cost which attend the installation of refrigerating plants in this country. The company starts with capital of 100 contos of reis (\$25,000 United States currency), divided into 1,000 shares of 100 milreis each.

[The name of the company mentioned and the list of officers may be obtained from the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce or its district offices. Refer to file No. 78575.]

**JAPANESE TEXTILE PLANT TO BE ENLARGED.**

[Vice Consul Henry B. Hitchcock, Nagasaki, June 30.]

Announcement is made in the Nagasaki Nichi Nichi Shinbun of June 28, 1916, of proposed extensions to the mills of the Nagasaki Spinning & Weaving Co. The American consulate is informed by a representative of the company that the new machinery will add 40,000 spindles to the capacity of the mills. All of the machinery was purchased in England. This is but one example of Japanese business men seizing the opportunity created by the war to expand their trade with China and other countries of the Far East. The Nichi Nichi Shinbun says:

Bids for the contract for building the extensions to the mills of the Nagasaki Spinning & Weaving Co. were due a month ago. This month the work of preparing the ground is to be undertaken. In August the work on the buildings themselves will be commenced. It is planned to have them entirely completed by March of next year, when the new machinery is to arrive.

**FOREIGN TRADE OPPORTUNITIES.**

Reserved addresses may be obtained from the Bureau and its district offices. Request for each opportunity should be on a separate sheet and state opportunity number. The Bureau does not furnish credit ratings or assume responsibility as to the standing of foreign inquirers; the usual precautions should be taken in all cases.

*Cotton yarn*, No. 21980.—An American consular officer in India reports that a firm in his district is in the market for cotton yarn in cops. Further information may be obtained, and samples of the yarn inspected, at the Bureau or its district offices. (Refer to file No. 78406.)

*Safety-razor blade sharpeners*, No. 21981.—The Bureau is informed that a firm in the United Kingdom desires to communicate with American manufacturers of safety-razor blade sharpeners.

*Celluloid*, No. 21982.—An American consular officer in Denmark writes that a firm in his district is in the market for 5,000 kilograms (11,023 pounds) celluloid in plates 140 by 60 centimeters in size (75.118 by 23.622 inches) and 4½ to 10 millimeters (0.27716 to 0.3937 inch) in thickness. Offers may be made on from 500 to 1,000 kilos for one shipment. Terms to suit seller. Annual consumption about 10,000 kilos. Samples may be inspected at the Bureau or its district offices. (Refer to file No. 78474.)

*Commission merchant*, No. 21983.—The Bureau is advised that a commission merchant in Spain desires to enter into commercial relations with American manufacturers and exporters. No particular line is specified. References can be furnished it is stated.

*Paper*, No. 21984.—A firm in the United States writes the Bureau that it is in receipt of an inquiry from one of its clients in Brazil for printing, writing, and book paper, in different qualities. Samples of the paper may be inspected at the Bureau or its district offices. Refer to Miscellaneous, No. 140.)

*Agricultural machinery, etc.*, No. 21985.—An American consular officer in Russia writes that a firm in his district is in the market for agricultural machinery and milk separators. Correspondence in Russian and German.

*Undertakers' supplies, etc.*, No. 21986.—A firm in a foreign colonial possession advises an American consular officer of its desire to communicate with manufacturers of casket hardware and undertakers' supplies.

*Portland cement*, No. 21987.—An American consular officer in Central America writes that a firm in his district is in the market for 1,000 to 1,500 barrels of Portland cement. Correspondence may be in English.

*Cane and rattan*, No. 21988.—A firm in Brazil informs an American consular officer of its desire to secure cane and rattan for the making of furniture. Samples of the material may be inspected at the Bureau or its district offices. (Refer to file No. 78577.) Quotations f. o. b. New York with counter samples desired.

*Flour, tobacco, soap, etc.*, No. 21989.—A man in an insular possession of a foreign country desires to enter into commercial relations with American manufacturers and exporters of stearine candles, soap, butter, flour, tobacco, and wood paper. References.

*Fruits and vegetables*, No. 21990.—A man in Norway wishes to communicate with producers and exporters of canned fruits, onions, and vegetables of all kinds.

*Machinery, pipe, etc.*, No. 21991.—A firm of importers and exporters on the Pacific coast, engaged in trade with the Orient, writes the Bureau that it desires to handle for American manufacturers, as manufacturers' agents or upon a commission basis, small gas pipe, rope and twine making machinery, cedar wood for use in the manufacture of lead pencils, tobacco for cigarettes, smoking mixtures, and cigars. Reference.

*Draperies*, No. 21992.—An American consular officer in Canada writes that a firm in his district desires quotations on drapery, similar to sample which may be inspected at the Bureau or its district offices. The firm is in the market for 5,000 yards of this material in five different shades in two designs, one like the sample submitted, and the other "Roman stripe." (Refer to file No. 78324.)

## PROPOSALS FOR GOVERNMENT SUPPLIES AND CONSTRUCTION.

[Correspondence should be direct with the offices named, and specifications can usually be obtained at the points where the goods are to be delivered or the work is to be performed. In cases where the time limit is too short to permit firms to submit tenders, they should ask to be placed on the mailing lists of such offices to receive notices calling for future supplies or work of a similar nature.]

*Navy Department supplies, No. 3470.*—Sealed proposals will be received at the Bureau of Supplies and Accounts, Navy Department, Washington, D. C., to which bureau firms desiring to submit proposals should apply, giving schedule numbers, for the supply of the following: Schedule 9938, switches, frogs, etc., railroad crossings; schedule 9939, clinometers, boat clocks, transparent protractors, and binocular neck straps; schedule 9940, apparatus for manufacturing oxygen and hydrogen; schedule 9941, primer brass rod; schedule 9942, steel flasks and white paper for blue-print coating; schedule 9943, water meter and vibrating W. T. bells and buzzers; schedule 9944, 7-ounce blue flannel and 54-inch wide navy-blue worsted serge; schedule 9945, chemical sound tubes; schedule 9946,  $\frac{1}{2}$  by 12 inch arc-lamp carbons, and 12 by 16 inch, 110 V. A. C. fans; schedule 9947, half-and-half solder, spelter solder, and wiping solder; schedule 9948, water heaters, ship lavatories, bathtubs, and individual urinals; schedule 9949, 27-inch wide flax ravens, cotton machine thread, four-ply flax twine, and flax mattress twine; schedule 9950, rubber ferrules, flexible steel galvanized fuel-oil hose, galvanized buckets, wax-burning bunker lamps, motor-boat range lights, ash oars, 2-inch hexagon white tile, bibb cocks, and steel tubing; schedule 9951, strip phosphor bronze, bar monel metal, boiler zinc, and slab zinc; schedule 9952, water-gauge glasses, fire rubber hose, brass wire, cotton rags for wiping machinery, square-end scoop shovels,  $1\frac{1}{2}$ -inch oil syringes, telephone cord, past form-cutting compound, castor oil, mineral lard oil, and composition unions; schedule 9953, white bone buttons, stay binding, and cotton cloth for mattress covers; schedule 9954, No. 1 new pattern safes, chinaware for officers' mess, and silver-plated ware for officers' mess; schedule 9955, steel angles, carbon (special) steel, hot rolled or forged carbon steel, and steel plates; schedule 9956, steel angles, steel half-rounds, black and galvanized sheet steel, and hull steel plate; schedule 9957, gold leaf, 20 books to a package, sulphuric acid, alcohol, beeswax, chrome green in oil, lampblack in oil, petroleum, sal ammoniac, strained crude turpentine, and whiting; schedule 9958, hickory ax and hammer handles, differential chain blocks, spur-gear chain blocks, worm-gear chain blocks, brass squirt cans, brass jack chains, brass steamboat chain, galvanized  $\frac{1}{4}$ -inch boat chain, galvanized-wire screen cloth, soapstone crayons, breast drills,  $\frac{1}{4}$ -inch portable electric drills, brass eyelets and grommets, hasps and staples, 1-pound scaling hammers, fast-pin brass but-hinges, two-pronged coat and hat hooks, hydraulic jacks, shutter lanterns, combination locks and latches, brass chest locks, drawer locks, locks for metal and wood doors and drawers, reversible mortise locks, padlocks, rim locks, wardrobe locks, caliper micrometers, brass nuts, soapstone pencils, pliers, reamers, galvanized hammock rings, machinists' combination sets, 1-quart gasoline torches, vises, and pipe wrenches; schedule 9959, steel angles, bar steel, galvanized-steel channels, billet nickel steel, rivet steel, and black and galvanized sheet steel; schedule 9960, acetone, dry lamp-black, dry red lead, and mixing varnish; schedule 9961, porcelain water-closet bowls, whisk brooms, charcoal, rubber fire hose, ship lavatories, upholstery leather, bulkhead and hand billy pumps, 2-inch hexagon white tiles, and galvanized malleable-iron pipe fittings; schedule 9962, hatchet-hammer handles, etc., auger bits, saw miter boxes, micrometer calipers, chisels, hand files, portable blacksmith forges, grindstones, machinists' chipping hammers, hydraulic jacks, drawer locks, etc., padlocks, rim locks, 4-inch cut boat copper nails, brass nuts, steel nuts, planes, pliers, steel rivets, all-metal ship scrapers, brass machine and wood screws, shears, round-point long-handle shovels, steel and woven measuring tapes, 1-quart gasoline torches, vises, iron or steel washers, engineers' wrenches, pipe wrenches, and 6-inch screw wrenches; schedule 9963, Turkish toweling, amorphous lubricating graphite, composition pipe fittings, tubing for condenser ferrules, and gate globe and check valves; schedule 9964, high shoes; schedule 9965, rubber-covered wire; and schedule 9966, interior communication cables, double conductor bell wire, double-conductor wire, single-conductor wire, and twin-conductor wire.

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No. 179

Washington, D. C., Tuesday, August 1

1916

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## FRENCH EXPORT PROHIBITIONS.

[Cablegram from American consulate general, Paris, July 31.]

A decree of July 29, effective July 29, prohibits the exportation of beeswax, raw or manufactured, coffee extracts, monazite, tea, menthol, acetones, and raw or refined materials used in their preparation.

The Minister of Finance is authorized to grant exceptions to this decree.

## FURTHER BRITISH IMPORT PROHIBITIONS.

[Cablegram from American vice consul, London, July 29.]

A royal proclamation prohibits the importation into the United Kingdom of the following articles except under license: Cocaine and all preparations, salts, derivatives, or admixtures prepared therefrom containing one-tenth of 1 per cent of cocaine or opium, raw or granulated, or prepared for smoking (including any solid or semi-solid mixture containing opium); air guns and rifles, sporting guns, carbines and rifles; oranges not produced in the British Empire.

## NEW LINE THROUGH THE CANAL.

[Panama Canal Record, July 19.]

The passage through the Panama Canal on July 15 of the passenger steamship *Remuera* of the New Zealand Shipping Co., on the way from Wellington to London, marks the establishment of this important line through the canal. Its route has formerly been around the Cape of Good Hope on the outward voyage from Great Britain and around Cape Horn on the homeward lap, the vessels going completely around the world on each voyage. It was intended to make use of the canal route some time ago, but the outbreak of the war in Europe and the closing of the canal by slides deferred the adoption of this route until now. The company has reported its intention of building new ships especially for the canal service.

The old route totaled 12,216 miles; the new route will approximate 11,190 miles via Tahiti and Colon, or 11,450 miles if the steamer sails direct to Balboa from Wellington and goes by Norfolk on the way from Colon to Plymouth.

### AMERICAN ELECTRICAL MACHINERY AND APPARATUS.

The total value of products of the electrical-machinery industry in the United States increased practically 50 per cent between 1909 and 1914. A summary of the census of manufactures for that industry in 1914 has been issued by the United States Bureau of the Census. The total number of establishments decreased by 30 in the 5-year period, from 1,151 to 1,121; but, eliminating those which make electrical machinery as a subsidiary product, the total number engaged primarily in this industry increased by 21.

Of the 1,121 establishments reported for 1914, 234 were located in New York, 151 in Illinois, 129 in Ohio, 114 in Pennsylvania, 100 in Massachusetts, 83 in New Jersey, 46 in Connecticut, 46 in Indiana, 30 in California, 19 in Missouri, 18 in Minnesota, 17 in Rhode Island, 8 in Colorado, 7 in Maryland, 6 in New Hampshire, 5 in Iowa, 4 each in Delaware, North Carolina, Tennessee, Washington, and West Virginia, 3 in Kentucky, 2 each in District of Columbia, Louisiana, Nebraska, and Vermont, and 1 each in Alabama, Kansas, Oregon, South Carolina, Texas, and Virginia.

The comparative statistics for 1914 and 1909 are summarized in the following statement of values of products:

Products.	1909	1914	Products.	1909	1914
Dynamoes .....	\$17,231,804	\$23,233,437	Electric lighting fixtures.	\$2,200,668	\$3,383,965
Transformers .....	8,801,019	13,120,065	Telegraph apparatus....	1,957,432	2,248,375
Motors .....	22,087,482	44,176,235	Telephone apparatus....	14,259,357	22,815,640
Batteries, parts and supplies .....	10,612,470	23,402,455	Electric heating apparatus.....	1,954,112	4,034,436
Carbons (including furnace, lighting, brushes, battery, etc.) .....	1,934,854	3,602,741	Electric measuring instruments.....	7,800,010	8,796,506
Arc lamps .....	1,706,960	742,142	Insulated wire and cables.....	51,624,737	60,806,923
Searchlights, projectors, and focusing lamps....	935,874	2,081,545	Other products.....	66,604,153	115,416,877
Incandescent lamps.....	15,714,809	17,360,385			
Sockets, receptacles, bases, etc.....	4,521,729	5,512,609	Total .....	240,037,479	360,412,626

### RETAINING BASIN FOR BROOD FISH AT GLOUCESTER.

The authorization by Congress of an expenditure of \$3,000 has made possible an important improvement in the fish-cultural methods employed at the United States Bureau of Fisheries hatchery on Ten-pound Island in Gloucester (Mass.) Harbor. With this appropriation a retaining basin of concrete or masonry will be erected for the retention of brood fishes, the fish being permitted to extrude their eggs under natural conditions instead of being stripped by hand, as is the present practice at that place.

The method projected has been practiced for many years in Norway and has been given a thorough test at Woods Hole, where it has been demonstrated that it is not only cheaper than the old system, but more efficient in securing a higher percentage of fertilization. The eggs as discharged float to the surface of the pool and are carried by a water current into a flume and deposited on screens. The arduous work of the spawn taker, handling the fish often in freezing weather, is supplanted by an almost automatic operation.



**TAXATION OF AMERICAN SECURITIES.**

[Consul General Robert P. Skinner, London, England, July 12.]

The special income tax of 2 shillings in the pound sterling (\$0.486 in each \$4.86, or 10 per cent) on certain listed American securities owned by persons resident in Great Britain has already been briefly reported upon. [See *COMMERCE REPORTS* for June 29, 1916, p. 1201; also, as of interest in this connection, the issues for Jan. 11 and May 26 of this year.] Referring to the position of American citizens in the United Kingdom in regard to this tax, the Chancellor of the Exchequer makes the following statement:

As consideration of the bill has not yet been completed by Parliament, the clause which provides for the taxation of American securities has not necessarily reached its final form, and information respecting the effect of the proposed tax can only be given subject to this reservation. Generally speaking, the incidence of the additional duty will follow that of the ordinary income tax (except that there will be no exemptions or abatements other than those which may be provided in the present finance bill). The additional duty, like the ordinary income tax, will not apply to income from foreign securities belonging to persons not resident within the United Kingdom. No exemption is proposed for residents of foreign nationality as such, but subclause 3 (e) contains an exemption for persons who are not domiciled in the United Kingdom in respect of income derived from securities held abroad, if the securities were so held before May 29, 1916. The expression "domiciled" is of course to be understood in its legal sense.

Many American citizens in Great Britain have been particularly disturbed because their American stocks are controlled by trustees or are subject to testamentary restrictions of various kinds. To meet their special situation a clause has been inserted in the bill entitling to relief from the additional taxation in respect of income derived from any American securities held by trustees those persons "who are prevented by the terms of their trust from placing their securities at the disposal of the Treasury and are not entitled to the benefit of any indemnity conferred by act of Parliament in respect of the contravention of those terms, if the securities were so held before the 29th day of May, 1916." Relief is also granted in respect of income derived from securities deposited with persons outside the United Kingdom as security for a loan from those persons.

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**Fluctuations in Bermuda's Tourist Traffic.**

Unofficial figures obtained by Consul Carl R. Loop from a Hamilton steamship agency show that the number of first-class passengers arriving in Bermuda during 1915 was 10,511, a decrease from the total for 1914, which was 14,773. The largest number of passengers arriving in Bermuda in any one calendar year was 27,045, in 1911. The total number in 1912 was 22,918, decreasing to 21,595 in 1913. Beginning with August, the tourist traffic was greater in 1915 than in 1914. Consul Loop states that this was due to more settled conditions and to the greater popularity of the islands as a summer as well as a winter resort.

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The value of the gold, silver, and lead produced in South Dakota in 1915 amounted to \$7,507,782, compared with \$7,431,343 in 1914, as reported by the United States Geological Survey. The gold output in 1915 was valued at \$7,406,305.

## SHIPPING FACILITIES OF THE UNITED STATES FOR 1916.

The merchant shipping, American and foreign, cleared from sea-ports of the United States, 25,475,103 net tons for Europe, South America, Asia, Africa, Australia, and Oceania during the fiscal year ended June 30, 1916, was the largest in the history of the United States notwithstanding the European war, the capture of the port of Antwerp, and the closing of the Black Sea, the blockade of the ports of the Central Powers, the withdrawal of German and Austrian merchant ships from trade, and the dangers of submarines and mines cast adrift in the routes of ocean commerce.

Up to the year just closed the greatest volume of clearances from the United States for the overseas continents named was 24,872,403 net tons during the year ended June 30, 1914, just before the outbreak of the European war. Much of the net tonnage in that year was space for passengers (tourists and immigrants) on ocean steamers, while during the fiscal year just closed such fast steamers to a great extent have been withdrawn from trade to serve as allied transports and hospital ships or held in port to avoid capture, and their place has been supplied by cargo steamers. (A net ton is 100 cubic feet of ship's closed-in space available for cargo or passengers).

## Overseas Shipping.

American shipping cleared for the overseas continents during the year just closed was more than threefold that in 1914 so cleared—2,448,305 net tons, compared with 745,242 net tons for the fiscal year 1914. The American net tonnage cleared from the United States for these continents in the years ended June 30, 1914 and 1916, the foreign net tonnage so cleared, and the combined American and foreign tonnage were as follows, American tonnage more than doubling in each case and foreign tonnage showing a decrease, except to Asia:

Clearances for—	American.		Foreign.		Total.	
	1914	1916	1914	1916	1914	1916
	<i>Tonnage.</i>	<i>Tonnage.</i>	<i>Tonnage.</i>	<i>Tonnage.</i>	<i>Tonnage.</i>	<i>Tonnage.</i>
Europe.....	447,667	1,134,952	19,598,524	18,791,713	20,046,191	19,926,665
South America.....	192,479	946,333	2,297,171	1,784,739	2,429,650	2,710,073
Asia.....	72,218	131,198	1,165,083	1,489,196	1,237,301	1,620,395
Australia, etc.....	28,615	157,390	724,189	596,496	753,804	753,576
Africa.....	4,263	79,412	402,194	334,681	406,457	414,093
Total.....	745,242	2,448,305	24,127,161	23,026,796	24,872,403	25,475,103

## Shipping Bound for Europe.

During the past fiscal year our shipping facilities (net tonnage) for the export trade to Europe, have been the greatest in our history. Although the net tonnage in 1914 was a trifle larger—half of 1 per cent—much of that net tonnage in 1914 was for the passenger trade, as stated, which in 1916 was relatively small, and cargo space in 1916 was supplied to help to meet the great volume of our exports. During 1914 the American Line mail steamers to Southampton and the Red Star Line passenger ships to Antwerp were virtually the only American ships in trade with Europe; in 1916 American ships traded with the maritime nations of Europe, except Belgium and the blockaded Central Powers. The total tonnage clearances to France

and Italy almost doubled, the clearances to Norway, Denmark, and Sweden more than doubled, and to Greece increased over threefold. The following summarizes the net tonnage clearances to European countries:

Destination.	American.		Foreign.		Total.	
	1914	1916	1914	1916	1914	1916
	<i>Tonnage.</i>	<i>Tonnage.</i>	<i>Tonnage.</i>	<i>Tonnage.</i>	<i>Tonnage.</i>	<i>Tonnage.</i>
Austria-Hungary .....			517,993		517,993	
Belgium .....	187,965		943,789		1,131,734	
France .....		184,140	1,763,808	3,452,567	1,763,808	3,636,707
Germany .....	8,406		8,893,687		3,902,073	
Great Britain and Ireland .....	241,606	604,604	7,351,796	7,700,103	7,593,402	8,304,707
Greece .....		5,727	93,203	345,855	93,203	351,582
Italy .....		135,116	1,893,915	3,444,597	1,893,915	3,579,713
Netherlands .....	8,926	10,014	1,751,756	1,356,129	1,760,682	1,366,143
Russia in Europe .....		23,535	157,434	197,906	157,434	221,441
Scandinavia .....		114,593	681,393	1,482,153	681,393	1,596,746
Spain .....		11,464	422,571	547,177	422,571	558,641
Other Europe .....		764	127,249	285,226	128,013	310,985
Total .....	447,667	1,134,952	19,598,524	18,791,713	20,046,191	19,926,665

#### Clearances for South America and Africa.

American shipping in trade with South America has developed more rapidly in the past fiscal year than in any other direction. The American tonnage cleared was almost five times greater than in 1914, and in trade with Argentina particularly the increase is notable. The withdrawal of foreign ships has been made good by increased American tonnage. The increase in total clearances is partly due, of course, to improved financial conditions in those countries, except Peru, and to the removal of the risk of destruction which checked trade with South America for some months after the outbreak of the war. The clearances for South America follow:

Destination.	American.		Foreign.		Total.	
	1914	1916	1914	1916	1914	1916
	<i>Tonnage.</i>	<i>Tonnage.</i>	<i>Tonnage.</i>	<i>Tonnage.</i>	<i>Tonnage.</i>	<i>Tonnage.</i>
Argentina .....	4,757	191,436	611,360	575,842	616,117	767,278
Brazil .....	62,356	259,619	648,345	548,890	710,707	808,499
Chile .....	44,385	236,578	482,377	355,547	526,762	592,125
Colombia .....	285	109,197	271,804	74,319	272,089	183,516
Peru .....	48,457	32,385	42,951	50,794	91,408	83,179
Uruguay .....	7,310	54,657	93,069	121,743	100,379	176,400
Venezuela .....	23,066	52,236	29,800	13,357	52,866	65,643
Other South America .....	1,863	9,195	57,465	24,238	59,308	33,433
Total .....	192,479	945,353	2,237,171	1,761,720	2,429,650	2,710,073

The clearances from the United States for Africa on both oceans and on the Mediterranean increased from 406,457 net tons in 1914, to 464,093 net tons in 1916. In 1914 the American shipping thus cleared was insignificant, only 4,263 net tons, while in the past year it mounted to 79,412 net tons, of which over half, in spite of submarine warfare in the Mediterranean, was cleared for Egypt and Algiers.

The foreign net tonnage clearances decreased from 402,194 in 1914 to 384,681 in 1916.

#### Trans-Pacific Voyages.

The total tonnage clearances from the United States of ships on trans-Pacific voyages to ports in Asia, Australia, the Philippines, and

foreign islands of the Pacific increased from 1,990,105 net tons in the fiscal year of 1914 to 2,374,272 net tons in 1916, and of these amounts American net tonnage increased from 100,833 net tons in 1914 to 288,588 net tons in 1916. The table below shows that the gains have not been uniform, but there have been marked increases and decreases in shipping facilities between the United States and the countries and colonies comprised within the limits named. Clearances to "other Asia," show the greatest increase from 89,176 net tons in 1914 to 618,610 net tons in 1916. During the past year "other Asia" has meant mainly Vladivostok, and the tonnage increase shows shipping facilities provided for the export of locomotives, cars, rails, motor trucks, and steel products generally to Russia through Siberia, Russian Black Sea ports being closed and Baltic ports, especially Riga, partly closed during the year. The effect of the withdrawal of the Pacific Mail ships to Hongkong is to be noted and clearances to the Philippines also show a marked decrease. The Philippine figures do not include Government transports.

Destination.	American.		Foreign.		Total.	
	1914	1916	1914	1916	1914	1916
<b>ASIA.</b>						
	Tonnage.	Tonnage.	Tonnage.	Tonnage.	Tonnage.	Tonnage.
China .....	4,952	37,452	348,147	162,624	353,090	200,076
British India .....		19,707	120,832	184,681	120,832	154,788
Hongkong .....		9,346	75,879	242,556	75,879	263,202
Japan .....	66,615	13,402	531,800	378,088	598,415	801,548
Other Asia .....	651	51,231	88,426	669,681	89,176	618,610
Total .....	72,218	131,198	1,165,083	1,490,196	1,227,364	1,630,366
<b>OCEANIA.</b>						
Australia .....	14,243	136,173	492,119	431,154	506,463	562,086
Philippine Islands .....	2,051	1,181	143,945	86,407	145,996	87,588
Other Oceania .....	12,321	20,086	68,125	78,725	100,346	95,693
Total .....	28,615	157,390	724,189	596,486	753,804	753,576

#### Shipping to Near-By Foreign Ports.

The gain of 602,700 net tons in export clearances of shipping from the United States across the seas and into waters, to a greater or less extent, the zones of naval and submarine operations and of war risk has been offset, however, by decreased clearances to foreign seaports on or near the coasts of North America. In 1914 these amounted to 14,750,083 net tons; in 1916 to 13,420,158 net tons. The principal decreases have been in clearances to the British West Indies, preoccupied with war, 738,649 net tons, and to Mexico, Haiti, and the Dominican Republic, disturbed by internal dissensions, 688,717 net tons.

In North American waters the foreign clearances of American ships show a large gain, but proportionately not so great as in overseas trade, from 4,395,082 net tons in 1914 to 7,296,777 net tons in 1916. While the figures are larger, they represent a much smaller number of ships and these of less tonnage than the figures for overseas trade, because the voyages in American waters are relatively short and the same ship clears often during the year. To Cuba,

Panama, and Central America the American tonnage more than doubled in the year.

Clearances for—	American.		Foreign.		Total.	
	1914	1916	1914	1916	1914	1916
Nova Scotia and British Columbia.....	<i>Tonnage.</i> 1,854,058	<i>Tonnage.</i> 1,998,805	<i>Tonnage.</i> 2,855,943	<i>Tonnage.</i> 2,733,882	<i>Tonnage.</i> 4,710,001	<i>Tonnage.</i> 4,732,687
British West Indies and Bermuda.....	138,073	266,163	1,520,591	653,852	1,658,664	920,015
Cuba.....	871,566	1,810,358	1,738,337	1,257,005	2,609,843	3,067,453
Panama.....	500,009	1,139,889	838,097	84,518	1,338,106	1,224,407
Mexico, Haiti, and Dominican Republic.....	964,553	1,691,412	2,203,413	787,837	3,167,966	2,479,249
Central America and West Indies, except British.....	66,883	390,150	1,198,620	606,197	1,265,503	996,347
Total.....	4,395,082	7,296,777	10,355,001	6,123,381	14,750,083	13,420,158

Out of 38,895,261 net tons of shipping cleared on ocean voyages to foreign ports during the fiscal year ended June 20, 1916, 9,745,082 net tons were American, or 25 per cent; in the fiscal year 1914, out of 39,622,486 net tons only 5,141,324, or 13 per cent, were American.

NOTE.—Including frequent but short fresh-water foreign trips to Canada across the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence. American tonnage in 1916 was 34 per cent of the total. Detailed figures will be printed in the Monthly Summary of Foreign Commerce of the United States, June, 1916, to be issued by the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce about the middle of August.

### PENNSYLVANIA AND DELAWARE AIDS TO NAVIGATION.

The sundry civil act approved July 1, 1916, appropriated \$80,000 for improving the aids to navigation and establishing new aids on the Delaware River, Pennsylvania and Delaware.

The United States engineers have dredged a new 35-foot channel in the vicinity of Schooner Ledge, Delaware River, which requires two ranges of lights in place of the present Schooner Ledge range.

The work contemplated to carry out the provisions of this appropriation consists of establishing new ranges as follows: Chester (upper) Range, oil-vapor rear light on the present reservation, acetylene front light in the water, out of the way of heavy ice; electric fog bell to be provided at the front light; Marcus Hook (lower) Range to be similar, except that a site will be required for the rear light and no fog bell will be needed at the front light. The towers for Chester Range (front and rear) and Marcus Hook (rear) will be upon pile and concrete foundations.

In connection with the Chester front light, the old light will have to be removed and a temporary light displayed. There will also be elevated walks on pile foundations at this light. At the Marcus Hook rear light an oil house and outbuildings are to be erected, roads graded, fences built, etc. At both of the rear lights dwellings will be provided for the keepers. Both of the front light structures will require riprapping.

Prompt action in providing the new aids or making improvements has been ordered by the lighthouse service of the United States Department of Commerce.

**AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION IN ECUADOR.**

[Consul General Frederic W. Goding, Guayaquil, June 24.]

A very general interest is being awakened in Ecuador relative to the study of scientific agriculture, culminating in the establishment of a professorship of that branch in the Central University at Quito, which doubtless is the first step toward the organization of an agricultural college. The course includes:

Introductory features.

The study of prehistoric, historic, and modern agriculture.

Meteorology and climatology; atmosphere in relation to plant and animal life.

Aqueous phenomena; dew, frost, clouds, fog and hail, and water as a plant nutritive.

Winds; general causes and character of.

Light; its influence and application in agriculture.

Electrical and thermal phenomena in agriculture.

Heat from the sun; distribution of temperature on the earth's surface; influence of latitude, altitude, seas, winds, rains, etc.

Ecuador, its climate and seasons; altitude (ocean influence, and winds; explanation of luxuriant vegetation and abundant rainfall compared with the barrenness and dryness of Peru, Bolivia, and Chile. Particular studies on the temperature and other forces in the various portions of the country, including the paramos (bleak elevated plains) where cereals can not be grown. Daily, monthly, and annual variations.

Ecuador requires only the application of the principles of modern agriculture to develop into a magnificent garden.

**ARGENTINE HAND-WEAVING INDUSTRY.**

[Consul William Dawson, Jr., Rosario, June 14.]

According to *La Nacion*, a Government official who recently investigated conditions in the Puna de Jujuy, and particularly in the Humahuaca region, found the hand-weaving industry in a state of complete decadence. This he attributes largely to the fact that in the Puna de Jujuy weaving is done by men instead of by women, as in the Provinces of Salta and Catamarca. Spinning is, however, done by women.

The official recommends that the Government open a school for hand weavers in the Puna de Jujuy. He also recommends the use for dyeing and fixing of "algarrobina," extracted from the "algarrobo" or carob-tree which abounds throughout the region. He further calls attention to the necessity of protecting the vicuña and guanaco, the herds of which are said to be diminishing in the Province of Jujuy. Among the products of the region he mentions a good grade of cheap blanket.

The Governor of the Andes Territory is reported to have requested that a similar investigation be made with respect to weaving in his Territory. He points out that the local industry would have the advantage of abundant water power.

**RADIO STATION INSTALLED AT NAVASSA ISLAND.**

A radio station has been installed and is now in operation at Navassa Island Light Station, West Indies, now under construction. The call letters are WQN. This radio station is operated at present by the contractors for the erection of the light station, and it will be operated by the United States Lighthouse Service when the light station shall have been completed.

**FOREIGN TARIFFS.**

**ARGENTINA.**

[Consul William Dawson, jr., Rosario, June 2.]

**Forwarding Samples and Catalogues to Argentina.**

A leading importer of Rosario reports that the sending of United States catalogues to Argentine firms by parcel post should be discontinued and such articles should be forwarded by regular mail and registered if desired. Where catalogues are sent by parcel post, the addressee receives an official notice from the customhouse that a parcel has arrived, but he has no means of ascertaining the contents of the package except after the payment of stamp taxes and other fees amounting to from 3 to 4 paper pesos (from \$1.28 to \$1.70). These expenses having been paid, the addressee frequently finds that the catalogue is of absolutely no interest to him.

It is highly important that samples, as well as catalogues, be transmitted by parcel post only when the addressee has expressly requested it. As articles subject to import duty may not be sent to Argentina by parcel post and as practically all sample articles would be dutiable unless mutilated or otherwise rendered unsalable, the only practical means of forwarding samples to Argentina and certain other Latin-American countries appears to be to send them by express, arranging with the express company for customs clearance, or to consign them in bulk to an agent and have him attend to their clearance and distribution to prospects. [An article describing the operation of the parcel-post service in Argentina appeared in *COMMERCE REPORTS* for July 20, 1916, p. 250.]

**Forwarding of Samples to Consulates.**

Consul General W. Henry Robertson, Buenos Aires, emphasizes the fact that samples and other articles should not be forwarded to the consulate general by parcel post. As reported above, such packages are subject to heavy charges apart from whatever customs duty may be collected, and it is seldom that the senders remit funds to cover these expenses. Even should the necessary funds be sent, however, and the postal description of the parcel given, it is very difficult for the addressee to identify the package from the notice issued by the Argentine post office. In other words, it is almost impossible for him to tell in advance whether or not the stamp taxes and other fees are being paid on the parcel for which funds have been forwarded. The Consul General at Buenos Aires has for this reason been compelled to leave a number of packages unclaimed in the post office, being unable to ascertain the names of the senders without first paying these charges.

**CANADA.**

[Appraisers' Bulletin No. 1280, Mar. 16.]

**Dutiable Value of Sewer Pipe.**

A memorandum issued by the Canadian Department of Customs specifies the discounts from list prices of sewer pipe and flue lining imported into Canada from the United States which will be deducted in order to ascertain the fair market value upon which duty is

leviable. Information regarding discounts on the various classes of these articles may be obtained upon application to the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce.

[Articles imported into Canada are liable to anti-dumping duty when the invoice price is less than the fair market price to a similar class of purchasers in the country of exportation, except where the difference does not exceed 5 per cent. The Canadian anti-dumping regulations are set forth in Tariff Series No. 24, published by the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce.]

#### MEXICO.

[Consul William W. Canada, Vera Cruz, June 8.]

##### Payment of Import Duties in Gold.

A decree of the Carranza Government, which was published in El Dictamen, Vera Cruz, April 17, 1916, and went into effect April 30, 1916, abrogates the decree of September 18, 1915, which provided that import duties should be payable 20 per cent in gold and 80 per cent in Mexican paper currency. According to the new order, the import duties on all articles are payable entirely in Mexican gold. It is stated that, in spite of the reductions in duty resulting from the former method of part payment in paper, merchants have for some time been quoting prices in Mexican gold and the consuming public has consequently failed to benefit by the change. It is also pointed out, in justification of the new decree, that most articles of necessity are at present exempt from duty, and that a limitation for the present on imports of articles of luxury would not be inadvisable. [The effect of the new decree is to increase the value of the Mexican peso for customs purposes from about \$0.16 to \$0.498 (par value). Notices regarding recent tariff changes in Mexico, containing lists of exempted articles and of those subject to special reductions in duty, were published in Foreign Tariff Notes No. 19, p. 48, and in COMMERCE REPORTS for Mar. 14 and July 7, 1916.]

#### URUGUAY.

[Diario Oficial, May 6.]

##### Certificates of Origin for Shipments.

An Uruguayan decree of May 13, 1916, requires that certificates of origin accompany all shipments and provides that, beginning October 1, 1916, goods shall not be cleared through the customs unless the importer presents such a document. This decree abrogates the provisions of the decrees of September 13, 1915, and January 25, 1916 (see COMMERCE REPORTS for Apr. 22, 1916), which stated that the furnishing of certificates of origin was not obligatory. The certificates, which may be written in either Spanish or French, must be presented in duplicate for consular certification and should specify the kinds, numbers, and quantity of packages, the gross and net weight or the measurement of each package, origin or nationality of goods, total value in Uruguayan currency, name of consignee, and the ports of shipment and of destination. The fee for consular certification is \$0.50 in the case of articles shipped on bill of lading or parcel receipt and \$0.20 in the case of goods sent by parcel post. The new decree also changes somewhat the requirements for ship's manifests, as established by the decree of September 13, 1915.



[Diario Oficial, May 22.]

**Prohibition on Certain Liquors.**

An Uruguayan decree of May 22, 1916, prohibits the importation after July 1, 1916, of alcoholic beverages of strength exceeding 45 degrees. The same decree forbids the manufacture of such beverages in Uruguay and allows a period of 1 year for the disposal of existing stocks.

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**CANADIANS INTERESTED IN EXPORT TRADE EXTENSION.**

[Consul Edward A. Dow, St. Stephen, New Brunswick, July 8.]

The Canadian press is giving much attention to Canada's share of future export trade. Among the points emphasized in an extended article on the subject were the following:

Now that development of railway systems and other large undertakings are practically completed for some years to come, Canada will have more time to devote to facilities for international trade. The Export Association of Canada, already having a membership of 104, is expected to be a factor in this movement.

One Canadian corporation is given as an example, in discussing foreign-trade methods. Instead of the old plan of exhibiting a few samples at agricultural fairs and national exhibitions, and waiting for a demand for goods to follow, this concern has organized regular districts in Europe, Argentina, and Australia, with staffs of agents, salesmen, and mechanical experts at work even more aggressively than at home.

**Examples of Foreign Competition Faced by Exporters.**

As examples of foreign competition faced by exporters on this continent, attention is called to the foreign trade of Russia in railway cars, Spain's production of shirting for Indian markets, and Japan's efforts in the Orient. The advantage of cheap labor in such countries can be met here, it is claimed, only by increased efficiency in well-equipped factories in this country.

Manufacturers are urged to start export efforts by a study of commercial geography in its widest sense, and by conferences with experienced exporters. Markets abroad should be selected only after foreign correspondence direct with proposed customers, advertising, and survey of proposed fields by an advance sales force. The advantages of the assistance offered by the country's commercial service, including the Empire's consular service, are mentioned. Young men entering foreign trade are especially urged to study the Spanish and Russian languages and to obtain at least some knowledge of export technique.

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**SHORTAGE OF PAPER IN SPANISH CAPITAL.**

In forwarding a list of the principal newspapers of Madrid Consul Robertson Honey states that the Spanish press has been commenting lately on the shortage of paper in the Kingdom and the high prices asked for the visible supply. Various committees, he adds, have been formed to examine and report on the situation. The list referred to may be had upon application to the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce; ask for file No. 78641.

## COST OF ADVERTISING IN TONKIN AND ANNAM.

[Consul Lawrence P. Briggs, Saigon, French Indo-China, Apr. 19.]

Three French newspapers are published in Tonkin—L'Avenir du Tonkin and L'Indépendance Tonkinoise at Hanoi, and the Courrier d'Haiphong at Haiphong. No European papers are published in Annam, but Tonkin newspapers are in general circulation there.

L'Avenir du Tonkin appears six times a week with six pages, and devotes about one-third of its space to advertising. This is a semi-official paper and has a larger circulation than any other paper in Tonkin, although its local circulation is probably less than that of the Courrier d'Haiphong. The latter is published six times a week, prints four pages, and devotes about the same proportion of space to advertising. L'Indépendance Tonkinoise is less pretentious in size and circulation. It appears three times a week, with four pages, of which about one and one-half are devoted to advertisements.

The advertising rates of L'Avenir du Tonkin and the Courrier d'Haiphong are practically the same. Those of the other paper are a little lower. The rates are quoted in piasters per year for space 8 centimeters wide and 3 centimeters deep (3.15 by 1.18 inches) for the third and fourth pages and 6 by 3 centimeters (2.36 by 1.18 inches) for the fifth and sixth pages. A piaster is generally worth a little less than 50 cents, U. S. currency. The L'Avenir rates are:

Place of advertisement.	Number of insertions per week.	Number of spaces.			
		1	4	8	12
		<i>Piasters.</i>	<i>Piasters.</i>	<i>Piasters.</i>	<i>Piasters.</i>
Third page .....	Three.....	50	150	235	350
	Six .....	90	230	425	550
Fourth page .....	Three.....	45	120	200	300
	Six .....	80	200	350	500
Fifth page .....	Three.....	30	80	160	240
	Six .....	70	140	280	400
Sixth page.....	Three.....	20	70	100	150
	Six .....	50	100	140	200

## Large Advertisements Subject to Special Rates.

For six months, the rates are about 70 per cent of those given in the schedule. Advertisements larger than 12 spaces, and especially full-page advertisements, are subject to special rates, which vary from time to time. The charges for locals are 60 cents a line for announcements appearing once, 45 cents a line each for eight or more insertions, and 30 cents an insertion for a month or more.

An organization known as the Bibliothèque de Vulgarization publishes six periodicals in Annamite or Chinese, which together offer perhaps the best advertising medium for articles of native consumption.

The Dong-Duong-Tap-Chi is a semiofficial weekly review published at Hanoi and circulating throughout Indo-China, especially among native officials and schools. It has a circulation of about 5,000. The Cong-Thi-Bao is a biweekly newspaper, published in Chinese characters at Hanoi, with a circulation in Indo-China of about 12,000. The Phap-Viet-Thong-Bao, printed at Hue, is the official organ of the native empire and French protectorate of Annam,

and is furnished by the Government to the council of notables of each village. It has a circulation of about 8,000 in Annam. The Phap-Viet-Thong-Bao of Hanoi is the official native publication of Tonkin and, like the periodical of the same name at Hue, addresses itself to the rural population. It has a circulation of about 10,000 in Tonkin. The Trung-Bac-Tan-Van, a triweekly newspaper published at Hanoi, has a local circulation of about 6,000. The Luc-Tinh-Tan-Van is a weekly newspaper published at Saigon, with a local circulation of about 5,000.

#### Joint Rates Offered for Several Publications.

The publishers offer the following schedule of rates for annual contracts for one-column advertisements of 75 lines (25 centimeters, or a little less than 10 inches), with the amounts in francs (franc= \$0.193):

Periodical.	Monthly rate.		Periodical.	Monthly rate.	
	Insertion once a week.	Insertion in every issue.		Insertion once a week.	Insertion in every issue.
Dong-Duong.....	Francs. 40. 02	Francs. 43. 02	Trung-Bac .....	Francs. 45. 75	Francs. 145. 25
Cong-Thi-Bao.....	97. 50	97. 50	Luc-Tinh.....	40. 02	40. 02
Phap-Viet (Annam).....	55. 00	55. 00	All six.....	373. 75	566. 75
Phap-Viet (Tonkin).....	51. 25	51. 25			

The publishers of the triweekly Trung-Bac agree to run a notice in the local columns calling attention to these advertisements for an annual cost of 560.62 francs.

#### Magazine and Book-Advertising.

The leading printing house of French Indo-China publishes a monthly magazine, *La Revue Indochinoise*, and an annual book, *L'Annuaire Generale de l'Indochine*.

#### Magazine Devoted to Indo-China Affairs.

*La Revue Indochinoise* is a literary and historical magazine devoted to Indo-China. It sells in France and Indo-China for 21 francs and in foreign countries for 28 francs per year. Since the war started it has been issuing 6 double numbers a year instead of 12 single numbers. It generally has from 1 to 20 colored pages in front or back, or both, devoted to advertising, at the following yearly rates: Full page, 60 piasters; half page, 35; quarter page, 18; eighth page, 10.

*L'Annuaire Generale* is a commercial and political annual directory of French Indo-China. It gives a list of all public officials, as well as a commercial directory of each city or village. Persons or firms may secure the insertion in ordinary type of their names, professions, capital stock, business address, and list of European employees free of charge. If they desire larger type they must pay from 0.50 to 4 piasters a word. Scattered through the commercial directory are colored leaves devoted to advertising. Yearly rates on these pages, in piasters, are: One case, or one thirty-second page, 5; 2 cases, or one-sixteenth page, 9; 4 cases, or one-eighth page, 15;

8 cases, or one-fourth page, 25; 16 cases, or one-half page, 40; 32 cases, or one page, 70; entire page illustrated in photogravure, design furnished, 90; entire page illustrated in similitravure, design furnished, 70.

#### **Film Advertising at Picture Theaters.**

The rates for projecting a film on the screen at the moving-picture theater of Hanoi, the advertiser to furnish the film, are: Every evening for a year, 48 piasters; every evening for six months, 27; every evening for three months, 14; every evening for one month, 5; Tuesday and Thursday evenings for one month, 3. The film remains the property of the advertiser and may be used in other towns. It is probable that the company would give similar rates for the other theaters of the Pathé circuit in Indo-China.

### **CUBAN BAKERIES MUST INSTALL MACHINERY.**

[Consul Henry M. Wolcott, detailed as vice consul, Habana, July 19.]

The Department of Sanitation of Cuba has issued a decree ordering all bakeries in the Republic to install suitable bread-making machinery before July 10, 1917. The decree was unanimously approved by the National Board of Health, which declared that the system employed in the majority of bakeries, of mixing bread dough by hand, was a danger to public health.

For about a year, the Sanitary Department of Habana has required that bread served in restaurants be wrapped in paper or other suitable covering, and that bakery deliveries be made in closed vehicles and covered baskets.

It is stated that the local sanitary department will soon issue an order that Habana bakeries install machinery as soon as possible.

Many bakeries are conducted throughout the island, and the decree mentioned should create a large demand for machinery used in such establishments.

[Lists of bakeries and of manufacturers' agents who handle machinery at Habana may be obtained from the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce or its district offices. Refer to file No. 78660.]

### **American Gasoline Lamps for Honduras.**

The accuracy of the oft-heard statement that American goods frequently need only to be seen to sell themselves has received new confirmation. Under date of July 15 Consul Walter F. Boyle, of Puerto Cortes, Honduras, writes that a gasoline lamp purchased for use in his office was so well liked by visitors to the consulate that several of them ordered similar lamps from the United States, and now a business house in that city is preparing to carry them in stock.

### **District Offices of the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce.**

New York, Room 409 United States Customhouse; Boston, eighteenth floor United States Customhouse; Chicago, 504 Federal Building; St. Louis, 403 Third National Bank Building; Atlanta, 521 Post Office Building; New Orleans, 1020 Hibernia Bank Building; San Francisco, 307 United States Customhouse; Seattle, 848 Henry Building. Cooperative district offices: Cleveland, Chamber of Commerce; Cincinnati, Chamber of Commerce; Asst. Gen'l Frt. Agt., C. N. O. & T. P. Ry. Co., Cincinnati; Los Angeles, Chamber of Commerce; Detroit, Board of Commerce; Philadelphia, Chamber of Commerce; South American Agent, Southern Ry. Co., Chattanooga, Tenn.

**AMERICAN CONSULAR OFFICERS ON LEAVE OF ABSENCE.**

The following American consular officers are on leave of absence in the United States and will be glad to confer with business men and commercial organizations relative to conditions in their respective jurisdictions. The consul's time is available primarily for personal interviews. He has limited facilities for correspondence, and except in urgent cases letters should be directed to the consulate.

Name.	Post.	Expira- tion of vacance.	Address.
West, George N .....	Kobe, Japan .....	Aug. 15	Department of State, Washington, D.C.
Cooks, A. B. ....	Patras, Greece .....	Aug. 10	121 West Charlotte Street, Norfolk, Va.
Hale, F. D. ....	Huddersfield, England .....	Sept. 5	Lunenburg, Vt.
Fisher, Fred D. ....	Tientsin, China .....	Aug. 5	Albany, Ore.
Masterson, William W. ....	Durban, Natal, South Africa .....	Sept. 1	Carrollton, Ky.
Seltzer, Harry G. ....	Breslau, Germany .....	Aug. 1	Gibraltar, Pa.
Baker, E. Carlton .....	Nagasaki, Japan .....	Aug. 30	Apartment No. 75, The Brunswick, Washington, D. C.
Mannaghan, J. C. ....	Kingston, Jamaica .....	Sept. 1	Avenue A and Fourteenth Street, Bayonne, N. J.
Jewell, John F. ....	Chafoo, China .....	Oct. 1	Department of State, Washington, D.C.
Kemper, Graham H. ....	Erfurt, Germany .....	Sept. 10	Do.
Goodier, James H. ....	Niagara Falls, Canada .....	Sept. 1	27 South Hawk Street, Albany, N. Y.
Hesseltine, Ross .....	Port Antonio, Jamaica .....	Oct. 1	Department of State, Washington, D. C.
Laing, James Oliver .....	Karachi, India .....	Sept. 30	C/o University Club, Kansas City, Mo.

**DECREASED NANKING DEMAND FOR IMPORTED GINSENG.**

[Vice Consul Alvin W. Gilbert, Nanking, China, June 9.]

As a result of the increased consumption of the native product the demand for foreign ginseng in the Nanking district has been declining for the past three years. None has been imported into Chinkiang since 1913, when only 20 pounds were consumed. The importers are owners of small medicine shops and obtain the product from Shanghai. None is imported direct from foreign countries.

The American product has occupied a prominent place in the past, but is giving way to the cheaper native and Japanese products. Retail prices as reported are: First quality, from Kirin, \$130 per ounce; second quality, \$45.50 per ounce; first quality Korean wild ginseng, \$57.20 per 1½ pounds; second quality, \$26; first quality Japanese old ginseng, \$3.05; second quality, \$2.60; first quality Korean planted ginseng, \$2.45; second quality, \$1.30; first quality Japanese new ginseng, \$1.82; second quality, \$1.17; first quality ginseng from America, \$18.20; second quality, \$16.90; third quality, \$15.60; fourth quality, \$14.30; ginseng roots, \$0.58.

[Previous articles on the ginseng market in China were published in COMMERCE REPORTS for Feb. 24 and July 11, 1916.]

**TRADE PROMOTION WORK.**

The Commercial Agent in charge of the District Office of the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce in San Francisco has received a letter from a firm in that city stating that as the result of assistance rendered by the San Francisco District Office it has succeeded in securing trial orders valued at about \$8,000, and that it believes permanent business will result. The goods were sold to firms in Shanghai, Saigon, and Rangoon.

## FOREIGN TRADE OPPORTUNITIES.

Reserved addresses may be obtained from the Bureau and its district offices. Request for each opportunity should be on a separate sheet and state opportunity number. The Bureau does not furnish credit ratings or assume responsibility as to the standing of foreign inquirers; the usual precautions should be taken in all cases.

*Provisions, paper, soap, etc.*, No. 21993.—A representative of foreign manufacturers in Argentina desires to represent American producers and exporters of cottonseed oil, starch, sugar, canned salmon and lobster, eggs in cases, hams, potatoes, candles, soaps, paper, cartons, canvas for awnings and footwear, binding twine and rope, sewing thread, black pepper, and cinnamon. References.

*Machinery*, No. 21994.—The representative of a firm in the West Indies, who is now in the United States, is in the market for an ice machine of 10 tons' capacity, also machinery for the manufacture of brooms, and sugar machinery. Reference.

*Cotton netting*, No. 21995.—An American consular officer in Brazil transmits the name of a man in his district who is in the market for 18,000 yards of cotton netting, similar to sample which may be inspected at the Bureau or its district offices. (Refer to file No. 77927.)

*Cement, nails, tractors, etc.*, No. 21996.—A commercial agent of the Bureau reports that a man from Portugal, who is now in the United States, wishes to get into touch with American manufacturers and exporters of hydraulic cement, timber, nails, iron sheets, paper pulp, heavy oil motors, tractors for agricultural purposes, and brass screws for electrical fixtures. Reference.

*Motor cars*, No. 21997.—A firm in the Netherlands requests the Bureau to place it in touch with manufacturers of motor cars in the United States.

*Machinery*, No. 21998.—An American consular officer in France writes that a firm in his district wishes to receive quotations, catalogues, etc., from American manufacturers of brewing and malting machinery. Raw materials used in the brewing and malting industries are also required. Correspondence in French.

*Hardware, wearing apparel, etc.*, No. 21999.—A man from South Africa, now in the United States, desires to represent on a commission basis American manufacturers of hardware, kitchen utensils, women's hosiery and underwear, and silk gloves for women. References.

*Musical instruments*, No. 22000.—A firm in a foreign colonial possession informs an American consular officer of its desire to communicate with American music houses handling music, pianos, player pianos, violins, and musical instruments of all kinds.

*Paper*, No. 22001.—The Bureau is informed that a firm in Central America desires to represent an American paper company manufacturing white crimped tissue paper, known as "Rep Silver Tissue." Samples and quotations, f. o. b. New York, are also desired on a general line of white and colored tissues and wrapping papers in light weights. Reference.

*Hosiery and piece goods*, No. 22002.—An American consular officer in Norway writes that a merchant in his district desires samples and quotations on American stockings (wool, cotton, and silk) and on white piece goods (linen, etc.) Correspondence may be in English. Reference.

*Beans*, No. 22003.—A firm in the West Indies requests the Bureau to furnish it with the names of exporters of beans in the United States.

*Agencies*, No. 22004.—An American consular officer in South Africa writes that a manufacturers' agent in his district desires to communicate with exporting firms acting as agents for American manufacturers.

*Machinery*, No. 22005.—A manufacturing company in Canada requests the Bureau to place it in touch with manufacturers of machinery for making sticky fly ribbons and fly papers.

# COMMERCE REPORTS



DAILY CONSULAR AND TRADE REPORTS  
ISSUED DAILY BY THE BUREAU OF FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC COMMERCE  
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE



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## INCREASED AMERICAN SHIPPING TO PARA.

[Consul George H. Pickerell, Para, Brazil, July 11.]

More vessels flying the American flag entered Para during the first six months of 1916 than during any previous year since 1893. The number was 15, as compared with 13 during the entire year 1915, 1 in 1914, and 2 in 1913. The schooners are chartered to bring coal from Norfolk for the use of the Lloyd Brasileiro, the Amazon River Steam Navigation Co., and other transportation concerns, and, after discharging here, proceed to Jamaica or Haiti to load logwood for America.

It is hoped that this practice may be discontinued and that, instead of proceeding to the above-mentioned places in ballast, they will carry cedar and logwood from this region to the United States. This, besides being more profitable, would be a great relief to local exporters who are sometimes handicapped by the lack of transportation facilities for their lumber.

## PARCEL-POST CONVENTION WITH CHINA.

Parcel-post rates between this country and China, under the convention recently concluded by the two countries to take effect August 1, 1916, have been announced by the United States Post Office Department.

Parcel-post packages exchanged between these countries must not weigh more than 11 pounds or measure more than 3 feet 6 inches in length, and 6 feet in length and girth combined, and, in the case of parcels for or from nonsteam-served places in China, must not exceed 25 cubic decimeters (1 cubic foot) in volume.

Postage on parcels sent from the United States to China is at the rate of 12 cents per pound or fraction of a pound; and from China to the United States at the rate of 35 cents (Chinese currency) per pound or fraction of a pound, except that, on parcels for or from nonsteam-served places in China, an additional Chinese domestic parcel postage may be levied and collected by the Chinese service. Parcel-post packages for China may be registered.

**MARKET FOR AUTOMOBILES IN DANISH WEST INDIES.**

[Vice Consul Luther K. Zabriskie, St. Thomas, June 2.]

The recent introduction into St. Thomas, Danish West Indies, of two low-priced American automobiles, which are the first seen on the island, except at two or three brief exhibitions in years past, appears to have aroused interest in the project of extending and improving the roads here. The total length of the St. Thomas roads does not exceed 15 miles, and consequently any idea of adding to the present small number of motor cars is quite out of the question for the time being. Both of the machines mentioned are hired from time to time by local residents or by tourists, and one of them, owned by the St. Thomas Ship Brokers' Association, is employed by its owners in connection with large shipping interests.

**Better Roads on St. Croix—Customs Charges.**

In the neighboring island of St. John there are hardly any good carriage roads. In St. Croix, however, the carriage and automobile roads are said to total about 100 miles in length, and there are 19 automobiles on that island. The first of these was imported 4½ years ago. One large motor truck in St. Croix is employed in carting sugar from a sugar factory to the wharf at Frederiksted.

The customs duty on automobiles imported into St. Thomas is 6 per cent ad valorem, while the duty levied in St. Croix on automobiles and their accessories amounts to 12½ per cent ad valorem.

The St. Croix roads are not especially good for automobiling, and the machines usually desired are those of a light make. The planters and others who might become purchasers can not be styled wealthy, and cheapness is another important consideration. There should be an opportunity in the near future to increase the number of automobiles in St. Croix to a limited figure, provided the present high prices paid for sugar continue until the entire crop is sold.

**SUCCESS OF NEW AMERICAN TIN INDUSTRY.**

Officials of the American Smelting & Refining Co. state that the company's new plant at Perth Amboy, N. J., for the smelting and refining of tin (see *COMMERCE REPORTS* for Jan. 6, 1916) is being operated in a very satisfactory manner. The product began to be put on the market about May 1, approximately 3 tons per day of refined tin being turned out at that time. This has been steadily increased, until the present figure is about 10 tons per day. It is hoped before long to reach 15 tons, the largest possible output with the present equipment. When that point is reached, it is quite likely that the company will augment the capacity of the plant.

This tin is produced from the smelting of Bolivian ore, the smelted product being refined electrolytically. It is believed that the plant is turning out tin of unequaled quality. The fineness runs about 0.994. The only impurity of any consequence is lead, and in a recent week's production this ran only 0.0025. The tin is being sold to manufacturers of tin foil (requiring a particularly even quality of tin), as well as to firms producing tin plate and tin salts. All have expressed themselves as satisfied with the quality of the metal.

This represents, in the opinion of competent observers, the introduction of an entirely new industry in the United States and one that is capable of marked development.



**ARGENTINE TRADE STATISTICS.**

There was a large increase in the imports into Argentina during the first three months of the current year, according to Argentine official statistics, while the exports from the country show a considerable decrease. The imports were valued at 52,491,534 gold pesos (peso=\$0.965), compared with 49,297,625 pesos for the corresponding period in 1915. The exports decreased from 166,748,965 pesos for the first three months of 1915 to 127,142,050 pesos for the 1916 period. The following table shows the principal countries sharing in the trade of Argentina for these periods, the values being given in Argentine gold pesos.

Countries.	Jan.-Mar., 1915.	Jan.-Mar., 1916.	Countries.	Jan.-Mar., 1915.	Jan.-Mar., 1916.
<b>IMPORTS FROM—</b>			<b>EXPORTS TO—</b>		
	<i>Gold pesos.</i>	<i>Gold pesos.</i>		<i>Gold pesos.</i>	<i>Gold pesos.</i>
Belgium .....	417,908	79,396	Africa .....	361,662	123,572
Brazil .....	2,344,331	2,537,832	Australia .....	701,999	
British possessions .....	1,946,611	906,973	Brazil .....	5,790,392	5,407,491
Canada .....	207,109	317,222	British possessions .....	325,420	143,079
Cuba .....	222,150	230,391	Chile .....	270,876	266,596
France .....	2,566,359	3,875,150	Denmark .....	256,834	1,244,897
Germany .....	2,772,283	146,358	France .....	9,482,197	9,900,385
Italy .....	5,826,450	6,036,429	French possessions .....	567,548	18,920
Mexico .....	1,502,292	1,884,782	Italy .....	16,367,359	5,136,399
Netherlands .....	418,410	562,834	Norway .....	1,126,341	1,112,236
Norway .....	323,871	228,230	Paraguay .....	339,498	665,075
Paraguay .....	412,713	498,574	Portugal .....	706,192	1,015,445
Spain .....	2,739,734	3,396,967	Spain .....	1,710,948	1,742,156
Sweden .....	470,478	355,598	Sweden .....	1,705,308	1,166,934
Switzerland .....	267,019	559,200	Netherlands .....	5,128,915	4,086,354
United Kingdom .....	18,296,533	14,910,143	United Kingdom .....	2,044,455	1,647,629
United States .....	7,509,189	14,491,389	United States .....	25,132,319	29,728,301
Uruguay .....	464,865	628,653	Uruguay .....	1,705,308	1,166,934
			For orders .....	47,544,800	25,517,180

**Articles Exported.**

There were exported during the first quarter of the year 15,634 head of cattle, 6,490 horses, 10,762 sheep, 90,223 tons of frozen beef, 3,173 tons of chilled beef, 12,805 frozen carcasses of wethers and lambs, 15,761 tons of salted ox hides and 4,207 tons of dry hides, 72,829 kilos of salted horse hides and 353,623 kilos of dry horse hides, 39,741 tons of wool, and 2,692 tons of butter, of which latter all but 34 tons went to Great Britain.

The exports of grain were: Oats, 130,554 tons; barley, 19,277; linseed, 279,807; maize, 455,298; flour, 27,983; wheat, 669,330; quebracho extract, 25,656 tons, quebracho logs, 56,745.

**TO BUILD BIOLOGICAL STATION AT KEY WEST.**

An appropriation for \$25,000, in addition to an unexpended balance from a previous appropriation, became available on July 1 for the construction of a biological station for the United States Bureau of Fisheries at Key West, Fla. The site at the eastern end of the island, which was donated by the Key West Realty Co., has been filled, graded, and otherwise improved, and the plans for the laboratory building are now being prepared.

This station will be provided with a small permanent staff, including a scientific director and an assistant, and facilities will be furnished for a number of investigators, who will be employed from time to time for the study of fishery problems, and for students of marine biology who desire to carry on research under the very favorable conditions obtaining in the vicinity.

**SWATOW'S DRAWN-WORK INDUSTRY.**

[Consul George C. Hanson, Swatow, China, June 15.]

While Swatow's export trade in drawn work had begun to decline before the outbreak of hostilities in Europe, the present war on the Continent has seriously affected the local industry, for Europe was Swatow's best customer for drawn work, and it was but natural that the demand therefor (such goods being in the nature of a luxury) should fall off sharply in the belligerent countries. Recently, however, the industry has shown signs of recovering.

In 1911 the value of Swatow's exports of drawn work, stated in United States gold, was \$38,864; in 1912 it was \$31,975; in 1913, \$22,789; in 1914, \$23,287; and in 1915, \$30,107. These totals are misleading, as the figures given are Chinese Maritime Customs valuations, and the Customs place the value of such work at 10 taels per catty (about \$5.25 U. S. gold per pound), which approximates that of the coarser grades. The finer grades are worth two or three times this nominal valuation. Dealers estimate the value of the annual export to be over \$50,000 gold.

**First Taught by Missionaries—Wages.**

As the term signifies, draw-thread work is openwork done on grass or other cloths by drawing out threads or by cutting holes in the cloth and then working the open spaces with cotton thread into floral or other designs. The manufacture of drawn work was first taught to native women in this district by missionaries some 25 years ago, and the industry has flourished ever since. It is believed that the patterns and designs originally came from Europe and Mexico.

In the beginning the output was insignificant and the wages small, each female worker earning about 10 cents gold per day. Gradually more women took up the work, new patterns were introduced, and the skill of the workers became greater, some of them earning as much as 25 cents gold per day. The work was first done in Swatow, but as it was such that it could be done in the homes women in the interior took it up. Naturally, the output increased and competition followed, with the result that the workers' wages fell. A first-class worker now receives only \$1.50 to \$2.50 gold per month. The work is at present carried on chiefly in the neighborhood of Swatow and in the Kityang district.

**Cloth Used—Pieces Also Embroidered.**

The grass cloth that is used locally for drawn work is made from ramie grown in the Yangtze River Valley. There are two kinds, the finer of which is produced in Hsin Huei and exported from Canton, and the coarser quality is manufactured in Kityang. The Canton cloth is woven on foreign looms and comes in bolts of 32 inches by 20 yards or 16 inches by 40 yards. The Kityang cloth is made on Chinese looms; the bolts measure 15 to 22 inches by 20 yards. The cotton thread used in working up the designs is foreign spool thread (chiefly J. P. Coats) and crochet thread in balls.

Most of the drawn work exported is embroidered. Embroidery is an old native industry, but the methods now in use are modern.

This work is done exclusively at Chaochowfu, a large city about 25 miles from Swatow. The thread used is either plain or mercerized cotton. The natives engaged in embroidering receive very scanty wages—2½ to 5 cents gold per day.

[A list of Swatow exporters of drawn work may be obtained from the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce and its district offices. Ask for file No. 78676.]

### CROP AREA IN ALBERTA.

[Consul Harold D. Clum, Calgary, Alberta, Canada, July 20.]

The following figures showing the estimated acreage of various crops in the Province of Alberta this year, compared with the final figures for 1915, have just been issued by the Provincial Government at Edmonton.

Crop.	Final figures, 1915.	Estimated, 1916.	Increase (+) or de- crease (-).
	<i>Acres.</i>	<i>Acres.</i>	<i>Acres.</i>
Spring wheat.....	1,627,122	1,439,871	-197,251
Winter wheat.....	31,954	45,000	+ 13,046
Oats.....	1,570,596	1,590,635	+ 20,639
Barley.....	374,062	297,211	- 76,851
Flax.....	41,243	45,120	+ 3,877
Rye.....	12,067	10,044	- 2,023
Spelts.....	1,194	973	- 221
Total.....	3,668,238	3,429,054	-239,184

The decrease in the total acreage is accounted for partly by the fact that less fall plowing was done and partly by the high wages for farm help this year, together with the late spring.

Reports from all parts of the Province indicate that conditions are favorable for a large crop this year.

The wheat is practically all headed out, and the crops generally are now considered to be as well advanced as they were at this time last year.

### PUBLIC DOCUMENTS FOR SALE.

The following are among the publications received in stock for sale by the superintendent of documents at Washington during the week ended July 29:

*Foreign Trade in Buttons* (Special Consular Report 75).—Gives approximate size and requirements of the markets in practically all the important button-using countries of the world, together with lists of importers, agents, and wholesale and retail dealers in buttons. Price, 20 cents.

*Lime, Its Properties and Uses* (Standards Circular 30).—General methods of testing and description of the manufacture and uses to which limestone, lime, and hydrated lime are put in the various industries. Price, 5 cents.

*Poliomyelitis, What is Known of Its Cause and Modes of Transmission* (Public Health Reprint 350).—Summary of knowledge concerning infantile paralysis of interest in view of the present outbreak in New York City. Price, 5 cents.

*Sensitivity and Magnetic Shielding Tests of a Thomson Galvanometer for Use in Radiometry* (Standards Bureau Scientific Paper 232).—Describes results of various experiments, including the investigation of the force exerted by various galvanometer coils as compared with a set of three coils used as standards. Price, 10 cents.

**CORN SHELLERS IN ARGENTINA.**

[Special Agent Frank H. Van Motz.]

The most popular type of small corn sheller used in Argentina is a one-hole hand machine, making 300 to 370 revolutions per minute, and equipped with a fan, feed table, and irons for handling small corn. An economical method of packing is to place five complete machines in one strong case, the case strapped with iron, and the machines braced in such a way that none of the castings will be broken.

Another sheller that is in high favor is a somewhat larger machine, with a capacity of 880 to 1,500 pounds of shelled corn per hour. This is a two-hole hand or power sheller, and should have a velocity of 350 to 410 revolutions per minute of the flywheel and 80 to 110 revolutions per minute of the flywheel shaft. Its regular equipment should consist of crank, fan, feed table, and a 10-inch by 3-inch power pulley. This machine is used either with a one-horse down power or with a gasoline engine of two horsepower. The machine must be capable of perfectly shelling and cleaning short ears of smooth-grained corn, rather large in diameter at the butt and small and pointed at the tip. This sheller is often used with a double-sacking attachment, but never with a long wagon-box elevator. In order to avoid expensive construction cleaning screens of zinc or wire should not be used, but special attention should be given to the construction and location of the fan, so that the blast created by it will be sufficient to free the corn of small pieces of cobs.

**Prices—Other Types in Demand.**

There is an annual sale of more than 5,000 shellers of the one-hole and two-hole types described above. Nearly all of them come from the United States. The retail prices of these shellers are:

One-hole shellers, with fan and feed table.....	\$15
Two-hole shellers, with crank, fan, table, and drive pulley.....	43
Above machine, with double sacking elevator.....	60
Above machine, with double sacking elevator and 1-horse down power, complete with rods and couplings.....	125

It is thought that on account of the existing high freight rates these prices will now have to be increased. Agents and dealers throughout the country receive a discount of 15 per cent, with an additional discount of 5 per cent for cash in 30 days.

Another type of sheller for which there is considerable demand is a two-hole self-feed sheller, equipped with a 10 by 6 inch pulley, double sacking elevator, cob stacker, and fan. This type of machine has a capacity of 1,700 to 2,200 pounds of shelled corn per hour, is provided with zinc screens for cleaning, and is supplied either with or without a 2-horse down power. When used with a gasoline engine, a 3-horsepower engine gives sufficient power, and the most satisfactory flywheel speed is between 590 and 600 revolutions per minute. The price of the sheller with 2-horse down power is \$230; without the horsepower, \$135. The terms of sale and discounts to agents are the same as for hand shellers.

Another sheller in great demand is a machine having the same general construction as the one just described, but with a capacity of 2,200 to 3,000 pounds of shelled corn per hour. This sheller has a flywheel speed of 735 revolutions per minute and is somewhat

heavier in construction, and more attention has been given to the finish of its different parts and equipment. The machine, complete with fan, self feeder, 10 by 6 inch pulley, cob stacker, and adjustable zinc screens sells at retail for \$160. A two-horse down power is supplied at an extra charge of \$95, and parts for using the power for \$10.

The two machines last described are also sold as mounted shellers, without powers, at prices ranging from \$275 to \$300.

#### No Call for Shuck Shellers.

As most of the corn is husked there is no demand for a shuck sheller. The winters here are very mild and the rainfall greater during that season than in summer, and on this account the cobs are nearly always soft and often quite damp. As a rule the corn farmer confines himself exclusively to the raising of corn and sells all his crop except what he requires for seed. Only a few milch cows are kept, and therefore the cornstalks are not used for stock feed as in the United States.

More than 9,240,000 acres of land are devoted to corn cultivation in Argentina at the present time, and there is a tendency to increase this acreage. An overwhelming percentage of each year's crop is exported in the form of shelled corn. Therefore, the demand for shellers will continue to grow. It would be worth while for the American manufacturer who is prepared to get into the business by establishing a sales organization in Buenos Aires to send a representative to this country to study the sheller situation. Established houses represent the factories supplying the types of machines covered by this report and it is doubtful if they would consider a change. The corn-shelling season begins in March and lasts several months.

#### AMERICAN CONSULAR OFFICERS ON LEAVE OF ABSENCE.

The following American consular officers are on leave of absence in the United States and will be glad to confer with business men and commercial organizations relative to conditions in their respective jurisdictions. The consul's time is available primarily for personal interviews. He has limited facilities for correspondence, and except in urgent cases letters should be directed to the consulate.

Name.	Post.	Expira- tion of venue.	Address.
West, George N.....	Kobé, Japan.....	Aug. 15	Department of State, Washington, D.C.
Cooke, A. B.....	Patras, Greece.....	Aug. 10	121 West Charlotte Street, Norfolk, Va.
Hale, F. D.....	Huddersfield, England	Sept. 5	Lunenburg, Vt.
Fisher, Fred D.....	Tientsin, China.....	Aug. 5	Albany, Oreg.
Masterson, William W.....	Durban, Natal, South Africa.	Sept. 1	Carrollton, Ky.
Seltzer, Harry G.....	Breslau, Germany....	Aug. 1	Gibraltar, Pa.
Baker, E. Carlton.....	Nagasaki, Japan.....	Aug. 30	Apartment No. 75, The Brunswick, Washington, D. C.
Monaghan, J. C.....	Kingston, Jamaica....	Sept. 1	Avenue A and Fourteenth Street, Ba- yonne, N. J.
Jewell, John F.....	Chefoo, China.....	Oct. 1	Department of State, Washington, D.C.
Kemper, Graham H.....	Erfurt, Germany.....	Sept. 10	Do.
Goodier, James H.....	Niagara Falls, Canada.	Sept. 1	27 South Hawk Street, Albany, N. Y.
Hazeltine, Ross.....	Port Antonio, Jamaica.	Oct. 1	Department of State, Washington, D.C.
Laing, James Oliver.....	Karachi, India.....	Sept. 30	C/o University Club, Kansas City, Mo.

**PERSIAN MARKET FOR SILK GOODS.**

[Vice Consul Ralph H. Bader, Teheran, June 8.]

Up to this time France has been an important supplier of silk goods to Persia. This merchandise is manufactured almost exclusively by the mills at Lyon, shipments being generally made to Persia by parcel post. [Persia's parcel-post trade was discussed in *COMMERCE REPORTS* for July 25, 1916.] It should be noted that much of the silk cloth credited to England and Russia by the Persian customs statistics is of French origin. Very little silk cloth has been imported since the beginning of hostilities in Europe, consequently prices have increased enormously. This appears to be an opportune time to introduce American silk goods into Persia.

With the exception of the black robe, or "chador," worn by Persian women, the darker shades are not so much in demand as sky-blue, rose, red, yellow, and flesh-color. In addition to pure silk fabrics a considerable quantity of cloth made of silk and cotton mixed is also sold.

**Sources of Imports.**

In 1912-13 Persia imported silk goods valued at \$576,589; in 1913-14, to the extent of \$815,873; and in 1914-15 a total of \$467,257 worth, receiving these supplies from:

Countries.	1912-13	1913-14	1914-15	Countries.	1912-13	1913-14	1914-15
Austria-Hungary...	\$43,729	\$29,808	\$31,148	Russia.....	\$48,323	\$56,650	\$32,851
France.....	80,098	88,224	69,017	Switzerland.....	7,509	7,954	9,692
Germany.....	224,722	404,353	184,240	Turkey.....	26,060	23,699	16,137
Great Britain.....	44,071	73,523	47,970	All other.....	1,361	689	1,686
India.....	82,071	30,001	17,775	Total.....	576,589	815,873	467,257
Italy.....	68,625	100,972	56,773				

**Terms—Shipping Routes.**

Persian merchants generally order silk goods by sample, direct from the manufacturer. Some of the smaller merchants buy from wholesalers. Before the war it was customary to make shipments to Persian merchants against documents, although some of the better-known merchants were granted three to six months' credit. No credit is allowed at present. [A list of Teheran importers of silk goods may be obtained from the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce or its district offices upon referring to file No. 78519.]

As already stated, importations of silk goods from France are generally made by parcel post, thereby avoiding the heavy Russian transit duty. Since there is no parcel-post convention between Persia and the United States, shipments of silk goods from America to this country should be made by freight to a forwarding agent in Europe, thence to be sent to Persia by parcel post.

**Exports of Native Fabrics.**

Persia is a seller as well as a buyer of silk textiles. Considerable quantities of durable silk cloth are woven on handlooms at Yezd, Kerman, Kashan, and Resht, and silk thread, laces, fringes, and cords are also made. Only silk of native production is used. In the fiscal years 1913-14 and 1914-15 the value of the goods exported and their destinations were:

Countries.	1913-14	1914-15	Countries.	1913-14	1914-15
Afghanistan.....	\$39,130	\$20,995	Turkey.....	\$66,930	\$37,570
India.....	80,702	89,125	All other.....	1,115	662
Mosul.....	1,600	2,577			
Russia.....	397,896	185,636	Total.....	557,378	326,564

The unit of measure used in Persia is the "zar" (Teheran zar=40.95 inches). Of foreign measures, the meter (1.0936 yards) is generally understood. Persian weights are the "man" (6½ pounds) and the "khavar" (650 pounds). The money of Persia used in foreign exchange is the silver "kran," ordinarily worth \$0.087, present value about \$0.11. Correspondence with Persian merchants should be in the French language.

[Eighteen samples of the French silk and mixed goods sold in Teheran may be inspected at the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce or its district offices. Ask for file No. 78519.]

## GERMAN CITY PRESENTS STREET RAILWAY REPORT.

[Vice Consul H. E. Carlson, Frankfort-on-Main, July 10.]

The annual statistical report of the city of Frankfort-on-Main, Germany, states that 104,731,494 persons were carried by the municipal street railways during the fiscal year 1914-15. This number includes 5,000,000 military persons, who were carried for half fare. The mileage for the city lines is 92.05 kilometers (57.19 miles). The total number of miles covered during the year was 15,330,060 (24,671,388 kilometers). The incomes from the ordinary fares amounted to \$1,620,607. The income derived from the sale of weekly, monthly, and school children's tickets amounted to \$471,071. From the line operated jointly between Frankfort and Offenbach \$57,552 was realized. The total income from all sources amounted to \$2,149,468.

### Fares Arranged According to Zone System.

The fares are charged in accordance with a zone system, the most common charge being 0.10 mark (\$0.023). A reduction is now made in the case of military persons, who are being carried for 0.05 mark (\$0.011). Special inducements are offered to persons who purchase tickets, of which there are two general kinds—for one week and for one month. The former are chiefly for workmen and may be used only before 7.30 a. m. and after 4 p. m. They are not valid on Sundays or holidays. They are sold to be used either once or twice daily. The cost of this ticket depends on the distance traveled.

A ticket good for one month and valid on all lines within the city proper at all times is sold for \$4.38.

For persons who wish only to ride over one special route, a somewhat complicated system of tickets has been arranged, the price depending upon the distance. A schedule on file at the general ticket office of the company enables the person desiring such a ticket to ascertain the price for the route chosen. A reduction is made in certain cases to disabled persons.

Tickets for school children are sold each month at prices varying from \$0.71 to \$1.07.

**MARKETS FOR AGRICULTURAL IMPLEMENTS.****ITALY.**

[Consul B. Harvey Carroll, jr., Venice, May 24.]

The Italian Government has recently decided to buy labor-saving agricultural machines on a large scale—some 200,000 pieces—to overcome the difficulties caused by the lack of farm hands. No definite information as to the kinds of implements the Government will purchase has been given. This marks a new departure, as in past years the use of hand labor has been preferred to machinery on account of the abundance of laborers.

Because of the geographical and physical peculiarities of Venice, a city built on the lagoons of the Adriatic, there are no lawns and but few gardens here, and indeed but few lawns in the vicinity. The greater part of the Veneto is a rich alluvial plain with alternate zones of sand and clay under soil in veins. The field crops are wheat, Indian corn, oats, barley, and broom corn, and there is an extensive cultivation of fruits and vegetables, especially on the islands of the lagoons. Artichokes are raised in abundance.

Where wheat, oats, and barley are raised, a second harvest is usually obtained of a kind of maize called "cinqantino," so named because it matures in about 50 days. It is inferior in quality to other Indian corn. Chemical fertilizers and manures are used in large quantities, especially phosphates and scoria Thomas.

**Limited Use of Motor Traction at Present.**

There is at present no motor traction for agricultural implements except for wheat thrashers. Corn is shelled by hand-power machines where the more primitive methods of rubbing the ears together or pulling them through an iron hoop do not prevail.

Either English or French may be used in correspondence with firms here, but a decided advantage is enjoyed by those American manufacturers who can correspond in the language of the country. Even more important than the language is the quoting of weights, measures, and prices, the first two according to the metric system and the last in the money of the country.

As Venice is now closed as a port, and as even in ordinary times most importations from America for this district arrive at Genoa, prices should be quoted c. i. f. Genoa. Success in selling agricultural implements of American make in Italy may come to those firms which establish general agencies in some one of the larger cities of Italy—Genoa, Milan, or Rome, with subagencies in the smaller towns.

**Customary Terms of Credit.**

A credit of 90 days on agricultural implements is customary, and if owing to delayed mails and tardy means of transportation a longer credit could be extended, it would be desirable. One to 2 per cent is allowed for cash payment, and that term is taken to include 30 days from invoice date. At this time it ordinarily takes a letter 30 days to come from America to Venice.

Plows with wheels and rollers (not steam) are classified under No. 310, f2, of the Italian tariff. The United States, by reason of the favored-nation clause, enjoys the advantage of Italy's prefer-



ential tariff, but for plows, as above, the general and preferential tariff is the same, namely, 9 gold lire per quintal (220.46 pounds). Duty is levied on the gross weight, including packing, on all goods when the duty to be paid for them does not exceed 20 gold lire per quintal. All other agricultural machines not moved by mechanical motors follow this treatment (except plows without wheels).

[A list of importers of agricultural implements in the consular district of Venice may be obtained from the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce or its district offices. Refer to file No. 77457.]

### WALES.

[Consul Lorin A. Lathrop, Cardiff, May 12.]

#### Considerable Demand in Cardiff District.

The Cardiff demand for lawn rollers, land rollers, and pulverizers is considerable, although the district is mainly industrial, and the land surface so hilly as to be most profitably devoted to sheep runs. In the thickly populated industrial areas there are many market gardens, golf links, lawn-tennis courts, bowling greens, and football and cricket grounds. Each of the towns and larger villages has one or more parks and recreation grounds, and there are many country seats whose wealthy occupants maintain extensive parks, gardens, ornamental grounds, and farms on model lines. Climatic and economic conditions direct the commercial farmer toward stock raising rather than grain growing.

The numerous lawns and sporting grounds are maintained in first-class condition, and in the majority of cases have been constructed according to the most improved methods to secure proper drainage and the necessary conditions for perfect maintenance. Sea-washed turf, from mud flats on the seashore, is largely employed in making or reinvigorating lawns where fine short grass is particularly desired. City authorities, the principal sporting clubs, and wealthy country dwellers usually retain the services of gardening specialists.

#### Dealers Supplied by Importers at Trade Centers.

It has not been the practice hitherto to import agricultural implements direct into this district from overseas. Dealers are supplied by importers in Bristol, Liverpool, or London.

Lawn rollers are usually of the iron double-cylinder type, weighing up to about 6 hundredweight, but water-ballast rollers giving weights up to 14 hundredweight are frequently employed on the larger lawns and sporting grounds. The larger sizes are fitted for animal traction, and in a few instances motor rollers are employed.

For pulverizing the soil after plowing, spring-tine cultivators are commonly employed. The older types, with solid tines, are still manufactured, but the lighter spring-tine machines fitted with high iron wheels and seats are growing in favor. A spring-tine cultivator with 17 tines and working width of 7 feet 6 inches, with pole for two horses, sells at £13 13s. (\$66.42); the smaller sizes are proportionately cheaper. A spring-tine cultivator on low iron wheels, without seat, sells at £7 (\$34.06). This cultivator has no pole, the horses being attached to whiffletrees, while the driver walks behind.

Various forms of harrows are made. A pair of zigzag drag harrows, fitted with handles, 30 tines, with whiffletree 7 feet 6 inches wide, iron teeth, weighing about 2½ hundredweight, sells at £5

(\$24.33). Lighter seed harrows are fitted with 60 to 72 teeth, and the sets, with whiffletrees for two or three horses, sell at prices from £2 15s. up to £4 10s. (\$13.37 to \$21.89).

Lever scarifiers fitted with nine solid tines mounted on four low wheels and a lever for lifting the scarifier out of service sell from £8 (\$38.93) upward. Numerous types of horse hoes, for hoeing roots and grain, sell according to the number of teeth and capacity at prices from £2 12s. 6d. (\$12.77) up to £15 (\$73).

#### **Various Classes of Field Rollers in Use.**

Field rollers are chiefly of the smooth iron cylinder or ringed Cambridge type. Another form of clod crusher is made of narrow plain rings, alternating with notched rings. The plain type of ring rollers, 7 feet wide, rings of 26-inch diameter, sells at £14 10s. (\$70.56). Smaller sizes, down to those with roller 5½ feet wide and 15 inches in diameter, sell at £8 10s. (\$41.36). The notched rollers are \$2.50 to \$5 higher, according to size. These are fitted with steel shafts for one horse. The plain field rollers, with three cylinders, 28 inches in diameter and 7 feet wide, sell for £10 10s. (\$51.09). They are fitted for one horse, drivers' seats costing from \$2.50 to \$3.75 extra.

The usual terms between dealer and farmer are quarterly accounts net or 5 per cent discount for cash in a month, prices including delivery to the nearest railway station. Retail dealers require a profit of from 30 to 40 per cent and three to six months' credit.

The Royal Agricultural Society of England will hold its annual show at Cardiff in 1917. This is the most important of the British societies of the kind, and its annual exhibitions are indispensable mediums for advertising. Any determined effort to secure an opening in Great Britain for agricultural implements must include an exhibit at the annual shows of this society and at that of the Bath and West of England Agricultural Society.

[A list of dealers in agricultural implements in the consular district of Cardiff, Wales, may be obtained from the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce or its district offices. Refer to file No. 77125.]

### **NORWAY.**

[Consul Charles Forman, Bergen, May 27.]

#### **Market Limited in Mountainous District.**

The Bergen consular district, which comprises the amts of Bergen, Nordre Bergenhus, and Søndre Bergenhus, is very mountainous. The farms are small and the soil is usually sandy and rocky. The market for agricultural implements is therefore limited, when compared with the other parts of Norway, in which conditions are more favorable for agriculture.

The principal cereal crop is oats, as in Norway generally. Barley, with some rye and a little wheat, is also grown. Between 14 and 15 per cent of the hay and potato crops of Norway are produced in the Bergen district, but it yields less than 6 per cent of the cereal crops, while the district comprises a little more than 10 per cent of the total area of Norway.

To sell agricultural implements in Norway, the American manufacturer should establish an agency in Christiania and supply the needs of the local market through a subagency in Bergen.

The city of Bergen occupies a restricted area. It is closely shut in by the mountains and is compactly built, with small lawns. Comparatively little space is available for lawn-tennis grounds and none for golf courses. The market for appliances for the care of lawns is therefore quite limited. Bergen is the only important town in the district.

**Tariff Provision Relating to Farm Machines.**

Under No. 393 of the Norwegian import tariff, machines or apparatus for industrial or farm use are free of duty if the same kind of article is not manufactured in Norway; otherwise they pay a duty of 10 per cent ad valorem.

Ocean freights are now very high, presenting an obstacle to importing bulky and heavy goods from the United States when the same kinds of goods can be imported from nearer countries. Sweden is a very large exporter of agricultural implements to Norway.

[Lists of dealers in agricultural machinery and hardware and of machinery agents at Bergen, Norway, may be obtained from the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce or its district offices. Refer to file No. 77402. English may be used in correspondence with these firms, although it is possible that letters in Norwegian might receive a little more favorable attention.]

**EXPORTS OF CRUDE RUBBER FROM BRAZIL.**

(Consul George H. Pickereil, Para.)

The exports of crude rubber to the United States from Para, Manaus, and Itacoatiara, Brazil, for the month of June, 1916, amounted to 2,084,448 pounds, and to Europe 1,052,711 pounds, compared with 3,088,112 and 2,104,145 pounds, respectively, for the same month last year. The following table shows the several grades of rubber shipped:

Item.	To United States.	To Europe.	Item.	To United States.	To Europe.
From Para:	<i>Pounds.</i>	<i>Pounds.</i>	From Itacoatiara:	<i>Pounds.</i>	<i>Pounds.</i>
Fine.....	503,647	100,067	Fine.....		2,204
Medium.....	41,239	1,873	Medium.....		399
Coarse.....	312,583	29,237	Coarse.....		2,362
Caucho.....	335,664	145,171	Caucho.....		610
Total.....	1,193,133	276,348	Total.....		5,575
From Manaus:					
Fine.....	501,425	112,343			
Medium.....	54,082	133,767			
Coarse.....	170,255	19,918			
Caucho.....	165,553	504,760			
Total.....	891,315	770,788			

**District Offices of the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce.**

New York, Room 409 United States Customhouse; Boston, eighteenth floor United States Customhouse; Chicago, 504 Federal Building; St. Louis, 402 Third National Bank Building; Atlanta, 521 Post Office Building; New Orleans, 1020 Hibernia Bank Building; San Francisco, 307 United States Customhouse; Seattle, 848 Henry Building. Cooperative district offices: Cleveland, Chamber of Commerce; Cincinnati, Chamber of Commerce; Asst. Gen'l Frt. Agt., C. N. O. & T. P. Ry. Co., Cincinnati; Los Angeles, Chamber of Commerce; Detroit, Board of Commerce; Philadelphia, Chamber of Commerce; South American Agent, Southern Ry. Co., Chattanooga, Tenn.

### PRICES OF COTTON SEED IN INDIA.

[Consul General James A. Smith, Calcutta, May 24.]

The crushing of cotton seed, as an industry, is still in its infancy in this country. Although an increasing quantity of the seed is being exported, by far the greater proportion of the Indian product is given as food to cattle.

Four factories are engaged in making cottonseed oil in India. These are the Punjab Oil & Flour Mills, at Lahore, the Berar Oil Works, at Akola, the Indian Cotton Oil Co. (Ltd.), at Navsari, Bombay, and the Premier Oil Co., at Cawnpore. Figures showing the output of cottonseed oil are, however, not available at present.

#### Annual Average Wholesale Prices for Three Years.

Statistics have been prepared showing for the past three years the annual average wholesale prices of cotton seed in the districts of India in which it is sold. Imports of cotton seed into India, in the aggregate, vary from 12 to 25 tons annually. In view of the fact that the average quantity of seed available in India is more than 1,000,000 tons, the quantity imported is negligible.

The annual average prices of cotton seed in cotton-producing districts of India during the three years, with the rate given per maund of 82½ pounds, as compiled from the fortnightly returns of wholesale prices furnished by local governments and administrations, were:

Districts.	1913	1914	1915	Districts.	1913	1914	1915
<b>United Provinces:</b>				<b>Bombay, etc.—Contd.</b>			
Cawnpore .....	\$0.75	\$0.76	\$0.65	Dhulia .....	\$0.77	\$0.59	\$0.59
Jhansi .....	.85	.87	.69	Surat .....	.77	.69	.62
Agra .....	.77	.78	.66	Ahmadabad .....	.87	.80	.72
Shahjahanpur .....	.74	.76	.74	Karachi .....	.95	.83	.75
<b>Punjab:</b>				Shikarpur .....	.90	.81	.77
Ferozepore .....	.97	.95	.84	<b>Central Provinces and</b>			
Lahore .....	.89	.90	.87	Berar:			
Amritsar .....	.91	.92	.83	Nagpur .....	.73	.72	.64
Lyallpur .....	.85	.83	.84	Jubbulpore .....	.79	.76	.67
Multan .....	.84	.81	.79	Akola .....	.67	.61	.53
Delhi .....	.81	.83	.76	Amraoti .....	.65	.60	.54
<b>Bombay, including Sind:</b>				<b>Madras:</b>			
Bombay .....	.87	.82	.73	Colombatore .....	1.18	1.24	1.14
Sholapur .....		.62	.51	Bellary .....	.74	.76	.77
Poona .....	.79	.77	.67	Madras .....	1.04	1.83	1.86
Ahmednagar .....	.79	.67	.53				

### MANUFACTURE OF WOOL SHODDY IN UNITED STATES.

A summary of the general results of the 1914 study of the wool-shoddy industry in this country has been issued by the United States Bureau of the Census. The total value of products in 1914 was \$7,06,843, an increase of 12.4 per cent over the 1909 figure, \$6,854,993. More than three-fourths of the 1914 total represented the value of recovered wool fiber, of which the production in that year amounted to 43,156,037 pounds, valued at \$5,977,284.

The principal materials used in the wool-shoddy industry are rags, tailor's clippings, etc., of which there were consumed in 1914, 57,367,962 pounds, at a cost of \$3,103,864, representing an increase of 32.5 per cent in quantity and 17.4 per cent in cost, compared with the consumption in 1909—43,296,261 pounds, costing \$2,644,570. In addition 6,879,366 pounds of noils and waste, at a cost of \$863,633, were consumed in 1914.

**HONOLULU'S TAX RECEIPTS HEAVY.**

[A. P. Taylor, correspondent, Honolulu, Hawaii.]

The grand total paid by taxpayers of the island of Oahu, Territory of Hawaii, into the treasury of the first territorial taxation district for the fiscal year from July 1, 1915, to June 30, 1916, was \$2,118,967. The preceding year it was only \$1,678,073.

Figures completed by the tax office show Honolulu district to have paid \$1,656,673. The other districts paid as follows: Ewa, \$253,447; Waianae, \$15,101; Waialua, \$92,749; Wahiawa, \$18,357; Koolauloa, \$36,296; Koolaupoko, \$46,341.

For the half year from January 1 to June 30, 1916, total receipts from all sources from Oahu were \$1,246,041, against \$986,954 for the corresponding period a year ago. Of this half-year's taxes, Honolulu district paid \$968,521. The other districts paid as follows: Ewa, \$153,198; Waianae, \$8,976; Waialua, \$55,890; Wahiawa, \$11,528; Koolauloa, \$20,630; Koolaupoko, \$27,295.

**COTTON EXPORTS.**

The cotton exported during the week ended July 29, 1916, at the 12 principal customs districts of the United States was as follows:

Districts.	Bales.	Districts.	Bales.	Districts.	Bales.
Georgia.....	8,045	Philadelphia.....	289	San Francisco.....	.....
Massachusetts.....	181	South Carolina.....	4,326	Washington.....	5,938
Maryland.....	3,601	Virginia.....	8,972		
New York.....	20,256	Galveston.....	13,980	Total.....	121,933
North Carolina.....	.....	New Orleans.....	56,345		

The export of 121,933 bales of cotton during the past week makes the total since August 1, 1915, approximately 6,044,398 bales. Exports of cotton for the corresponding periods of the preceding year were, respectively, 69,539 bales for the week and 8,510,567 bales in the cotton year.

**TO IMPROVE AIDS TO NAVIGATION IN FLORIDA.**

A rearrangement and improvement of the system of aids to navigation marking the St. Johns River, Fla., is necessitated by the new 30-foot low-water channel from the sea to Jacksonville, carried out by the United States Engineers. Vessels of increased size will now use this port. The present post lantern lights are confusing and inefficient by reason of their low intensity and fixed characteristic and the large number visible at one time.

The sundry civil act approved July 1, 1916, appropriated \$66,000 for improving the aids and establishing new aids on the St. Johns below Jacksonville. The work contemplated to carry out the provisions of this appropriation consists of the establishment of 26 range lights, 14 post lights, 16 lighted buoys, and 5 unlighted buoys. The Lighthouse Service of the United States Department of Commerce is preparing to proceed with the work promptly.

## FOREIGN TRADE OPPORTUNITIES.

**Reserved addresses** may be obtained from the Bureau and its district offices. Request for each opportunity should be on a separate sheet and state opportunity number. The Bureau does not furnish credit ratings or assume responsibility as to the standing of foreign inquirers; the usual precautions should be taken in all cases.

**Printer's supplies**, No. 22006.—An American consular officer in Spain writes that a publishing firm in his district is desirous of placing large orders for supplies required in its establishment. Catalogues of type foundries, printing machinery, printer's ink, paper, cardboard, and binding supplies, etc., should be sent. Correspondence in Spanish. References are given.

**Hydroplane**, No. 22007.—It is reported by an American consular officer that a commission has collected and deposited the sum of \$7,054 for the purpose of purchasing a hydroplane to be presented to the navy of a South American country. Interested manufacturers should send complete information, plans, specifications, prices of machine and accessories and time required for delivery. Correspondence and literature may be in English, though Spanish is preferred. Prices f. o. b. New York.

**Tinned butter**, No. 22008.—An American consular officer in Spain reports a possible market for the sale of butter in tins. Samples and quotations, c. i. f. destination should be sent at once. Names and addresses of jobbers have been transmitted.

**Electrical supplies, watches, etc.**, No. 22009.—A firm in India writes that it wishes to receive catalogues, etc., from manufacturers of electrical supplies, sporting goods, watches, medicines, etc.

**Linen thread**, No. 22010.—An American consular officer in Norway reports that a merchant in his district wishes to purchase linen thread for manufacturing shoes. He will purchase from 1,000 to 10,000 pounds according to price offered. The thread should be in one-pound balls, a packet containing only 12 balls. C. i. f. quotations preferred. Correspondence in English. Reference.

**Rebuilt typewriters, stationery, etc.**, No. 22011.—A firm in India writes that it desires to represent manufacturers and dealers in rebuilt typewriters, stationery, perfumery, piece goods, fancy goods, crockery, carbon paper, ribbons, etc. The firm is also in position to supply raw products from India, Burma, and Ceylon.

**Dry goods and shoe materials**, No. 22012.—An American consular officer in Venezuela reports that two firms in his district have combined for the purpose of operating a small shoe factory and dealing in dry goods at wholesale. Correspondence should be in Spanish.

**Corsets**, No. 22013.—The commercial attaché of the Department of Commerce in Australia reports that a firm in that country desires to secure the sole agency for an American corset. The firm has branch houses, and employs a large number of women as travelers. It is stated that cash will be paid on arrival of goods. Reference is given.

**Coffee mills, roasters, meat slicers, etc.**, No. 22014.—An American consular officer in Spain writes that a wholesale and retail commission merchant in his district is desirous of importing hand and motor coffee mills, hand and motor coffee roasters, mechanical meat slicers, machinery for sausage making, meat-chopping machinery, bread-making machinery, automatic apparatus for serving beer and other drinks, bottling and sealing apparatus, raw, smoked, and boiled hams, and machinery for making preserves, slot machines of various kinds, and all kinds of preserved and canned goods. References. Correspondence should be in French or Spanish.

**Schooner**, No. 22015.—A firm in Porto Rico writes that it wishes to purchase a secondhand schooner capable of carrying 300 M feet of yellow-pine lumber. A representative of the firm is now in New York City. The firm wishes to receive duplicate copies of all letters, literature, etc., sent to the representative.

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## SWISS EXPORT PROHIBITIONS.

[Cablegram from American Consul General, Zurich, July 31.]

The following additional export embargoes were enforced July 28:

All tobacco products; alcohols, liqueurs, liqueur wines, other aromatic or sweetened alcohols, vermouths; wax wastes; leather and hide cuttings for glue stock, horn shavings, tendons, hoofs, and other animal wastes; leather belts; vineyard stakes, hoops, staves; tissue paper weighing 25 grams or less per square meter; raw, cleaned, and spun horsehair and buffalo hair, also bundles of other animal hair; rattan, raw, peeled, split, colored, etc.; electric carbons, mounted and unmounted electrodes; paper insulating pipes with sheet-iron cover; clay, fire, and acid-proof bricks, pipes, plates, etc.; clay crucibles; muffles, evaporators, drainage pipes, etc., of ordinary or fine pottery or porcelain, including sinks and bathtubs; ceramic chemical laboratory utensils and apparatus; glass wastes; joiners', painters', and plasterers' glue, gelatin, and fish glue; isinglass; all needles and pins except those combined with precious metals, stones, or pearls; pocket lighters and parts thereof and patent fasteners of nonprecious metals.

## COFFEE TRADE AND STOCKS IN HOLLAND.

[Consul Frank W. Mahin, Amsterdam, July 8.]

An important feature of the Dutch coffee trade is the great decrease in the arrivals during the first six months of this year in comparison with the corresponding period of 1915. This year the imports totaled 861,400 bags; in 1915, 2,361,500 bags; in 1914, 936,700, which was fairly normal for peace times. The deliveries this year were 157,017 bags more than the arrivals, while last year the deliveries were 254,148 less than the arrivals, which would indicate that the surplus stock in Holland is being reduced this year.

The reduction in imports for the first six months of 1916 was in Brazilian and Central American coffee. The receipts from Brazil this year were only one-sixth those in 1915, and lower than in corresponding periods before the war—less than half those in the similar period of 1914. While the total of the arrivals during the past six months was about the normal of peace times, it reached that point only because of increased imports from the Dutch East Indies.

The total stock on hand in this country on the 1st of July, 1916, 1915, and 1914, respectively, was 208,600 bags, 554,500 bags, and 703,300 bags.

## CAPITAL SUBSCRIPTIONS IN LONDON MARKET.

In its issue for July 15 the Statist presents its customary half-yearly review of the new stock offerings in the London market. Very naturally, the vast sums subscribed in the first six months of 1916 went mainly for Government securities (Treasury bills, Exchequer bonds, war loans, etc.), municipalities figuring to the extent of only \$2,408,920, railways \$9,338,600, and industrials and other private stocks \$10,665,490, out of public subscriptions totaling \$3,374,755,065. How these amounts compare with similar subscriptions during the first half of each of the preceding nine years is shown in the table that follows:

January-June—	Class of security.				Total.
	Government.	Municipalities.	Railways.	Industrials, etc.	
1907.....	\$84,928,450	\$30,577,075	\$81,511,375	\$170,454,425	\$367,471,325
1908.....	111,948,850	71,670,100	253,197,075	137,253,150	574,069,775
1909.....	234,442,750	74,119,150	163,895,000	173,009,150	645,466,050
1910.....	145,844,150	48,905,200	193,284,350	394,121,725	770,155,425
1911.....	97,057,775	35,529,575	193,200,250	237,090,625	592,828,225
1912.....	58,832,270	67,440,850	143,125,475	314,352,025	589,751,620
1913.....	216,038,085	58,765,500	214,355,310	247,023,515	736,183,010
1914.....	346,617,265	96,525,150	189,707,945	217,353,580	820,203,940
1915.....	2,234,142,020	1,703,375	51,739,840	19,738,065	2,307,323,200
1916.....	3,352,342,055	2,408,920	9,338,600	10,665,490	3,374,755,065

## Amount Subscribed for Each Class of Security.

The purposes for which this capital was subscribed in the June half of each year since 1912 are given in more detail in the statement below:

Class of security.	1912	1913	1914	1915	1916
<b>Government:</b>					
United Kingdom.....	\$14,495,889	\$24,055,200	\$29,819,475	\$2,033,526,645	\$3,320,335,080
Indian.....	12,577,535	.....	4,817,840	.....	.....
Colonial.....	13,874,555	72,701,535	201,646,265	79,196,200	29,101,675
Foreign.....	16,894,300	119,221,950	110,333,685	121,419,175	2,905,300
<b>Total.....</b>	<b>58,832,270</b>	<b>216,038,685</b>	<b>346,617,265</b>	<b>2,234,142,020</b>	<b>3,352,342,055</b>
<b>Municipalities:</b>					
United Kingdom.....	1,818,855	.....	12,701,585	.....	2,408,920
Indian.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Colonial.....	20,907,145	43,758,900	35,210,685	1,763,275	.....
Foreign.....	44,714,850	15,006,600	48,612,900	.....	.....
<b>Total.....</b>	<b>67,440,850</b>	<b>58,765,500</b>	<b>96,525,150</b>	<b>1,703,275</b>	<b>2,408,920</b>
<b>Railways:</b>					
United Kingdom.....	4,550,175	4,983,415	9,270,685	8,525,320	8,170,640
Indian.....	.....	14,356,175	9,489,675	16,862,425	.....
Colonial.....	49,556,240	108,861,275	70,962,785	12,044,585	.....
Foreign.....	94,019,060	86,204,445	69,984,900	14,307,510	1,167,900
<b>Total.....</b>	<b>148,125,475</b>	<b>214,355,310</b>	<b>159,707,945</b>	<b>51,739,840</b>	<b>9,338,600</b>
<b>Banks.....</b>	<b>14,696,830</b>	<b>9,465,175</b>	<b>6,883,025</b>	<b>520,700</b>	.....
<b>Breweries.....</b>	<b>1,396,635</b>	.....	<b>4,435,815</b>	.....	.....
<b>Canals and docks.....</b>	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
<b>Commercial, industrial, etc.....</b>	<b>84,697,530</b>	<b>102,519,400</b>	<b>62,234,000</b>	<b>9,625,100</b>	<b>1,894,135</b>
<b>Electric light and power.....</b>	<b>23,419,325</b>	<b>12,180,965</b>	<b>20,896,485</b>	<b>2,661,725</b>	<b>124,085</b>
<b>Financial, land, investment, and trust.....</b>	<b>33,998,730</b>	<b>30,465,710</b>	<b>28,416,580</b>	<b>219,080</b>	.....
<b>Gas and water.....</b>	<b>5,397,860</b>	<b>4,342,915</b>	<b>4,357,200</b>	<b>97,330</b>	<b>391,815</b>
<b>Insurance.....</b>	<b>2,037,845</b>	<b>887,800</b>	<b>1,075,065</b>	<b>194,660</b>	<b>364,960</b>
<b>Iron, coal, steel, etc.....</b>	<b>29,000,330</b>	<b>20,218,185</b>	<b>15,417,170</b>	<b>831,630</b>	<b>2,089,675</b>
<b>Mines.....</b>	<b>15,508,675</b>	<b>11,503,450</b>	<b>5,473,600</b>	<b>102,300</b>	<b>158,280</b>
<b>Motor traction.....</b>	<b>641,465</b>	<b>3,303,135</b>	<b>7,331,390</b>	.....	<b>1,694,965</b>



Class of security.	1912	1913	1914	1915	1916
Nitrates.....		\$875,975	\$1,386,950		
Oil.....	\$10,452,175	15,298,330	6,690,025	\$121,665	\$249,415
Rubber.....	8,256,210	4,400,265	2,350,250	949,940	30,175
Shipping.....	39,047,880	10,424,000	20,626,660	2,311,590	4,319,015
Tea and coffee.....	764,525	757,960	575,850		
Telegraphs and telephones.....	12,725,750	2,880,970	1,187,425		
Tramways.....	32,261,100	17,490,200	18,521,100	2,102,325	
Total.....	314,352,925	247,023,515	217,353,580	19,738,065	10,665,490
Grand total.....	568,751,520	736,183,010	820,203,940	2,307,323,200	3,374,755,065

[For earlier reviews of the new stock offerings in the London market see COMMERCE REPORTS for Feb. 5 and July 19, 1915, and Feb. 3, 1916.]

### AGRICULTURE REPORT COMMENDS LIGHTHOUSE OFFICERS.

Secretary of Commerce Redfield has received a letter from the Acting Secretary of Agriculture commending the officers of the United States Lighthouse Service for rescue work done during the recent storm off the Carolina coast, and quoting the following extract from the report of the official in charge of the Weather Bureau office at Charleston, S. C.:

Great credit is due Capt. Johnson of the lighthouse tender *Cypress* for making a perilous trip to Sullivans Island during the night of the 13th at the request of this office to bring back those who wished to come to the city. The *Cypress* and the tug *Wellington* also performed heroic rescue work in saving all on board the naval auxiliary *Hector*, which was wrecked about 8 miles north of Cape Romain gas buoy.

#### Head of Department Commends Employees.

During the past month several employees of the Bureau of Lighthouses have been commended by the Secretary of Commerce for assistance rendered when ships were in peril or for rescues from drowning. The men who received this special recognition were:

Henry C. Pierotti, commanding, and the other officers and crew of Blunts Reef Light Vessel, Cal., for assistance rendered the passengers and crew of the shipwrecked steamer *Bear*, comprising about 160 persons, who were received on board Blunts Reef Light Vessel on the night of June 14, 1916.

Oscar P. Olsen, assistant keeper at Baltimore Light Station, Maryland, for assistance rendered the yacht *Lola*, which had run ashore at the mouth of Magothy River, Md.

Oliver C. Midgett, laborer at Portsmouth Lighthouse Depot, Virginia, for the rescue from drowning of a young woman who fell overboard from the Chestnut Street ferry bridge. The Secretary of Commerce, on July 20, 1916, recommended to the Secretary of the Treasury that Midgett be awarded a life-saving medal.

Jesse T. Brown, keeper of South Haven Pierhead Light Station, Michigan, for assisting in rescuing two women who were in danger of drowning in Lake Michigan near the South Haven Pierhead Light Station.

### Copra Plant in Puerto Cortes.

Consul Walter F. Boyle, at Puerto Cortes, Honduras, reports that a small plant for the production of steam-dried copra is nearing completion in that city. This is the first experiment in the production of copra from the coconuts grown on the coast.

## CONSTRUCTION MATERIALS IN SOUTH AMERICA.

In preparation for an exhaustive report on markets for construction materials and machinery in South America, a representative of the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce is to spend the next three months visiting the principal cities of the United States and conferring with manufacturers. He will then make a tour of all the Southern Republics for a thorough study of conditions in this branch of trade.

The Bureau intends to offer for the benefit of American business men such information and recommendations as will lay a substantial foundation for trade extension in the lines mentioned. For the important work to be done it has selected William W. Ewing, who has had 27 years experience in engineering and construction work, four of which were spent in foreign countries, and who is a member of the American Society of Civil Engineers and the American Society for Testing Materials. Mr. Ewing was chief engineer of the Compania General de Asfaltos y Portland, Barcelona, Spain; engineer of tests in the New York Department of Buildings for six years, and engineer in charge for a number of years with some of the largest international engineering construction and equipment companies.

In investigating construction materials, attention will be given to markets for products used in building work, heavy engineering construction, and port and road projects, while the construction machinery on which information is desired includes devices, equipment, and apparatus usually employed in such work. This is one of 20 important investigations to be conducted this year by the Bureau in the interest of American foreign trade.

During Mr. Ewing's preliminary tour of the United States, conferences with him may be arranged and suggestions are invited. Correspondence should be directed to the Division of Commercial Agents, Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, Department of Commerce, Washington, D. C.

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## BETTER PROTECTION FOR SHIPS AT FLORIDA REEFS.

Additional lighted aids for Florida Reefs, and repairs and improvements to existing aids, are provided for in the sundry civil act approved July 1, 1916, which appropriated \$75,000 for that work.

A large commerce is carried on through the Straits of Florida, and numerous strandings and wrecks have occurred near the Florida Reefs, which, owing to their nature, are a grave danger to navigation. They rise steeply from the deep channel of the straits and lie far from shore, so that the mariner at night must rely almost entirely upon artificial aids to guide him clear.

The work contemplated to carry out the provisions of this appropriation consists of the establishment of lights on Molasses Reef and Pacific Reef. These will have iron-pile foundations and suitable illuminating apparatus. Gas buoys will be established on Coffins Patches and Looe Key. It is also proposed to repair and improve the existing aids on the Florida Reefs, to bring them to a high state of efficiency.

**EXPORTS OF IVORY COAST PRODUCTS.**

[Vice Consul Harry A. McBride, Boma, Kongo, June 7.]

According to the *Journal Officiel de la Côte d'Ivoire*, certain exports from the Ivory Coast during 1915 fell off considerably as compared with 1913, the last normal year, whereas slight gains are recorded in others.

For instance, lack of transportation facilities and wood cutters is said to have caused a decrease in the export of timber from 93,834,004 pounds in 1913 to 39,308,216 pounds in 1915. The statistics also give further evidence of the effect of the crisis of 1912 in the rubber gathering industry, previous to which rubber was one of the chief exports of the colony. In 1912, the exports of rubber reached 3,027,383 pounds, but in 1913 the amount had fallen to 2,114,021 pounds, whereas in 1914 a still greater decrease was recorded, the shipments aggregating only 298,584 pounds. Although the figures for 1915 are not yet published, it is thought that the exports will be even less than in the foregoing year.

**Exports of Palm Products.**

With the exception of timber and rubber the shipments of tropical products from the Ivory Coast show better results. In the palm products trade decreases are recorded, but not of so serious a nature as in the timber and rubber. In 1913, for instance, the Ivory Coast exported 11,831,630 pounds of palm oil, whereas in 1915 the amount shipped was 9,863,583 pounds. The decrease in exports of palm kernels was proportionally less, the amount shipped in 1915 being 13,469,744 pounds against 13,565,431 pounds in 1914.

Hamburg was the principal market for West African palm oil and kernels, and the outbreak of war with the consequent closing of the chief outlet, demoralized the trade for several months. The United Kingdom is now, however, consuming large quantities.

**Cocoa, Coffee, and Other Exports.**

Cocoa production is rapidly increasing in importance in all of the colonies on the Gulf of Guinea, and agriculturists in the Ivory Coast are also turning their attention to this product with a considerable degree of success. In 1913, 102,652 pounds of cocoa were exported, and in 1915, 250,727 pounds; thus the shipments more than doubled in two years, and the greatest increase in exports was in this product. Coffee raising is more or less stationary, the shipments having been 23,349 pounds in 1913 and 23,591 pounds in 1915.

With the increased European demand for oleaginous products, the shipments of kola nuts increased from 42,220 pounds in 1913 to 72,028 pounds in 1915, and copra from only 5,467 pounds in the former year to 17,527 pounds in the latter. Ivory Coast is not a large producer of gum copal, such as Kongo and other more southern colonies, and the exports were only 3,518 pounds in 1913 and 3,839 pounds in 1915.

The statistics show that 139,319 pounds of hides were exported in 1915, as compared with 102,034 pounds in 1913.

The cargoes of Honduran fustic invoiced at the Puerto Cortes consulate for shipment to the United States in the June quarter of this year were valued at \$12,120.

**EXPORTS FROM AMSTERDAM DISTRICT TO UNITED STATES.**

[Consul Frank W. Mahin, Amsterdam, Netherlands, July 8.]

The declared value of the exports from the Amsterdam consular district to the United States during the first six months of 1916 was \$21,522,542, compared with \$8,625,449 in the first six months of 1915, \$12,772,059 in 1914, \$15,973,817 in 1913, and \$14,293,021 in 1912.

The total declared value of diamonds exported to the United States in the first six months of this year was \$10,166,915, about the usual total annual value before the war; of tobacco, \$6,991,627. The totals for the corresponding period of the preceding years were: Diamonds, \$2,844,372 in 1915, \$4,035,331 in 1914, \$7,632,066 in 1913, and \$5,652,996 in 1912; tobacco, \$3,446,636 in 1915, \$3,893,306 in 1914, \$5,201,355 in 1913, and \$4,822,978 in 1912.

**Increased Prices of Exports.**

The increased value of the exports this year is due to both greater quantities and higher prices. For instance, prices of diamonds are about 10 per cent higher than before the war and 25 to 30 per cent higher than a year ago, and the extinction of the export from Antwerp has materially increased the export from Amsterdam. The prices of diamonds are still advancing, and it is predicted that they will soon be as much as 40 per cent above those of a year ago. The prices of tobacco sold this year were from 20 to 25 per cent higher than last year for the varieties (mostly wrapper) taken by American buyers, because of the superior quality of the crop which was marketed and of the lively competition at the sales. German buyers were active this year, and this consulate is informed that the varieties (mostly filler) taken by them were from 200 to 230 per cent higher in price than last year. Tobacco from the United States sold in this market at about 100 per cent advance on last year's price.

The prices of raw materials for medicines and colors have increased considerably because of the war, and most other articles of export have advanced in value.

Other important exports to the United States during the period were hides and skins, cocoa and its products, cinchona bark, quinine, spices, liqueurs, seeds, paint, and potash.

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**RULING ON IMPORTS OF CRUDE PEPPER.**

The United States Department of Agriculture has defined its views with relation to the application of the Federal food and drugs act to importations of crude pepper. Its statement is in part:

The department will not recommend the detention of crude pepper offered for entry on account of the presence therein of light berries in the amounts in which they are customarily present in crude pepper of recognized commercial grades. On the other hand, the department will continue to recommend to customs officials that importations of crude pepper be detained if, upon examination, they are found to contain pepper shells or other adulterants, or to be wormy or otherwise to consist in whole or in part of a filthy, decomposed, or putrid substance, or in anywise to be injurious to health.

Ground peppers will be regarded as adulterated and misbranded, if upon examination they are found not to comply with the standards in Circular 19, Office of the Secretary of Agriculture.

**INCREASED JAPANESE EXPORTS OF CAUSTIC SODA.**

[Extract from Japan Chronicle, forwarded by Consul General George H. Scidmore, Yokohama, June 29.]

In September, 1914, the Government placed an absolute embargo on exports of caustic soda. In November of the same year, however, the authorities practically permitted the export of home products. Imports subsequently fell off in a large measure, and prices advanced rapidly. As a means of preventing an undue appreciation, the Government again placed all exports, with a few exceptions, under embargo, in September of last year. Special permission for export was granted in cases where it was certified that exports were intended for Japanese in Japanese colonies or for scientific purposes.

Meanwhile the output of caustic soda in Japan had largely increased, and the authorities saw the advisability of permitting a conditional export. In October last the Government accordingly permitted the export of all qualities of caustic soda except imported caustic soda and the home products of 60 per cent quality or over. Since April the restriction has been somewhat relaxed in practice, and there has been an increase in exports.

In Japan the principal producers of caustic soda are the Osaka Seimi and Kwanto Sanso Companies, their products being chiefly exported to China, the South Seas, and Russia. From October to the end of May the Osaka Seimi exported 125,130 pounds, while the Kwanto Sanso exported 183,700 pounds between November and March. Since May there has been increased activity in the export trade, single transactions being concluded on 100 tons and even 200 tons.

**EXPORTS FROM SHEFFIELD TO UNITED STATES.**

[Consul John M. Savage, Sheffield, England, July 18.]

There was a considerable increase in the value of articles certified at the American consulate at Sheffield, England, for the United States during the six months ended June 30, 1916, as compared with the same period in 1915. The following were the principal articles:

Articles.	Jan.-June, 1915.	Jan.-June, 1916.	Articles.	Jan.-June, 1915.	Jan.-June, 1916.
Agricultural implements..	\$4,632	\$6,007	Grindstones.....	\$4,741	\$1,798
Chemicals.....	6,165	14,726	Electro plate and silver- ware.....	587	840
Bone and horn.....	17,331	35,021	Pearl.....	5,853	1,174
Pipe clay.....	16,003	20,453	Platinum.....	7,582	2,023
Flax.....	9,891	9,007	All other articles.....	15,641	9,210
Steel.....	642,237	990,943	Total.....	825,545	1,220,527
Cutlery.....	79,853	98,030			
All other manufactures of iron and steel.....	15,029	30,695			

**New Cement Factory in Argentina.**

Arrangements have been made for the establishment of a Portland cement factory in the Province of Buenos Aires, according to the River Plate Review of June 16. A group of New York capitalists have furnished a fund of about \$2,000,000 and have obtained a six-year concession for the exploitation of certain land in the Sierras Bayas district. It is expected that cement will be produced by the latter part of 1917. Dr. Ricardo C. Aldao is president of the new company.

**COMMERCIAL FERTILIZERS IN GERMANY.**

[Consul General H. W. Harris, Frankfort-on-the-Main, June 3.]

As is well known, the use of commercial fertilizers in Germany in recent years has greatly increased and has been one of the chief causes of the relatively large yield of crops throughout the Empire, thus having direct bearing on the country's food supply for several years past and furnishing an object lesson that should be of value in other agricultural countries.

A semiofficial German publication gives a table showing the yield of certain crops in various countries. The figures, which are in part for 1912 and in part for 1913, reduced to the United States equivalents—that is to say, to bushels per acre—are as follows:

Country and year.	Bushels per acre.				
	Wheat.	Rye.	Barley.	Oats.	Potatoes.
Germany, 1913 .....	35.0	30.4	40.9	61.0	235.4
Russia, 1912 .....	10.1	14.3	16.1	23.6	121.3
Austria, 1912 .....	22.3	23.2	29.7	36.1	148.7
Hungary, 1912 .....	18.5	18.4	25.8	28.9	125.2
France, 1912 .....	20.5	16.4	26.9	35.9	142.7
Canada, 1912 .....	20.3	19.1	31.0	41.7	172.0
United States, 1913 .....	15.1	16.2	23.7	29.5	90.2
Argentina, 1912-13 .....	13.8			36.2	

**Liberal Use Made of Fertilizers.**

A review of Germany's manufacture of commercial fertilizers since the outbreak of the war, and the consequent interruption of imports of Chilean saltpeter, appeared recently in the *Frankfurter Zeitung* and throws interesting light on the use of these fertilizers in the country as well as upon the much-discussed subject of taking nitrogen from the air for their manufacture.

The writer of the newspaper article referred to states that 30 years ago the soil of Germany and of France was, as revealed by crop statistics, about equally productive, but that during the three decades Germany's crop-yield per acre has nearly doubled while that of France has increased but a tenth. Figures are quoted giving the average yield of wheat per acre in Germany as 19 bushels, and in France as 18 bushels in 1881-1886, with 33 bushels for Germany and 20 bushels for France in 1911-1913. This favorable showing in the case of Germany is said to be due partly to the effect of cooperative agricultural societies and schools together with the technical improvement in agriculture, but above all to the increased use of commercial fertilizers.

Comparing Germany and France as to the last-mentioned item it would appear that in recent years the average amount of potash and saltpeter used per acre in the two countries has been: In Germany—potash 10.7 pounds, saltpeter 7 pounds; in France—potash 0.7 pound, saltpeter 3.6 pounds.

**Imports of Chilean Saltpeter.**

Potash salts in whatever quantities desired are at Germany's disposal through large native deposits, but for nitrogen fertilizers the country was dependent upon Chilean saltpeter, except for such supplies as were obtained through plants which assimilate nitrogen and

from natural manures. The imports of Chilean saltpeter have increased rapidly in recent years, although 1913 fell somewhat behind 1912 in both quantity and value, as the following table shows:

Year.	Tons.	Value.	Year.	Tons.	Value.
1890.....	244, 200	\$13, 107, 375	1911.....	730, 939	\$32, 183, 310
1900.....	436, 115	18, 511, 165	1912.....	812, 896	42, 563, 445
1910.....	749, 945	31, 770, 620	1913.....	774, 318	40, 911, 980

#### Ammonium Sulphate versus Chilean Saltpeter.

Ammonium sulphate obtained as a by-product from coke ovens, and to a less extent from gas plants, has in recent years partly taken the place of Chilean saltpeter. Ammonium sulphate was for a time imported from Great Britain, but has lately become an article of much commercial importance in Germany with a considerable export as well as import trade. The total domestic output in recent years is stated to have been: 1900, 104,000 tons; 1909, 281,000 tons; 1910, 313,000 tons; 1911, 418,000 tons; 1913, 501,000 tons. Exports for 1910, 1911, and 1913 exceeded imports by almost 50,000 tons a year.

In 1913 it is said 460,000 tons of ammonium sulphate were used for fertilizer purposes as against about 750,000 tons of Chilean saltpeter. Reckoning the fertilizer value of ammonium sulphate as compared with Chilean saltpeter at 4 to 3, the first-named product would be equivalent to 610,000 tons of the latter, showing that the two articles had become close rivals in Germany.

#### Production of Synthetic Ammonium Sulphate.

In 1914 synthetic ammonium sulphate came into competition in a practical way with Chilean saltpeter. The possibility of producing ammonia synthetically had long been known and had played an important rôle in chemical literature. For a time the well-known Norwegian process was carried out in large factories in which the German chemical industry was interested, the scarcity of water power making it difficult to carry on this manufacture in Germany. When later the Badische Anilin- und Sodafabrik, working in conjunction with Prof. Haber, discovered an extraordinarily satisfactory and epoch-making process for obtaining the product, connection with the Norwegian plants was severed and efforts were centered upon the Haber process. By the time war broke out the total output reckoned for a single concern was large, but naturally did not approach a quantity sufficient, even when added to other nitrogen compounds, to offset the imports of Chilean saltpeter. As a result during the first year of the war there was a scarcity of fertilizers, which was made the more acute by the heavy demands of the military authorities.

Manufacture promptly adjusted itself to the new demand, however, and would now be able, if need be, to furnish larger supplies than are required in time of peace. Under the Haber process the output for 1913 was approximately 30,000 tons, which in 1914 was increased to 60,000 tons, and by the middle of 1915 the capacity of the original factory was 150,000 tons, while for 1916 the estimated output will be 300,000 tons. It is said to be no secret that the Badische Anilin- und Sodafabrik is now erecting large additional factories and that as a result the output by 1917 will greatly exceed the present production. Assuming that 500,000 tons of nitrogen fer-

tilizers can be produced by the Haber process annually, it will be seen that this total approaches that of the former Chilean saltpeter imports. Reckoned on the basis of \$60 per ton, this would mean a yearly business of about \$30,000,000. Through other processes, assisted by governmental aid, large supplies of nitrogen were obtained in forms available for agriculture, so that the country is at present secure so far as fertilizers are concerned.

#### Consumption and Output of Nitrogen Fertilizers.

Recent developments in the German coal industry indicate that more and more the tendency will be to utilize by-products. Unless all signs fail, in the near future the direct burning of coal will be looked upon as wholly uneconomical. This will mean increasing many times the production of ammonia from coal. Assuming that the by-products were saved from double the amount of coal now so utilized, there would be a further gain of around 450,000 tons of ammonia, and German agriculture, without any imports of Chilean saltpeter, would have at its disposal more nitrogen fertilizers than before the war. Taking together the three native sources of nitrogen, namely, ammonia from coke, ammonia from the Haber process, and nitrates of lime, the total output of which is not definitely known at present, and comparing them with the like products available in 1913, the results are approximately as follows:

Fertilizers.	Tons.	Nitrogen equivalent, tons.
<b>CONSUMPTION, 1913.</b>		
Sulphate of ammonia .....	460,000	92,000
Norwegian saltpeter .....	35,000	4,500
Nitrate of lime .....	30,000	6,000
Ammonia, Haber process .....	20,000	4,000
Chilean saltpeter .....	750,000	116,000
Total nitrogen .....		222,500
<b>PRODUCTION, 1917.</b>		
Sulphate of ammonia .....	700,000	140,000
Nitrate of lime .....	400,000	80,000
Ammonia, Haber process .....	500,000	100,000
Total nitrogen .....		320,000

#### Chemical Industry May Furnish Combined Fertilizers.

Even if these estimates be only approximately correct, they show that in 1917 considerably more nitrogen fertilizers will be available through home production than the amount used before the war, including the large imports from Chile; or, in other words, that in case of necessity the imports of Chilean saltpeter could be dispensed with altogether and the nitrogen supply still exceed the pre-war consumption. It is not to be assumed, however, that Chilean saltpeter is superfluous or not to be desired. For certain purposes it will remain a desirable import, and agriculture will gladly avail itself of it in so far as prices are in some measure competitive, especially as much German capital is invested in the saltpeter industry.

Now that new synthetic processes have furnished nitrogen at reasonable cost, the chemical manufacturers may be expected to turn



their attention to the furnishing of combined fertilizers and by so doing further revolutionize the industry. It is thus not impossible that Germany may become an exporter of nitrogen fertilizers. The chief concern, however, must be that of increasing the productivity of the soil.

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### AMERICAN CHEWING GUM POPULAR IN FRANCE.

[Vice Consul Davis R. Lewis, St. Etienne, July 5.]

The successful introduction of American chewing gum in St. Etienne, where apparently it has a large sale, has been accomplished by methods frequently suggested to American manufacturers of specialties and proprietary articles as a means of reaching retailers and jobbers here.

The gum was brought to the attention of dealers by a wide-awake French salesman, working under the direction of a central agency in Paris. The goods were placed with many tobacconists, druggists, and others, possibly on consignment to those most skeptical of results. The dealers were instructed how to display them to the best advantage, and attractive lithographed figures with placards in French, setting forth the use and qualities of the gum, were supplied. The product is labeled in French and inclosed in waxed or oiled paper to retain the original properties and freshness, and the retail selling price is the same as in the United States.

#### Advertising Campaign Rapidly Increases Demand.

The entire selling campaign, no doubt on the same plan in other parts of France, shows a careful study of the requirements for gaining a foothold in this field. The demand for chewing gum is rapidly increasing as a result of the advertising campaign.

The methods employed should succeed with any specialty of merit intended for general consumption in such a community as St. Etienne, where the population has tastes and habits similar to those in American industrial cities. To attempt to sell such goods direct to dealers through correspondence or circulars is usually a misdirected effort. Machinery and certain specific articles may be introduced in this way, but for the sale of specialties over the counter, merchants generally have several articles of the same class, all with more or less popularity and advertising, to compete with the American goods. Sometimes these cost less and are obtained without vexatious customs and import troubles.

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### FREIGHT INCORRECTLY ROUTED FOR NOVA SCOTIA.

[Consul Henry H. Balch, Yarmouth, Nova Scotia, Canada, July 24.]

Merchants continue to complain to the Yarmouth consulate of delay in the arrival of freight from Pennsylvania and New York because of having been incorrectly routed. Several cases have been reported where cargoes were routed by transportation companies contrary to directions that the shipments should be forwarded by rail to Boston and thence by steamer to Yarmouth. Merchandise coming all the way by rail requires from two to four weeks longer to reach its destination than if sent by steamer from Boston.

### OUTPUT OF INDIA'S COTTON MILLS.

Figures compiled by the Indian Department of Statistics from accounts rendered by mill owners and covering the output of cotton spinning and weaving mills in British India and the Native States show an 11 per cent increase in the amount of yarn spun during the twelvemonth ended March 31, 1916, as compared with the production in the fiscal year 1914-15, and one of 27 per cent in the quantity of the woven goods manufactured. In pounds the output was:

Yarn and woven goods.	1913-14	1914-15	1915-16
Yarn spun .....	<i>Pounds.</i> 682,777,000	<i>Pounds.</i> 661,985,000	<i>Pounds.</i> 722,425,000
Woven goods manufactured .....	274,389,000	277,006,000	352,255,000

The quantity of coarse, medium, and fine yarns produced in Indian mills is compared below with the quantity imported by sea during the last three fiscal years:

Counts.	1913-14		1914-15		1915-16	
	Production.	Imports.	Production.	Imports.	Production.	Imports.
Nos. 1 to 25 .....	<i>Pounds.</i> 616,688,080	<i>Pounds.</i> 2,150,000	<i>Pounds.</i> 590,829,000	<i>Pounds.</i> 813,000	<i>Pounds.</i> 660,688,000	<i>Pounds.</i> 1,338,000
Nos. 26 to 40 .....	62,711,000	27,343,000	58,447,000	28,842,000	59,123,000	25,613,000
Above No. 40 .....	2,698,000	7,858,000	2,233,000	7,021,000	1,963,000	7,512,000

The production of coarse yarns (Nos. 1 to 25) increased by 69,859,000 pounds and the medium (Nos. 26 to 40) by 676,000 pounds, but the output of fine yarns (above No. 40) was 270,000 pounds less than in 1914-15. As regards imports, coarse and fine counts showed gains of 525,000 and 491,000 pounds, respectively, whereas the medium numbers (26 to 40) fell 3,229,000 pounds below the imports in the preceding year.

#### Data for Woven Goods.

The excise duty of 3½ per cent ad valorem realized on woven goods in the fiscal year 1915-16 amounted to \$1,658,500, as compared with \$1,678,600 in 1914-15 and \$1,841,800 in 1913-14. The value of the goods woven in Indian mills is thus roughly estimated at \$47,400,000 in 1915-16, against \$47,906,000 and \$52,623,000 in the two preceding years, respectively. The quantities produced during the last three fiscal twelvemonths were:

Woven goods.	1913-14	1914-15	1915-16
Gray and bleached piece goods:	<i>Pounds.</i>	<i>Pounds.</i>	<i>Pounds.</i>
Shirtings and long cloth .....	66,458,000	75,520,000	100,006,000
T cloths, domestics, and sheetings .....	29,733,000	30,815,000	35,621,000
Dhuties .....	59,132,000	57,400,000	70,037,000
Chadars .....	23,673,000	22,796,000	26,054,000
Colored piece goods .....	68,829,600	61,067,800	81,604,000
All other woven goods, including hosiery .....	26,564,000	29,408,000	38,733,000
Total .....	274,389,000	277,006,000	352,255,000

Estimated from the poundage on a conventional basis, the foregoing figures represent an output of gray and colored piece goods

of 1,164,291,600 yards in 1913-14, 1,135,707,950 yards in 1914-15, and 1,441,514,550 yards in 1915-16; and of 905,050 dozen in 1913-14, 691,850 dozen in 1914-15, and 874,100 dozen in 1915-16 of gray and colored goods other than piece goods and of hosiery.

**Production by Provinces.**

The cotton-manufacturing industry centers in British India, the Native States (including one mill in the French dependency of Pondicherry) producing less than 6 per cent of the yarn and less than 7 per cent of the woven goods. The distribution of the output during the last three years was:

Provinces and States.	Yarn spun.			Woven goods produced.		
	1913-14	1914-15	1915-16	1913-14	1914-15	1915-16
<b>British India:</b>	<i>Pounds.</i>	<i>Pounds.</i>	<i>Pounds.</i>	<i>Pounds.</i>	<i>Pounds.</i>	<i>Pounds.</i>
Bombay.....	479,683,000	448,556,500	500,770,900	218,042,700	222,159,900	287,487,300
Madras.....	44,673,600	43,031,700	44,303,300	9,358,400	8,992,300	11,559,900
Bengal.....	33,220,000	31,706,800	32,086,500	3,487,100	2,708,000	2,680,100
United Provinces*.....	44,468,500	50,281,200	51,969,200	10,949,600	11,764,300	13,200,700
Punjab and Delhi.....	6,274,800	6,813,600	7,541,900	1,073,500	578,700	1,297,300
Central Provinces and Berar.....	36,532,900	34,565,200	37,448,200	12,494,700	11,987,300	14,227,700
<b>Total.....</b>	<b>644,852,800</b>	<b>614,957,000</b>	<b>683,155,000</b>	<b>256,406,000</b>	<b>258,180,500</b>	<b>330,853,000</b>
<b>Native States and Pondicherry.....</b>	<b>37,924,200</b>	<b>37,028,000</b>	<b>39,270,000</b>	<b>17,983,000</b>	<b>18,825,500</b>	<b>21,402,000</b>
<b>Grand total.....</b>	<b>682,777,000</b>	<b>651,985,000</b>	<b>722,425,000</b>	<b>274,389,000</b>	<b>277,006,000</b>	<b>352,255,000</b>

\* Figures are for United Provinces of Agra and Oudh and Ajmer-Merwara.

**LEEWARD ISLANDS TELEGRAPH MONEY-ORDER SERVICE.**

From an announcement in the Dominican Official Gazette of July 10, 1916, it appears that the Postmaster General at London has under consideration the extension to certain British dominions and possessions of the system of telegraph money orders at present in operation between the United Kingdom and Canada, Newfoundland, Egypt, Japan, and various countries of Europe. It is proposed to utilize the existing machinery to embrace Antigua, Dominica, and St. Kitts.

Senders may take advantage of the "deferred" rate, but such telegrams must be in plain language, and in whichever direction should contain the amount of the order stated in sterling, the necessary conversion to local currencies being made at the receiving point. "Mandat" may be employed in lieu of "money order" and "post office" and "postes" omitted. The usual prefix "L. C. O." must, however, be paid for.

**Increased Purchases of Calamine and Ixtle.**

Vice Consul William P. Blocker, at Piedras Negras, Mexico, reports that according to invoices certified at that consulate 9,186 tons of calamine, valued at \$273,264, were exported to the United States during the period from April 1 to June 30, 1916, an increase of 3,932 tons over the first three months of the year. The exports of ixtle also continue to increase, the quantity invoiced for the United States for the second quarter of 1916 amounting to 2,705 tons, valued at \$203,684.

**PROPOSALS FOR GOVERNMENT SUPPLIES AND CONSTRUCTION.**

[Correspondence should be direct with the offices named, and specifications can usually be obtained at the points where the goods are to be delivered or the work is to be performed. In cases where the time limit is too short to permit firms to submit tenders, they should ask to be placed on the mailing lists of such offices to receive notices calling for future supplies or work of a similar nature.]

**Fire protection, No. 3471.**—Sealed proposals will be received at the Bureau of Yards and Docks, Navy Department, Washington, D. C., until August 12, 1916, for the installation of the pump, motors, piping, distributing connections, etc., for a foam fire protection system for fuel oil and gasoline tanks at the naval station, Key West, Fla. Plans and specifications may be obtained on application to the Bureau of Yards and Docks or to the commandant of the naval station named.

**Cartridge cloth, No. 3472.**—Sealed proposals will be received at the Picatinny Arsenal, Dover, N. J., until August 7, 1916, for furnishing and delivering at that arsenal extra heavyweight silk cartridge cloth in accordance with the specifications which may be obtained on application to Picatinny Arsenal.

**Miscellaneous work, No. 3473.**—Sealed proposals will be received at the Bureau of Standards, Department of Commerce, Washington, D. C., until August 7, 1916, for performing the following miscellaneous jobs during the period ending November 30, 1916: Electrical, carpentering, cabinetwork, cement finishing, gardening, plastering, bricklaying, excavating by hand, lawn mowing, grading by hand, moving, cleaning, excavating and grading with teams, plowing, carting and the like, plumbing, steamfitting, blacksmithing, stone setting, and painting, etc.

**Wire, No. 3474.**—Sealed proposals will be received at the office of the Chief Signal Officer, War Department, Washington, D. C., until August 9, 1916, for furnishing the Signal Corps with 25,000 feet of phosphor-bronze wire.

**Pipe line, No. 3475.**—Sealed proposals will be received at the Bureau of Yards and Docks, Navy Department, Washington, D. C., until August 26, 1916, for furnishing 4-inch, flexible-joint, submerged pipe line at the naval training station, San Francisco, Cal. Plans and specifications may be obtained on application to the Bureau of Yards and Docks or to the Commandant of the Navy Yard, Mare Island, Cal.

**Message books, No. 3476.**—Sealed proposals will be received at the office of the Chief Signal Officer, War Department, Washington, D. C., until August 8, 1916, for furnishing the Signal Corps with 25,000 field message books.

**Fence trimmings, No. 3477.**—Sealed proposals will be received by the lighthouse inspector, Charleston, S. C., until August 15, 1916, for furnishing an iron and brick fence with stone caps, copings, and trimmings at the lighthouse depot at Charleston, S. C.

**Aeroplane hangars, No. 3478.**—Proposals will be received at the office of the Chief Signal Officer, War Department, Washington, D. C., for furnishing steel hangars for aeroplanes, equipped with wire glass metal windows and ventilators, and to be furnished with doors across one 55-foot front, f. o. b. place of manufacture.

**Boilers, No. 3479.**—Sealed proposals will be received by the Lighthouse Inspector, Buffalo, N. Y., for furnishing new boilers, boiler circulators, and sludge removers for lighthouse tender *Crocus*. Information furnished upon application at above office.

**Filters, No. 3480.**—Sealed proposals will be received at the Bureau of Yards and Docks, Navy Department, Washington, D. C., until August 26, 1916, for furnishing two 500,000-gallon rapid sand-filter units at the Naval Training Station, Great Lakes, Ill. Plans and specifications may be obtained on application to the Bureau of Yards and Docks or to the commandant of the naval station named.

**Live stock, No. 3481.**—Sealed proposals will be received at the Office of Indian Affairs, Washington, D. C., until August 25, 1916, for furnishing and delivering 100 rams for the Leupp Agency, Leupp, Ariz.; 130 rams for

the Mescalero Agency, Mescalero, N. Mex.; 60 rams for the Moqui Agency, Keams Canyon, Ariz.; and 250 rams for the San Juan Agency, Shiprock, N. Mex. Specifications will be furnished on application to the Washington office.

*Flag cases*, No. 3482.—Sealed proposals will be received at the office of the Chief Signal Officer, War Department, Washington, D. C., until August 10, 1916, for furnishing 5,000 flag cases. Specifications and drawings may be obtained on application to the above-named office.

### AMERICAN CONSULAR OFFICERS ON LEAVE OF ABSENCE.

The following American consular officers are on leave of absence in the United States and will be glad to confer with business men and commercial organizations relative to conditions in their respective jurisdictions. The consul's time is available primarily for personal interviews. He has limited facilities for correspondence, and except in urgent cases letters should be directed to the consulate.

Name.	Post.	Expira- tion of venue.	Address.
West, George N.....	Kobe, Japan.....	Aug. 15	Department of State, Washington, D.C.
Cookin, A. B.....	Patras, Greece.....	Aug. 10	121 West Charlotte Street, Norfolk, Va.
Hale, F. D.....	Huddersfield, England	Sept. 5	Lunenburg, Vt.
Fisher, Fred D.....	Tientsin, China.....	Aug. 5	Albany, Oreg.
Masterson, William W.....	Durban, Natal, South Africa.	Sept. 1	Carrollton, Ky.
Baker, E. Carlton.....	Nagasaki, Japan.....	Aug. 30	Apartment No. 75, The Brunswick, Washington, D. C.
Monaghan, J. C.....	Kingston, Jamaica....	Sept. 1	Avenue A and Fourteenth Street, Ba- yonne, N. J.
Jewell, John F.....	Chafoo, China.....	Oct. 1	Department of State, Washington, D.C.
Kemper, Graham H.....	Erfurt, Germany.....	Sept. 10	Do.
Goodier, James H.....	Niagara Falls, Canada.	Sept. 1	27 South Hawk Street, Albany, N. Y.
Haseltine, Ross.....	Port Antonio, Jamaica.	Oct. 1	Department of State, Washington, D.C.
Laing, James Oliver.....	Karachi, India.....	Sept. 30	C/o University Club, Kansas City, Mo.

### SPECIAL LEGISLATION IN COLOMBIA.

The President of Colombia has called an extra session of Congress to consider certain measures which the administration regards as of prime importance. Among the measures urged for discussion at this time the *Diario Oficial* of June 19 names the following: Changes in the preparation and checking of the national budgets, order and method of meeting national obligations, new banking law, coinage and recoinage, official paper and stamp regulations, public highways, and completion of the Tolima railway.

### District Offices of the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce.

New York, Room 409 United States Customhouse; Boston, eighteenth floor United States Customhouse; Chicago, 504 Federal Building; St. Louis, 402 Third National Bank Building; Atlanta, 521 Post Office Building; New Orleans, 1020 Hibernia Bank Building; San Francisco, 307 United States Customhouse; Seattle, 848 Henry Building. Cooperative district offices: Cleveland, Chamber of Commerce; Cincinnati, Chamber of Commerce; Asst. Gen'l Frt. Agt., C. N. O. & T. P. Ry. Co., Cincinnati; Los Angeles, Chamber of Commerce; Detroit, Board of Commerce; Philadelphia, Chamber of Commerce; South American Agent, Southern Ry. Co., Chattanooga, Tenn.

## FOREIGN TRADE OPPORTUNITIES.

Reserved addresses may be obtained from the Bureau and its district offices. Request for each opportunity should be on a separate sheet and state opportunity number. The Bureau does not furnish credit ratings or assume responsibility as to the standing of foreign inquirers; the usual precautions should be taken in all cases.

*Sanitary and marine supplies*, No. 22016.—An American consular officer in Chile reports that a business man in his district wishes to secure agencies for the sale of sanitary supplies and fittings; marine supplies, such as oil for cylinders, machines, and for lighting; coal; clothing for sailors; cement; reinforcing steel; steel shapes for small bridges and buildings; smoking and chewing tobacco; electric fittings and household electric articles; small industrial motors for 110 volt, two-phase, alternating current; waterworks and sewer supplies; water tanks and towers; filters and pumps for waterworks, etc. Some of the goods will be carried in stock. Catalogues, etc., should be sent. Correspondence should be in Spanish, though English may be used.

*Tin plates*, No. 22017.—Supplementing Foreign Trade Opportunity No. 21854, the firm is now in the market for tin plates. Sizes wanted are: 28 by 23, and I. C. 28 by 21. Prices are desired on 100 of each size. References.

*Olive oil*, No. 22018.—An American consular officer in Spain reports that a manufacturer in his district wishes to communicate with American importers of olive oil and Spanish castile soap. Correspondence in Spanish.

*Blankets, sewing machines, etc.*, No. 22019.—One of the commercial agents of the Bureau reports that a representative of a South African firm is now in the United States for the purpose of securing agencies for Indian blankets, sewing machines, enamel ware in general, horseshoes, paint brushes, lamp chimneys, wall paper, wrapping paper, wood utensils, hay forks, wooden shovel handles, cheap blacksmith stock and dies, grass rugs, and camp furniture. References.

*Machinery*, No. 22020.—A manufacturer of cotton goods in Peru informs an American consular officer that he desires to increase the capacity of his mill and wishes to receive catalogues, etc., of machines for making cotton textiles, such as unbleached cloth, drills, shirtings, sheetings, etc. Catalogues, etc., should be in Spanish; weights and measurements in the metric system; and prices quoted f. o. b. New York.

*Aluminum, bronze powder, and watch crystals*, No. 22021.—The commercial attaché of the Department of Commerce in France reports that a business man in Spain is in the market for aluminum in powder form, bronze powder, and watch crystals.

*Drugs, paper, etc.*, No. 22022.—An American consular officer in Brazil reports that a commission merchant in his district wishes to receive catalogues, etc., from manufacturers of drugs, paper of all kinds, and cloths and woollens for the manufacture of wearing apparel for men. References.

*Thermometers, etc.*, No. 22023.—A wholesale commission merchant in Spain informs an American consular officer that he is desirous of importing clinical thermometers, steel, and steel products. Correspondence in English. References.

*Glassware, paint, etc.*, No. 22024.—An American consular officer in Paraguay writes that a business man in his district wishes to represent, on a commission basis, manufacturers and exporters of glassware, paint and painters' supplies, crockery, lamps and lanterns, cutlery, thread, paper and stationery, canned goods and preserved fruits, textiles, wire, and house furniture. Correspondence in English.

*Hospital supplies*, No. 22025.—The commercial attaché of the Department of Commerce in France reports that a commission firm in that country wishes to represent American manufacturers and exporters of hospital supplies.

*General representation*, No. 22026.—An American consular officer in Spain reports that a manufacturer in his district wishes to represent American manufacturers or exporters. He does not specify any particular line. References.

# COMMERCE REPORTS



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No. 182

Washington, D. C., Friday, August 4

1916

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## AMERICAN MAIL-ORDER OPPORTUNITIES IN KONGO.

[Vice Consul Harry A. McBride, Boma, June 5.]

The large, well-illustrated catalogues of American mail-order houses received in Boma have met with very favorable comment. Persons in this district state that the prices are satisfactory, and that if American exporters would distribute these catalogues more liberally in West Africa, a larger business would undoubtedly result. In practically every store and office in the principal towns of Kongo and Angola, the large catalogue of a big French mail-order house is found on file and considerable use is made of it.

Only necessities, as a rule, are found in the stores along the West Coast, and whenever a person wants a camera, a pair of shoes of the latest style, any new office appliance, or some new article for the household, the mail-order catalogue is referred to. Since the war, even greater use has been made of it because of the increased retail prices of foods, canned goods, etc. This has increased the possibilities of the mail-order field.

### Catalogues on File at Consulate General.

The American consulate general has American mail-order catalogues on file, and they are constantly referred to by interested persons. When two or three catalogues are furnished, the extra copies are sent to the persons most likely to order American goods. American missionaries in Kongo also have catalogues, but apparently no effort has been made to interest the Belgian residents.

The occasional direct steamers from New York to Kongo (Elder Dempster & Co., Mr. Daniel Bacon, agent, Produce Exchange, New York, N. Y.) have greatly facilitated this trade, and as the shipments increase, better service will probably be offered. Another way of shipping to Kongo is via Bordeaux, whence steamers of the Chargeurs Réunis ply every month to Boma and Matadi. Shipments to Angola should be made via either Lisbon or Cape Town when no direct steamer is available.

It is suggested that copies of the most recent American mail-order catalogues be sent to each of the local dealers as soon as possible.

In the transmitting letters, which should be in French, mention might be made of the occasional facilities for direct shipment.

[A list of possible Kongo purchasers from mail-order houses may be obtained from the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce or its district offices. Refer to file No. 78774.]

### **WESTERN NORWAY EXPORTS BERRIES TO ENGLAND.**

[Consul Maurice P. Dunlap, Stavanger, June 27.]

The season for berries in the Stavanger district, in the southwestern part of Norway, is very late. Strawberries are not obtainable before the last week in June and may still be had in September. The cool, late summers, however, seem particularly favorable to the production of good berries and currants. Black currants, gooseberries, and raspberries thrive here, often having a size and flavor rarely, if ever, found in the United States.

The northern towns of England, in recent years, have come to appreciate berries grown on Norway's western coast. Stavanger has been the headquarters for regular exports to these towns. The berries can be sent to England more cheaply than to Christiania. More than 152,000 kilos (about 335,000 pounds) of berries went from Stavanger to the British Isles in 1914, the last year for which statistics are available.

#### **Climatic Conditions Especially Favorable.**

It is believed that climatic conditions in this section are as favorable as anywhere in the world to the production of fine berries. The warmest month in Stavanger—July—has a mean temperature of about 55° F. (colder than October in Washington, D. C.). The winters, however, are warmer than the winters in our capital. There is little snow, but a good deal of rain the year round. The Pacific coast climate of Washington and Oregon, in the United States, probably most nearly approximates weather conditions here.

### **CENTRAL CANADA EXHIBIT AT OTTAWA.**

[Consul O. Gaylord Marsh, detailed as vice consul, Ottawa, July 25.]

The Central Canada Exhibition is to be held in Ottawa September 9 to 16, 1916. The fair is intended primarily for the display of agricultural, horticultural, dairy, domestic science, and manufactured products, and live stock. Arrangements have been made with the customs authorities for the free entry of foreign exhibits; the exhibition buildings are constituted customs warehouses for that purpose. Forms for exhibitors and information as to fees, reservations, prizes, etc., may be obtained from the manager and secretary, Mr. James K. Paisley, City Hall, Elgin Street, Ottawa.

The annual paid admissions to the exhibition have been about 100,000. A large attendance is expected this year, notwithstanding conditions caused by the war. Arrangements have been made for special excursions from all parts of the Dominion and from the northern part of the United States.



**AMERICAN PURCHASES FROM BRADFORD.**

[Consul Augustus E. Ingram, Bradford, England, July 20.]

The declared exports to the United States from the Bradford consular district during June, 1916, amounted to \$1,073,257, as compared with \$1,249,972 in the previous month and \$1,182,109 in June, 1915. Owing to the embargo there were no shipments of raw wool and wool tops; and only a small quantity of certain fancy lines of wool yarn was shipped. The exports of worsteds and woollen cloths likewise fell off considerably, while in wool dress goods and linings the decline was still more marked, undoubtedly owing to the difficulty in obtaining deliveries. On the other hand, the exports of mohair cloths increased to \$117,784, while cotton cloths, chiefly linings, increased to \$448,908, as compared with \$162,797 in June, 1915. Spun-silk yarns continued in strong demand from the United States, the shipments during the month amounting to \$75,202.

**Exports for Six Months.**

For the six months ended June 30, 1916, the declared exports to the United States from Bradford amounted to \$7,384,742, as compared with \$7,624,463 in the same period in 1915 and \$17,494,869 in 1914. Among the striking changes that have occurred in the exports during those periods the following may be noted:

Articles.	1914	1915	1916	Articles.	1914	1915	1916
Wool:				Mohair yarn.....	\$229,745	\$78,149	\$125,684
Class 1.....		\$1,114,364	\$551,799	Mohair tops.....	8,302	30,124	58,534
Class 2.....	\$6,223,270	11,104	155,471	Worsted cloths...	1,792,866	842,967	345,464
Class 3.....		291,301	93,269	Woollen cloths....		213,074	387,283
Wool nolls and				Mohair cloths.....		404,855	660,576
wastes.....	481,523	465,886	283,184	Wool coat linings..	2,977,903	610,967	319,886
Wool tops.....	1,156,291	178,866	77,417	Wool dress goods..		732,767	258,796
Wool yarn.....	743,423	188,570	9,623	Silk yarn.....	443,467	343,561	580,396
Mohair, etc.....	141,848	419,757	157,819	Cotton cloths.....	1,828,181	892,941	2,278,239

The embargo is responsible for the large reduction in the shipments of raw wool, and also in wool tops and wool yarn, which latter were lines of export from this district developing under the new tariff. The decline in the total value of shipments in all classes of wool fabrics and especially worsteds, wool dress goods, wool (stuff) linings is, despite the advance in prices, also very marked owing partly to the embargo, and more particularly to the advance in price and the difficulty now of obtaining deliveries from the manufacturers, who are overrun with orders. The only line of wool goods in which a slight increase of shipments can be noted is that of woollen cloths, which consist of fancy woollens suitable for women's costumes, cloaks, etc. The increase in spun silk yarn is due to the strong demand from plush manufacturers in the United States which yarns have, like everything else, been steadily advancing in price. The striking increase in shipments of cotton cloths is due to that fact that the high price of wool has caused a much larger demand for cotton linings, which class of goods also show an advance in price of fully 33 per cent. There has consequently been a corresponding falling off in the shipments of wool coat linings, a large trade having previously been done in colored brillantines.

**TRADE-EXTENSION WORK IN WEST AFRICA.**

[Vice Consul Harry A. McBride, Boma, Kongo, May 29.]

Owing to the vast area of Kongo and to the slow means of communication it is generally several months after trade opportunities are reported by the Boma consulate that results are obtained, and it is usually several weeks more before this office is able to discover whether or not its efforts to assist in the introduction of American products were successful. Information has now been obtained showing that the reports sent during 1915 and the information given Kongo merchants about American manufacturing and exporting firms have resulted in the purchase of two large American-made refrigerators for the storage of meat, of about 19 tons of American flour, 60 cases of leaf tobacco, 25 cases of lanterns, 240 cases of American sugar, 1 barrel of lamps and lamp supplies, and a small shipment of American office furniture, including a typewriter. All these were imported by merchants of Boma, Matadi, and Kinshasa.

It is even more difficult to follow up the trade opportunities reported in Angola and São Thomé, but it has been ascertained that the firm in Benguella interested in pitch pine is about to order a shipment, but has experienced considerable difficulty in finding a vessel and that one cargo of American lumber, the purchaser of which obtained his information from the Boma consulate, recently arrived at Loanda. This cargo was valued at \$14,000, and it is understood that another is now on the way.

American firms often write to consular officers for information regarding the market for their products and for lists of names of merchants likely to be interested therein. If those manufacturers and exporters who receive orders as a result of such information would notify the consulate to this effect, it would be a great aid both in recording the concrete results of commercial work and in ascertaining which firms in the consul's district are most interested in American goods.

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**PORT IMPROVEMENTS IN THE MAGDALENA.**

Plans for the improvement of the port of Girardot, in the Magdalena River, are to be put into execution in accordance with a law enacted in 1913. The President of Colombia has appointed an honorary board in the city of Girardot, which, with the assistance of a qualified engineer, will supervise the port works in conformity with plans approved by the Minister of Agriculture and Commerce. A fund for the improvement of this port and others in the upper Magdalena is provided by a special assignment of 20 per cent of the fluvial tax, which was authorized in 1881, according to the Diario Oficial of June 19.

Girardot is of particular importance as a shipping point, because it is the only port connected by rail with the city of Bogotá, and, moreover, it connects with the Tolima Railway, which runs to Espinal. In the event of the realization of Colombia's plan to join the Tolima and Pacific Railways by a line across the Andes, Girardot would have the distinction of connecting the capital of Colombia with Buenaventura on the west as well as with Barranquilla on the north, and it would be a distributing port for imports from two seas.

**TESTS MADE AT BUREAU OF STANDARDS.**

The facilities offered by the United States Bureau of Standards for testing a wide variety of articles have been of increasing value as demands leading to their employment have grown in recent months. A report showing the activities during June gives a review of the work that has been done in this line.

A six-cylinder automobile engine has been installed in the gas-engine testing laboratory at the bureau, to investigate the merits of materials that are being marketed with the claim that when added in small quantities to gasoline they produce increased efficiency, together with freedom from carbonization.

Railroad track-scale tests have been conducted in Minnesota by Test Car No. 1, cooperating with the railroad and warehouse commission of that State. During June, 29 railroad track scales were tested. Test Car No. 2 has been operating in the States of Maryland, West Virginia, and Kentucky and tested 38 railroad track scales during June.

A manila rope 9 inches in circumference was submitted by the Panama Canal. It was tested in the large Emery machine and failed at a load of 57,800 pounds.

The Chief Signal Officer of the Army submitted about 100 pieces of aeroplane structural material, representing wood and metal to be used in building 12 military reconnaissance aeroplanes for the Signal Corps. This material includes spruce, mahogany, basswood, walnut, and ash woods, cold-rolled steels (flats, welded and brazed test specimens), and wire and cable with turnbuckles attached.

**Miscellaneous Tests of Various Materials.**

Miscellaneous testing included rubber and leather goods for the Panama Canal, and samples of miscellaneous materials submitted by manufacturers to the general supply committee in competition for Government contracts. During June 73 samples were tested. In addition to these, 292 samples of paper were tested, 170 of which were for the Public Printer and 118 for other executive departments.

A women's novelty store in Washington was given assistance in determining the fiber content of a shipment of women's veils or nets. A New York dealer in spool thread submitted two spools of different makes which were marked 1,200 yards to the spool. Examination showed that one was 20 yards short and the other 72 yards short. This kind of thread is employed in garment making and in sewing on buttons. If 3 inches of thread is allowed to each button, 72 yards would sew on 864 buttons.

Special assistance was given to the Office of Indian Affairs in making awards on large quantities of uniform and other cloths. Specifications were prepared for prison cloths for the District Commissioners. Tests were made upon 441 samples of textiles.

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**Price of "Foreign Trade in Buttons."**

The price of "Foreign Trade in Buttons," Special Consular Reports No. 75, recently issued by the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, is 20 cents per copy. It was erroneously stated in **COMMERCE REPORTS** for July 24, 1916, that the price was 10 cents.

**MARKET FOR POCKETKNIVES IN RUSSIA.**

[Consul William L. Jenkins, detailed as vice consul at Moscow, May 3.]

The pocketknives in greatest demand in Moscow are those of medium price, wholesaling at \$5 to \$10 per dozen; they are 3 to 3½ inches long, both with and without corkscrews, and with 2 and 3 blades. The wholesale prices of knives in general range from \$2.50 to \$25 per dozen, and the retail prices are about 50 per cent higher than the wholesale.

It is stated that 90 per cent of the knives on the market are supplied by Russian manufacturers. Most of them are simply and strongly made, and are cheaper than those of foreign origin. A few knives are purchased from England, but most of those from abroad came from Germany. A large firm in Moscow states that it would be glad to receive illustrated price lists from American knife manufacturers. This firm suggests that inasmuch as the simplest and cheapest knives are of Russian manufacture, it would be advisable to send quotations particularly on medium and high priced knives, such as those with horn, tortoise-shell, mother-of-pearl, and ivory handles. The annual turnover of pocketknives is estimated at \$25,000 to \$150,000 annually.

[The names of Moscow dealers with whom it is suggested that American firms communicate may be obtained from the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce or its district offices. Refer to file No. 77453.]

**INCREASED EXPORTS FROM VENICE TO UNITED STATES.**

[Consul B. Harvey Carroll, jr., Venice, Italy.]

There was an increase of nearly \$90,000 in the value of the articles invoiced at the American consulate at Venice for the United States during the first six months of 1916 compared with the corresponding period in 1915. The shipments of linen lace and embroidery increased from \$72,601 to \$131,204. The principal items and their value were as follows:

Articles.	1915	1916	Articles.	1915	1916
<b>Art:</b>			<b>Lace and embroidery:</b>		
Antique, works of.....	\$10,967	\$3,578	Cotton.....	\$24	\$27,656
Paintings, oil and water..	870		Linen.....	72,601	131,204
Beads and spangles, not threaded.....	7,100	18,070	<b>Lace:</b>		
Cheese and substitutes.....	3,124		Cotton, handmade.....		42,794
Cuttlefish bone.....	6,471	13,487	Linen, handmade.....	49,403	31,229
Furniture, cabinet or house..	4,589	285	Marble and stone, carved.....	703	582
Glass, mosaic cubes, on paper.	12,882	2,392	Stone or marble.....	2,025	
Hats, straw, unblocked.....	1,699	1,274	Woolen cloths.....	2,187	3,597
Hemp, not hackled.....	21,307	25,073	All other articles.....	35,224	54,080
Hides, cattle, green.....	35,864		<b>Total.....</b>	<b>267,106</b>	<b>355,911</b>

**HIGHER FREIGHTS FROM SOUTH AFRICA TO AMERICA.**

[Vice Consul Fayette J. Flexer, Port Elizabeth, South Africa.]

The leading shipping company engaged in the American-South African and the British-South African trade has given notice of a general increase of 25 per cent of its rates to and from America. Rates for wool, mohair, and dry hides will be increased a half cent, and buchu leaves 1 cent a pound. The new rates became effective July 1, 1916.

**REVIVAL OF SHIPBUILDING IN YARMOUTH DISTRICT.**

[Consul Henry H. Balch, Yarmouth, Nova Scotia, Canada, July 26.]

There is a marked revival of the wooden-ship building industry in the Yarmouth consular district; 29 sailing vessels, averaging about 250 tons each, have either been constructed the present year or are in course of construction, which is about double the tonnage built in any recent year. Shipbuilding of this consular district for many years has been confined to the yards at Shelburne, in Shelburne County, and Liverpool, in Queens County, but several new yards have been opened recently in Digby County, where at least eight vessels are being constructed. The scarcity of bottoms and the prevailing high freight rates are the immediate causes of the present activity in shipbuilding. It is estimated that the cost of construction has advanced 40 per cent over what it was five years ago. The majority of the vessels being built are for general trade; the remainder, however, will be used in the fisheries.

Previous to 1907 the shipbuilding industry of the Province of Nova Scotia was greater than that of any of the other Provinces in the Dominion. Since 1907, however, Ontario, Quebec, and British Columbia have each furnished a greater number of vessels and tonnage than Nova Scotia. According to an official report of the Department of Marine and Fisheries, there were 2,098 vessels owned in Nova Scotia on December 31, 1914, measuring a total of 135,053 tons, which is only about 26 per cent of the total registered tonnage owned in the Province 40 years ago. The registered tonnage at the port of Yarmouth alone in 1874 was 131,723, which is greater than the total present tonnage of Nova Scotia. The shipbuilding industry of Yarmouth, however, has entirely disappeared. Much of the present wealth found in Nova Scotia was accumulated through the shipbuilding and shipping of former years.

**Principal Shipbuilders in Nova Scotia.**

The following are the principal shipbuilders in Nova Scotia and the number of vessels, with the total tonnage, being constructed by each the present year:

Firm.	Number of schooners.	Total tonnage.	Firm.	Number of schooners.	Total tonnage.
D. C. Mulhall, Liverpool.....	2	650	Innocent Comeau, Little Brook.....	1	300
Southern Salvage Co., Liverpool.....	2	850	John Deveau, Meteghan.....	1	400
J. B. Gardner, Liverpool.....	2	700	Dr. McDonald, Meteghan....	1	500
Joseph McGill Estate, Shelburne.....	7	840	Agapit Comeau, Meteghan....	1	250
W. C. McKay & Son, Shelburne.....	5	780	River.....		
George A. Cox, Shelburne....	2	460	Benjamin Belliveau, Belliveau Cove.....	2	500
			H. T. Le Blanc, Wedgeport..	a 1	250

a Steamer.

**Wire Fencing Needed in Uruguay.**

A scarcity of wire fencing in Uruguay is noted in the South American Journal of July 1. Wire netting of the kind most used was formerly imported chiefly from Germany, and though shipments have been received from England and the United States since the war, the supply is inadequate, and prices of this fencing are said to have advanced 50 per cent.

## FRENCH LINE REPORTS ON SERVICE DURING WAR PERIOD.

[Consul John Ball Osborne, Havre, July 3.]

The Compagnie Générale Transatlantique (French line) held its annual general meeting on June 20, 1916. A report on its transactions in 1915 was presented.

While Bordeaux has been substituted temporarily for Havre as the European terminus of the passenger and postal service, since April, 1915, the freight movement of the line between Havre and New York has continued to be extensive. The company's own fleet has been augmented by several chartered steamers, which have aided greatly in developing the trade relations between the United States and France.

The annual report states that on December 31, 1915, the regular fleet of the Compagnie Générale Transatlantique comprised 85 vessels, valued approximately at 142,000,000 francs (\$27,406,000). The total assets amounted to 245,000,000 francs (\$47,285,000). The gross receipts in 1915 were 111,000,000 francs (\$21,423,000) and the general expenses 76,000,000 francs (\$14,668,000), indicating a balance of 35,000,000 francs (\$6,755,000). After payment of interest, repayment of loans, and deduction made for the amortization or reserve funds, the net profits were reduced to 2,500,000 francs (\$482,500), permitting the distribution of a dividend of 9 francs (\$1.74) per share.

### Year's Conditions Produce Special Interest.

The report is of unusual interest because of the war conditions that confronted the company throughout the past year. The following extracts are translated from it:

Our normal traffic, which comprised the transportation of both cabin passengers and emigrants and merchandise, now consists mainly of the single element of merchandise. Nevertheless, we have maintained all our regular and postal lines, the Government having manifested a desire to see maritime relations preserved with the different countries with which service was maintained before the war. It was our duty to exert ourselves to realize this wish, although the principal units of our fleet were requisitioned for the needs of the Government, and there remained at our disposal only a limited number of passenger steamers.

Nearly all the steamers that we have been able to utilize have had to cover new routes. The postal line to New York has been operated with *La Touraine*, the *Rochambeau*, the *Chicago*, and the *Espagne*. On the line to Mexico we have employed *La Navarre*, and those of our passenger steamers still available. On the lines to Colon, the *Puerto Rico*, the *Haiti*, the *Venezuela*, and the *Pérou* have been used. The *Quebec* and the *Montreal* have resumed their former service on the line to Haiti.

### Movement of Travelers Constantly Declines.

The movement of travelers, already considerably slackened after the exodus at the outset of the war, has been constantly declining. There was, however, a stream of emigration at the end of the year from Spanish ports to Cuba.

In the Mediterranean all the lines have been maintained, but the frequency of departure has been necessarily reduced by reason of the insufficient number of units.

The subsidized postal lines have thus continued to play one of the principal rôles for which they were intended—the maintenance of regular and frequent communication under the French flag with the various countries beyond the seas.

Our cooperation has been given to the Government to aid it in meeting the constantly increasing transportation requirements. Not only have all our freighters been devoted to these services, but we have not hesitated to charter numerous vessels since the early months of last year.

**CONTRACT OF THE VICTORIA-TO-MINAS RAILWAY.**

[Commercial Attaché William C. Downs, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, June 26.]

By executive decree No. 12094, signed by the President of Brazil on June 7, 1916, the contract consolidating and revising the previous contracts between the Federal Government and the Companhia Estrada de Ferro Victoria á Minas (Victoria to Minas Railway Co.) was duly approved.

The concession of the Companhia Estrada de Ferro Victoria á Minas is governed by contract drawn in accordance with decree No. 4337, of February 1, 1902, and its modifications arising from decrees Nos. 7455, of July 8, 1909; 7773, of December 3, 1909; and 10986, of July 8, 1914; and covers a period of 60 years from the date of the first decree, the company undertaking to build a railroad from the city of Victoria, State of Espirito Santo, to Diamantina, State of Minas Geraes, at the rate of at least 100 kilometers (62.14 miles) per year after the second year. The Government guaranteed interest at 6 per cent for 30 years on the capital expended in construction up to the maximum sum of 30,000 gold milreis (about \$16,400) per kilometer, as well as the admission of materials and coal free of customs duties and a grant of national lands not to exceed an average of 10 kilometers (6.21 miles) on each side of the entire line. The decree of December 30, 1909, stipulated that the line, stations, and all fixed and rolling stock should revert to the Government at the end of 90 years from that date.

**New Contract Necessary.**

The company having failed to carry out its contract to construct 100 kilometers a year, a revision of the contract was requested and granted by the decree of June 7, 1916, above mentioned.

Under this new contract the terms of the concession are considerably modified. In the first place the responsibility of the Government for the guaranteed 6 per cent interest is definitely fixed as referring only to the sum of 32,272,662 gold milreis (\$17,621,000) already actually expended on construction or set aside for works in the process of construction or for plans and surveys, the guaranty to cease on the following dates: Line from Victoria to Itabira—On \$1,064,700, February 4, 1933; on \$2,384,752, March 5, 1933; on \$739,811, March 14, 1935; on \$1,638,000, January 18, 1936; on \$3,276,010, November 5, 1936; on \$1,638,000, August 18, 1939; on \$2,457,000, October 27, 1940; on \$1,638,000, December 5, 1940; on \$764,400, June 1, 1944; a total of \$15,600,673. Line from Curralinho to Diamantina—On \$1,638,000, November 3, 1939; on \$819,000, April 23, 1940; a total of \$2,457,000. Line from Pecanha to Araxas—On \$655,200, February 1, 1918.

It is also provided:

When the dividends of the company, calculated on its present capital stock of 14,000,000 gold milreis (about \$7,644,000), exceed 8 per cent, whether or not such dividends be distributed the excess will be divided equally between the company and the Government until the latter be reimbursed of the total amount which it may have paid as interest guaranty.

**Annulment of Concession.**

Clause VII of the contract provides:

The company is obliged to finish within the period of five years the construction of the line as far as Itabira do Matto Dentro, in better technical condition

than the section already in operation as far as Cachoeira Escura, and must open to traffic the minimum of 30 kilometers during each of the first four years.

The periods stated in this clause can not be taken into account as long as the present financial crisis lasts. As soon as, in the opinion of the Government, the crisis is over, it will notify the company, at least six months in advance, of the date on which said periods will commence.

Clause VIII.—The concession will cease as regards the sections of the line from Cachoeira Escura to Itabira which at the expiration of the time stipulated in Clause VII may not be fully constructed and open to traffic.

1. The annulment of the concession, as per terms of this clause, will be made by means of a Government act, independently of any courts, and will not affect the sections of the line already constructed at the end of that period, the company retaining during the period of the concession, besides the sections open to traffic, the works on the unfinished sections, the Government, however, having the right to expropriate said works when it may deem it convenient.

2. After annulment the company will pay every six months to the National Treasury 25 per cent of the gross receipts of all its lines in operation exceeding the average of 6,000 gold milreis (\$3,275) per kilometer, until all the amounts expended by the Government from January 1, 1916, to June 1, 1944, are fully reimbursed, together with the payment of interest on the capital corresponding to the sections not constructed. This without affecting Clause VI of the present contract.

3. The capital alluded to in the preceding paragraph will be equal to the difference—not to exceed 37,000 gold milreis (\$20,200) per kilometer—between 6,085,171 gold milreis (\$3,322,500) and the cost, duly verified, of the sections of the line from Cachoeira Escura to Itabira, which may be fully constructed and open to service within the period stipulated in Clause VII.

The company is further obligated to (a) make the necessary modifications in the plans of its line from Victoria to Itabira do Matto Dentro, not only on the section open to traffic but also on the constructed section and the one to be built, in order to better the technical conditions and reduce the transportation cost to a maximum of 8 reis per ton-kilometer; (b) to establish electric traction on all that line; and (c) to equip the line with all the necessary rolling stock to transport an average of 3,000,000 tons per year. To make these improvements a period of three years is allowed, to begin from the date stated in Clause VII for the termination of the construction of the line from Victoria to Itabira.

#### Other Provisions of the New Contract.

The company must also construct at its own expense, without guaranty of interest, lines from Barra do Rio Santo Antonio to Diamantina, passing through Guanhaes and Serro Frio, and from Barra do Rio Gunhaes to Sant' Anna dos Ferros, within 15 years from the end of the financial crisis, as previously provided.

Under Clause XI of the new contract the exemption of duties on material is canceled, and in compensation the company is granted special duties of 12 per cent ad valorem. Further:

The Government will have the right to purchase the railways referred to in this contract after the 1st of June, 1944, the price to be determined, on a failure to reach an agreement, by the average net revenue of the last quinquennium, and taking into consideration the condition in which the works, material, and dependencies may be at the time. Said price can not be, however, less than the guaranteed capital if the purchase is made before February 1, 1962.

If the purchase is made after the expiration of the time in which the concession is in force (February 1, 1962), the Government will pay to the company only the value of the works and material in the condition in which they may be: *Provided*, The sum to be expended does not exceed the amount employed in the construction of the railways.

The purchase may be paid with securities of the public debt.



The present clause is applicable only to ordinary cases, the Government not revoking its right to expropriation for the benefit of the people.

The railways, including the stations, shops, warehouses, and improvements, and all the fixed and rolling material will revert to the Union, without any indemnification, after the period of 90 years from December 30, 1909.

The railways and their dependencies must be in good condition at the time they revert to the nation.

The company is granted the right of constructing at its own expense a modern metallurgical establishment to use the minerals of the country and with an average monthly output of at least 1,000 tons of iron.

### LOBSTER-REARING PLANT ON NEW ENGLAND COAST.

The sundry civil appropriation act, approved July 1, provides \$5,000 for the construction and equipment of a lobster-rearing plant on the New England coast. The United States Bureau of Fisheries is now making investigations to determine the best available location.

The bureau hatched 128,700,000 lobsters in Maine and Massachusetts during the year ended June 30, but owing to the character of the facilities available at the hatcheries it was necessary to plant them almost immediately after they had issued from the egg. At this stage they swim near the surface of the sea and are particularly subject to destruction by fishes. The new plant will make possible the rearing of a considerable number of them to a stage at which they acquire the habit of seeking safety among the rocks and in the cranies of the sea bottom. It is especially designed to prevent the practice of cannibalism, which produces a situation similar to that of the Kilkenny cats when large numbers of the little lobsterlings are confined in a small space and which defeats attempts to rear them in the existing plants of the bureau.

It is expected that the plant will be ready to take care of part of the brood of 1917.

### AMERICAN CONSULAR OFFICERS ON LEAVE OF ABSENCE.

The following American consular officers are on leave of absence in the United States and will be glad to confer with business men and commercial organizations relative to conditions in their respective jurisdictions. The consul's time is available primarily for personal interviews. He has limited facilities for correspondence, and except in urgent cases letters should be directed to the consulate.

Name.	Post.	Expiration of leave.	Address.
West, George N.....	Kobé, Japan.....	Aug. 15	Department of State, Washington, D.C.
Cooke, A. B.....	Patras, Greece.....	Aug. 10	121 West Charlotte Street, Norfolk, Va.
Hale, F. D.....	Huddersfield, England	Sept. 5	Lunenburg, Vt.
Fisher, Fred D.....	Tientsin, China.....	Aug. 5	Albany, Oreg.
Masteron, William W.....	Durban, Natal, South Africa.	Sept. 1	Carrollton, Ky.
Baker, E. Carlton.....	Nagasaki, Japan.....	Aug. 30	Apartment No. 75, The Brunswick, Washington, D. C.
Monaghan, J. C.....	Kingston, Jamaica....	Sept. 1	Avenue A and Fourteenth Street, Bayonne, N. J.
Jewell, John F.....	Chefoo, China.....	Oct. 1	Department of State, Washington, D.C.
Kemper, Graham H.....	Erfurt, Germany.....	Sept. 10	Do.
Goodier, James H.....	Niagara Falls, Canada.	Sept. 1	27 South Hawk Street, Albany, N. Y.
Hesseltine, Ross.....	Port Antonio, Jamaica.	Oct. 1	Department of State, Washington, D.C.
Lang, James Oliver.....	Karachi, India.....	Sept. 30	C/o University Club, Kansas City, Mo.

**COTTON SITUATION IN BRAZIL.**

[Consul General Alfred L. Moreau Gottschalk, Rio de Janeiro, June 20.]

A great deal of correspondence has been received at the Rio de Janeiro consulate general during the last several months concerning the possibility of selling American cotton in Brazil. The tenor of the replies to these letters has been that while Brazil was temporarily—and only temporarily—in the market to purchase American cotton, two things should be carefully borne in mind; first, that Brazil is itself a cotton-producing country, and whatever demand there may be for American cotton here is purely adventitious and simply the result of a prolonged drought and a failure in the year's cotton crop; and, second, that cotton can not be sold here by "long-range" methods any more than any other article could be.

Such American cotton as has been sold has been disposed of either through the efforts of commission houses or by the direct representatives of American concerns who visited Brazil and learned conditions at first hand. So far as I can ascertain, nearly \$3,000,000 worth of American cotton has been received here since the first enormous rise in the price of domestic cotton occurred.

**Lack of Statistics—American Lint Imported.**

It was difficult for many months to draw any very definite picture of the true situation. It was known that the drought had been excessive in the north; that it had caused famines, emigration from the stricken districts, and a jump of more than 100 per cent in cotton prices on the Rio de Janeiro market. It was also clearly evident that certain persons were speculating on those conditions, and that the northern cotton planters were being advised to hold back their crop in order to meet a still better market. Never before, perhaps, was the great lack of accurate statistics as to the production, consumption, and prices of past years so keenly felt in the general business of the country. (The total normal crop of the Republic, according to one authority, is about 1,000,000 bales of the 80-kilo [176.37-pound] type common in Brazil.)

At a meeting of the principal cotton brokers held some time ago the opinion was expressed that the market was being juggled with; that there were enormous hoards of cotton lying idle in the north; and that the first cargo of imported foreign cotton to reach Brazil would break the market and cause prices to fall with dangerous rapidity. This was in the beginning of the difficulty, when no one had as yet grasped the situation in full. Just about that time two American commission houses made importations to the extent, it is said, of nearly 10,000 bales each. To everyone's surprise, prices did not fall, and importations continued.

It is estimated that in all some 30,000 bales of American cotton have been sold here this season at an average of 17½ cents a pound. The sales were effected, as usual, through brokers and not direct with the consumer.

**The Export Trade.**

The history of cotton growing in Brazil is to be had only in the nature of fragmentary data, but these show clearly that the country, with its vast area and favorable climatic conditions, has grown cotton systematically at least since the beginning of the nineteenth century.

The exploitation of this great source of natural riches reached its apogee toward 1850, when coffee, cacao, and sugar cane began to attract the attention of planters. The exports to England alone, I am informed, were approximately as follows during the past century:

Year.	Bales.	Year.	Bales.	Year.	Bales.
1810 .....	142,846	1860 .....	102,900	1892 .....	74,010
1820 .....	180,086	1870 .....	402,750	1893 .....	270,580
1830 .....	191,468	1880 .....	123,300	1894 .....	177,453
1840 .....	85,300	1890 .....	150,130	1895 .....	67,960
1850 .....	171,800	1891 .....	146,610		

The exports to other countries of Europe, taken together, are said to have been approximately one-half of what England received.

In the beginning the type of cotton exported was the *Gossypium religiosum* or *G. acuminatum*, known to the markets as Pernambuco, Maranhão, Ceara, or Bahia cotton, this species being the favorite until the introduction of seeds from Louisiana. Several varieties and subvarieties of this cotton are known locally by the names of "Seridó" and "Mocó." The type known as "Santos" is from the species *G. herbaceum*, *G. hirsutum*, and *G. barbadense*. The development of the spinning and weaving industry of the country naturally caused a gradual diminution in the exports.

#### The Spinning Industry.

From information recently gathered by the Centro Industrial, a commercial association of Rio de Janeiro whose work at supplementing Government statistics in many lines of industry is deserving of very high credit, it would seem that Brazil possesses in its well-developed local spinning industry not less than the 49,648 looms and 1,464,218 spindles which are reported as working actively to-day. [A review of the Brazilian textile industry appeared in *COMMERCE REPORTS* for Apr. 18, 1916; that of the State of São Paulo in the issue for Apr. 4, 1916.] The annual consumption of cotton per spindle is estimated at 40 kilos (88.18 pounds), from which it is deduced by the Centro Industrial that not less than 58,568,720 kilos (129,121,900 pounds) of cotton are consumed annually by the native industry. There are estimated to be 250 mills in Brazil. In yarns they use Nos. 2 to 100 (English standard numeration).

That the cotton-textile industry is not only a valuable asset in the prosperity of Brazil but also a growing factor in its economic development is evident from the following interesting data compiled by Senhor Cunha Vasco in recent investigations of the cotton-textile industry:

	1905	1916
Number of factories working regularly .....	110	250
Number of spindles working regularly .....	734,928	1,464,218
Number of looms working regularly .....	26,420	49,648
Number of hands employed regularly .....	39,159	72,943
Capital .....	\$48,427,000	\$78,758,000
Value of output .....	\$30,280,750	\$59,783,750
Annual production, in yards .....	264,740,000	261,520,700

In 1865 there were only 9 textile mills in the Republic, but the number had increased to 30 ten years later; there were 51 in 1885 and 134 in 1895, of which 16 were in Maranhão, 12 in Bahia, 14 in the

State of Rio de Janeiro, 15 in the Federal District, 10 in São Paulo, 37 in Minas Geraes, and 30 in the remaining States of the Brazilian Union. From these figures there was a steady growth up to the point where the industry is to-day, the States of Minas Geraes first and São Paulo second, promising great things for the future in respect to growth of both the spinning and weaving industries.

#### **Lack of Dyestuffs Felt.**

At the beginning of the European war there was consternation among the textile mills over the possibility of a coming lack of dyes, Germany having gradually grown to be the chief supplier of the Republic in the matter of aniline dyes. The worst predictions were verified after a few months; but, fortunately, Brazil turned to its own forests and its own small and struggling domestic industry in vegetable dyes to supply the want. The result has been gratifying in that the domestic industry, small and struggling as it was, has effectually supplied the mills with enough dyes to continue operating for the present.

It may be interesting to note what the local supply is. These Brazilian vegetable dyes are manufactured at Pirapora and Curvello, in the State of Minas Geraes, and in the city of São Paulo by very small local factories which, until the present stringency, had never been much advertised in the country. The dyes are known by such names as "Ingletina" and "Ouromina."

#### **Exploiting Brazil's Vegetable Dyes.**

There is much that has militated, until now, against the proper exploitation of these dyes, which are all products of the extensive Brazilian forests [see article on Brazilian tanning and dyeing materials in *COMMERCE REPORTS* for May 1, 1916], the chief obstacles being that the interior of the country lacks means of communication, and that the person who would try a systematic exploitation of anything connected with timber felling could only with enormous difficulty obtain data as to the number of trees of a given sort within a specified area. The work of timber felling and dye extracting, therefore, has thus far been unsystematic, and prices have been irregular.

Because the Brazilian market still lacks aniline comparatively few of the numerous offers from the United States of aniline oil and other chemicals used in conjunction with aniline, but useless without it, have been accepted. I mention the fact because numerous American firms have asked me—sometimes by cable—to offer such articles on the market here. The need most severely felt in Brazil is, first, for aniline, and, second, for logwood dyes, preferably of the solid (not liquid) type.

[A sample of the Brazilian vegetable dye locally known as *Pluna* and a card of cotton thread showing the results obtained from *Ouromina* may be inspected at the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce or its district offices. Ask for file No. 78582.]

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Commercial Attaché Erwin W. Thompson reports that a bill has been introduced into the Netherlands Parliament asking for an appropriation of \$20,000 for use in the remaining six months of 1916 in extending the activities of the Dutch consular service, especially for providing funds for traveling and acquiring information in foreign countries.

**GROWTH OF CANADA'S WATER AND SEWERAGE SYSTEMS.**

[Consul Felix S. S. Johnson, Kingston, Ontario, July 24.]

The very great development of the waterworks systems of Canada is represented by an increase in number of plants from 7 in 1867 to 528 in 1916. These have been built at a total cost of \$123,725,633, and entail an annual maintenance charge of \$4,558,539. There are 206 plants supplied from springs or wells, and 322 from lakes or streams. In 72 of them the water is filtered and in 21 it is treated with hypochlorite. The municipally owned plants number 396. Flat rates are offered in 209 cases.

There are 279 sewerage systems in Canada, having an aggregate mileage of 4,223. They were built at a total cost of \$75,504,418. In only 75 municipalities is the sewerage treated. Proportionately to population, the West, with 28 treatment plants, makes a much better showing than the East, with 47. The total cost of the treatment plants is \$3,218,935.

**TO IMPROVE NAVIGATION AIDS BELOW NEW ORLEANS.**

The need of an efficient lighting system on the Mississippi River below New Orleans has been recognized by Congress, which, in the sundry civil act approved July 1, 1916, appropriated \$50,000 for improving the aids to navigation and establishing new aids in that part of the river.

The commerce of the Mississippi is large and important, about 3,700 vessels annually entering the port of New Orleans, with a value of incoming and outgoing shipments amounting to more than \$300,000,000. The work contemplated to carry out the provisions of this appropriation, under the supervision of the United States Lighthouse Service, consists of establishing about 22 acetylene lens-lantern lights on skeleton steel towers to take the places of the inefficient oil post-lantern lights now shown from wooden posts. The towers will be about 30 feet high and set on concrete-block foundations.

The work will receive immediate attention.

**Portugal's Budget Estimates for New Year.**

According to data supplied by American Minister Thomas H. Birch, of Lisbon, Portugal's budget for the fiscal year 1916-17 shows a deficit of \$1,411,970. Receipts are estimated at \$60,270,165 (ordinary \$54,417,635, extraordinary \$5,852,530), and expenditures at \$61,682,135 (ordinary \$54,433,900, extraordinary \$7,248,235).

**District Offices of the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce.**

New York, Room 409 United States Customhouse; Boston, eighteenth floor United States Customhouse; Chicago, 504 Federal Building; St. Louis, 402 Third National Bank Building; Atlanta, 521 Post Office Building; New Orleans, 1020 Hibernia Bank Building; San Francisco, 307 United States Customhouse; Seattle, 848 Henry Building. Cooperative district offices: Cleveland, Chamber of Commerce; Cincinnati, Chamber of Commerce; Asst. Gen'l Frt. Agt., C. N. O. & T. P. Ry. Co., Cincinnati; Los Angeles, Chamber of Commerce; Detroit, Board of Commerce; Philadelphia, Chamber of Commerce; South American Agent, Southern Ry. Co., Chattanooga, Tenn.

## FOREIGN TRADE OPPORTUNITIES.

Reserved addresses may be obtained from the Bureau and its district offices. Request for each opportunity should be on a separate sheet and state opportunity number. The Bureau does not furnish credit ratings or assume responsibility as to the standing of foreign inquirers; the usual precautions should be taken in all cases.

*Machinery*, No. 22027.—The owner and operator of a marble works in Peru informs an American consular officer that he desires to purchase machinery used in polishing, cutting, and preparing marble slabs and blocks. Correspondence in Italian or Spanish. Weights and measurements in metric system.

*Novelties*, No. 22028.—The commercial attaché of the Department of Commerce in France writes that a business man in France is in the market for novelties such as are sold in department stores, especially goods in leather, imitation leather, iron, and tin.

*Hosiery*, No. 22029.—An American consular officer in Cuba writes that a firm in his district wishes to represent American manufacturers of hosiery of all grades.

*Paraffin wax*, No. 22030.—A firm of general commission merchants in Spain informs an American consular officer that it is desirous of importing wholesale quantities of paraffine wax. Correspondence in English. Reference.

*Laces, ribbons, etc.*, No. 22031.—An American consular officer in Argentina writes that a business man in his district, now representing New York firms, is desirous of obtaining agencies for the sale of laces, ribbons, hosiery, underwear, buttons, and notions. References. Correspondence in English.

*Canvas, buttons, oilcloth, etc.*, No. 22032.—A company in Argentina writes that it wishes to represent manufacturers and exporters of materials used by upholsterers, such as canvas, buttons, oilcloth, hand bag and trunk frames, fiber, etc. The company is now representing a number of American firms.

*Hardware, drugs, etc.*, No. 22033.—The representative of a Russian wholesale and retail firm, who is now in the United States, informs the Bureau that he expects to return to Russia soon and desires to form commercial relations with firms which are desirous of doing business in that country. He is particularly interested in hardware, drugs, and general merchandise. References.

*Piece goods*, No. 22034.—A business man from Cuba is now in the United States for the purpose of securing agencies for the sale of cotton, woolen, and silk piece goods in Cuba. References.

*Poultry-farm supplies, etc.*, No. 22035.—The commercial attaché of the Department of Commerce in Chile reports that a man in that country desires to equip a poultry farm with up-to-date equipment. Catalogues, etc., should be in Spanish.

*Hardware, trunk locks, etc.*, No. 22036.—Supplementing Foreign Trade Opportunity No. 19521, one of the commercial agents of the Bureau reports that a representative of the firm is now in the United States with a view to securing agencies for the sale in Russia of hardware and metal novelties, including enamel ware, bolts, and nuts, horseshoe nails, trunk locks, umbrella frames, files and rasps, scythes, etc. References.

*Jute sacks*, No. 22037.—An American consular officer in Italy reports that a firm in his district wishes to purchase 1,000,000 jute sacks, measuring 70 by 40 centimeters and weighing 250 grams each. If ready-made sacks can not be delivered, the inquirer desires to buy jute cloth. The cloth should be closely woven, weighing 350 grams to the square meter, and must be 73 centimeters in width. Prices should be quoted c. i. f. Genoa, preferably destination. Early date of delivery is important. Correspondence in Italian or French.

*Textiles, corsets, etc.*, No. 22038.—The commercial attaché of the Department of Commerce in France writes that a firm in Egypt wishes to purchase hosiery of all kinds, shirts, corsets, neckties, summer fabrics, barbers' aprons, handkerchiefs, combs, and point protectors for lead pencils.

# COMMERCE REPORTS



DAILY CONSULAR AND TRADE REPORTS  
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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

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## TELEGRAPH SUPPLIES FOR COLOMBIA.

The President of Colombia has appointed Mr. Adolfo Concha, technical telegraph inspector in Colombia, and Mr. Saturno Zapata, chief of inspection in the zone of Bogotá, to visit the United States for the purpose of selecting some needed telegraph material. The *Diario Oficial* of June 30 states that these officials will make a careful study of the American telegraph apparatus which appears best adapted for use in Colombia.

## FRENCH HAT INDUSTRY.

[Consul William H. Hunt, St. Etienne.]

The manufacture of hats at Chazelles-sur-Lyon (Loire) is a flourishing industry in the Loire Department, furnishing in peace times employment for 800 or 1,000 workmen. The output of these establishments includes straw, felt, and plush velvet hats, about 60 per cent of which are exported to England and the French colonies.

Figures furnished by the Syndicate of Hat Manufacturers indicate that the total production of hats of all kinds in 1915 was 600,000, valued at \$579,000. Out of 13 hat factories established at Chazelles, 8 were closed down during 1915 on account of the shortage of workmen.

## REVIVAL OF CATTLE SHIPMENTS FROM PUERTO CORTES.

[Consul Walter F. Boyle, Puerto Cortes, Honduras, July 21.]

The shipment of 700 head of cattle from Puerto Cortes to Habana on the Mexican steamship *Oaxaca*, during the early part of July, and arrangements for additional shipments witnesses the revival of a business that has been dormant for several years.

The buyers of cattle for these shipments have placed 800 pounds as the minimum weight for accepted cattle, good beef cattle in this district ranging from 800 to 900 pounds in weight.

This district has great possibilities as a cattle country, but owing to the lack of a market for animals during the past few years, little attention has been given to the raising of cattle and the supply has diminished considerably.

**FOREIGN DEMANDS FOR READY-MADE CLOTHING.****CHILE.**

[Consul General L. J. Keena, Valparaiso, May 13.]

Imports of men's and boys' ready-made clothing into Chile in 1913 were valued at \$287,208, and in 1914 were valued at \$207,169. More than half of these imported goods were entered at Punta Arenas, which was the one duty-free port of Chile. It is stated by the trade that the imports of men's clothing comprise two general types—semifitting clothing such as sports suits, flannel trousers, riding trousers, etc., and overcoats; and clothing made to measure for men resident in Chile who have left their measure with some tailor abroad, particularly in London. The customs duties levied on importations of ready-made clothing, in United States currency per net kilo of 2.2 pounds, are: Schedule No. 806, men's and boys' ready-made clothing, cotton, \$1.19; No. 884, men's and boys' ready-made clothing, linen, \$1.83; No. 962, men's and boys' ready-made clothing, wool, \$2.55; No. 1049, men's and boys' ready-made clothing, cashmere, \$4.74; No. 1050, ready-made clothing containing silk in proportion of less than 90 per cent, \$9.12.

The average price for made-to-measure suits in Chile, imported materials only being used, is about \$34.50, United States currency (200 pesos). The Chilean is a particularly well-dressed man, and requires clothes made of good and fashionable material, with a perfect fit.

**Distribution of Booklets for Trade Extension.**

The distribution of booklets illustrating styles and materials, such as are used in soliciting mail-order made-to-measure tailoring trade in the United States, might be a successful method of obtaining business here, provided the booklets were printed in Spanish and were distributed frequently enough to keep them up to date, but that method would encounter several difficulties. These are:

First. American tailoring is unknown in Chile and has no established reputation.

Second. Clothes would have to be ordered and paid for three months in advance of receipt. We have no parcel-post collect-on-delivery service with Chile and any other type of shipment and collection would be too expensive on parcels of that value. It should be remembered that all parcel-post packages sent to Chile, valued at more than \$25 United States currency, must be accompanied by a Chilean consular invoice.

Third. A practical working list of customers or of possible customers would be difficult to compile and a large amount of advertising matter would probably be wasted in obtaining orders in the first instance. A list of possible purchasers might be compiled from the *Anuario Zig-Zag*, published by R. Benavides Hnos, Casilla 1903, Santiago, Chile; price 30 pesos (about \$5.50, United States currency, with postage).

**Form of Guaranty Required to Meet Conditions.**

Buying made-to-measure clothing by mail without having the measure taken by a tailor probably would be an innovation and would be correspondingly difficult to start.



Bank references, if given, should be references to banks established in Chile. A guaranty of "money back if you are not satisfied" would not be sufficient. To be complete, and to leave the obligation of satisfying the customer entirely with the manufacturer, the guaranty should offer to refund the money paid for the clothes, and the duties, etc., paid by the purchaser, as the duties paid will not be returned to him on reexportation of the goods.

Statistics of ready-made clothing for men and boys imported into Chile in 1913 and 1914 are given with countries of origin, and quantities as well as value. These are:

Countries.	Cotton clothing.				Woolen clothing.			
	1913		1914		1913		1914	
	<i>Pounds.</i>		<i>Pounds.</i>		<i>Pounds.</i>		<i>Pounds.</i>	
France .....	13,552	\$11,789	2,921	\$2,553	18,189	\$26,756	10,298	\$15,505
Germany .....	26,354	23,085	15,554	12,260	42,629	59,296	36,170	32,322
United Kingdom .....	38,645	30,726	22,374	19,444	84,189	116,490	60,720	86,637
United States .....	12,600	10,333	11,662	9,724	5,532	803	1,549	2,197
Other countries .....	2,820	2,570	3,263	2,710	4,228	5,410	2,655	3,817
Total .....	93,971	78,453	53,774	46,691	149,767	208,755	111,401	160,478

**CANADA.**

[Consul Henry H. Balch, Yarmouth, Nova Scotia, June 17.]

**American Styles Popular in Yarmouth District.**

There is considerable demand for men's and women's ready-made woolen clothing in the Yarmouth consular district, although this trade, particularly in women's coat suits, is much more restricted than in the United States. Those found on the market are of Canadian manufacture, because it is claimed that the price of American ready-made clothes is too high after paying the Canadian duty. Because of the popularity of American styles, however, many persons prefer to order their suits from responsible American clothing houses, paying the regular duty.

There would undoubtedly be a demand for American ready-made clothes in this consular district if they could be sold at prices approximating those of Canadian goods, which have now greatly advanced.

Local dealers state that they are experiencing difficulty in having orders for hosiery filled. Hosiery stocks carried have hitherto been largely of European manufacture. The Canadian plants are wholly unable to meet the present demand, and if orders can be filled by United States manufacturers their trade in hosiery will at once increase in this consular district. Stocks are very low and many of the varieties formerly carried have entirely disappeared.

The duty on ready-made clothing and hosiery is 35 per cent, plus 7½ per cent war tax.

[Lists of dealers in clothing and hosiery in Yarmouth may be obtained from the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce or its district offices. Refer to file No. 77725.]

The production of lignite in North Dakota in 1915, according to the United States Geological Survey, amounted to 528,078 tons, an increase of 21,393 tons compared with 1914. The output of 1915 was valued at \$766,072.

**MANUFACTURE OF BEAN MILK AT CHANGSHA.**

[Consul Nelson Trusler Johnson, Changsha, China, June 19.]

A firm composed of Chinese from the Province of Chekiang has recently opened a small factory at Changsha for the manufacture of milk from beans. This bean milk has long been known to the Chinese under the name of *fu chiang* or bean-curd sauce. This is not to be confused with the product known as *chiang yu*, a fermented sauce made from beans which is well known both as the soy of the Japanese and as one of the constituents of some of the famous sauces of Europe.

Bean milk is made from the small yellow beans, the same variety from which the Chinese bean curd and *chiang yu* or soy are made. The process appears to be a very simple one. The beans are soaked and then crushed between two stones. The crushed mass is allowed to run off into a tub and is then strained through cheesecloth and diluted with water and boiled. After boiling, it is again strained and the white milk run off into bottles and sold to the factory's customers.

An analysis of the bean-curd milk shows that it has a specific gravity of 1.020 and a fat content of 3.125, contrasted with a specific gravity of 1.029 and a fat content of 3.9 for good average cows' milk in America.

**No Complicated Machinery Needed.**

The factory is a very small one. The proprietors informed me they did all of their work at night, in order to have their milk fresh for delivery the following morning. They begin their work about 10 o'clock. The milk is ready and bottled by daylight, when it is sent out by coolie to the various customers.

The room where the milk is made shows that no complicated machinery is necessary in the manufacture of the milk. At one end of the room were found two of the small stone mills in which the beans were ground. Large numbers of bottles were arranged on a rack near the wall, clean and ready to receive the morning's supply of milk. At the opposite end of the room there were three wooden vats built into a concrete foundation, which proved to be a furnace. The prepared product is poured into these vats and boiled, the furnace being supplied with fuel from a hole in the outside wall. On either side were two earthenware jars into which the boiled product is poured and from which it is allowed to run through stop cocks into the bottles.

The manufacturers of this milk seem to be endeavoring to conduct their factory along hygienic lines. They invited inspection of their factory and expressed a desire to carry out the suggestions made by the inspecting physician. These suggestions related principally to the sterilization of the bottles before allowing the milk to run into them. The whole room was very clean.

**Possible Opening for Milk-Bottle Manufacturers.**

The manufacture and sale of this milk appears to be a new enterprise in Changsha, although I am informed by natives of Shanghai and its neighborhood that it is an old and well-known product in that part of the country. To the eye the product looks exactly like

unskimmed cows' milk. It has an odor of raw beans, and is said to be not unpleasant to the taste. I am informed that a member of the family of Li Hung Chang is now engaged in manufacturing the various products of beans in Paris, his factory turning out, among other things, this bean milk.

The product is very cheap compared with cows' milk. The factory undertakes to supply one pint each morning for approximately 50 cents gold a month. If this industry proves a success, manufacturers of milk bottles and patent milk-bottle tops should find a market for their wares here at Changsha, if they could be brought in cheaply and without too much trouble to the Chinese manufacturer of milk. The milk-bottle manufacturer will, of course, have to compete with the enormous numbers of empty bottles discarded by families who use aerated waters and wines. These bottles are sold by the servants, and are purchased for use in just such factories.

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### NEW AMERICAN BUSINESS IN BRADFORD DISTRICT.

New business for American firms to the extent of \$20,000 worth of logwood and hematines, \$3,500 worth of electrical supplies, and 50 to 100 tons of ground oyster shells resulted in the June quarter from the trade-promotion work of Consul Augustus E. Ingram, of Bradford, England. Further, the Bradford firm that received its initial shipment of glass states that the quality and packing of American sheet and plate glass are so excellent that further orders will be placed. Other transactions under way failed of culmination because of excessive freight rates, import prohibitions, and other reasons. On this point Consul Ingram remarks:

The greatest single deterrent to trade extension here has been, and still is, the high cost of ocean carriage, in which are included the items of war risk and marine insurance. Often the f. o. b. quotations are entirely satisfactory, but the delivered price is above that quoted by competing English firms. In addition to insurance and freight charges, the many recent prohibitions, restrictions, and enactments curtailing the importation of foreign merchandise have had a detrimental effect on trade-extension work.

Although many firms are prevented from importing at present, the information received by them in response to "Trade Opportunities" has proven good advertising for numerous American exporters; and the statement has been made generally by Bradford merchants that connections would be established as soon as more normal commercial conditions prevailed.

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### TENDER AND BARGE FOR EIGHTH LIGHTHOUSE DISTRICT.

An appropriation of \$20,000 for constructing or purchasing and equipping a small tender and barge for the eighth lighthouse district, Texas and Louisiana, was provided in the sundry civil act approved July 1, 1916.

The small tender and the barge, to be equipped with derrick pile driver, neither to exceed 3 feet draft, are necessary for establishing and maintaining lights and daymarks along the intercoastal canals and other shallow waters of the eighth lighthouse district.

It is contemplated, in carrying out the provisions of this appropriation, to construct or purchase a motor launch about 65 feet long, and a barge as described, and provide such necessary equipment as may be practicable with the funds available.

**GERMAN GREASE-PROOF PAPER INDUSTRY.**

[Consul General Julius G. Lay, Berlin, July 18.]

With the cessation of Germany's importation of cotton and other fibers upon the outbreak of war, the demand for wood pulp and cellulose for the manufacture of explosives greatly increased, and consequently the supply of pulp available for the manufacture of paper was much smaller than usual. Wood imports from Russia and other belligerent countries have stopped, thus making the situation on the German market more difficult. The Swedish export embargo upon wood, waste paper, and cellulose (chemical wood pulp) products has also had an adverse effect upon the production of paper in Germany.

Permits to cut down large portions of the local forests and to utilize wooded sections of the occupied territory in Russian Poland have been issued, but these have proved insufficient to satisfy the existing demand. Conditions had become so serious on the German paper market during the early part of 1916 that a prohibition against the export of practically all paper from Germany was introduced on April 27 last.

**Falling Off in Production.**

Besides the scarcity of wood and cellulose, which affected paper making generally, the dearth of wax, fats, and oils in Germany has specially hindered the production of glassine or grease-proof paper, and the supplies on hand at the various factories have been growing smaller and smaller until now large quantities can not be obtained at any price. Berlin retail houses can only refer inquirers to the manufacturers, and the manufacturers themselves will only guarantee to furnish small amounts at prices 100 per cent to 300 per cent higher than those of normal times. If the present conditions continue for another year no genuine glassine paper can be purchased here. Substitutes are being used more and more, but they are generally of admittedly inferior quality.

The manufacture of glassine paper did not cease all at once upon the outbreak of the present war. The production became gradually less as the scarcity of raw materials became more evident. Three months after the outbreak of the war factories began one by one to close their doors. The calls upon Germany by its allies for paper of all kinds, particularly grease-proof and printing paper, have been so heavy that the Government was asked to protect the interests of domestic consumers. By limiting the export and instituting economic measures, the situation was alleviated.

**Collection of Old Paper—Outlook After the War.**

Old and used paper was systematically collected. In Berlin alone there are 450 receiving offices where supplies of used paper are collected. The total number of receiving offices in the Kingdom of Prussia is about 2,000. School children are the best collectors and contribute vast amounts of old paper to the depositories. The paper is then sorted and sent to the mills, where it is reduced to pulp and used again. Iron rings are offered as rewards for large contributions. In this and other ways the public interest is stimulated.

As already stated, if the war lasts another year, there is reason to suppose that genuine glassine paper can not be obtained in Ger-

many at any price, for the old supply will then be entirely exhausted. Although plans are now being made for resuming the manufacture upon the conclusion of peace, these plans must of necessity be more or less vague. The machinery and spare parts can be collected and placed ready for use, but raw materials and the proper kind of labor can not be obtained until some months after the cessation of hostilities. It is even intimated in some quarters that for a time Germany may be an importer of grease-proof paper rather than an exporter.

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### EFFECTIVE TRADE-PROMOTION WORK.

Connections opened up through the use of "Trade Opportunities" or by correspondence with firms whose names were supplied by Consul General E. D. Winslow, of Copenhagen, resulted in much new Danish business for American exporters during the quarter just ended. "Trade Opportunities" sold \$6,000 worth of miscellaneous goods for one New York company, \$5,000 worth of egg products for another, and 1,177 pounds of corsets, 18,000 pounds of leather, 75,000 pounds of tobacco, and \$4,500 worth of electrical supplies for still other concerns.

Correspondence between firms that had been placed in touch with each other by the Copenhagen consulate general resulted in the sale of 45,000 pounds of American asbestos paper, 2,000 pounds of varnish, and \$9,000 worth of carbon products to Danish customers, and the Danish Government itself bought 240,000 bushels of rye from the United States. One New York house sold \$250,000 worth of machinery to a single Danish firm.

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### WATER SUPPLY AT MINNESOTA FISHERIES STATION.

Lester Park, the beautiful recreation ground at Duluth, Minn., is benefited by the fact that Congress has made provision for the removal of the unsightly wooden flume that traverses the resort and supplies water to the hatchery of the United States Bureau of Fisheries. This aged and leaky wooden box is to be replaced by a 10-inch iron pipe, buried in the earth, at a cost of about \$2,000, the amount appropriated. One of the engineers of the bureau is now on the ground establishing the lines and grades, and the work will be completed before cold weather arrives.

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### Loans to Uruguayan Municipalities.

Municipalities in Uruguay may contract loans with the Bank of the Republic for five-year terms and police and district officials may contract such loans for two-year terms, according to a law in the *Diario Oficial* of June 23. These loans must be made with the approval of the Executive, and the total amount that the Bank of the Republic may so loan is limited to 300,000 pesos (\$310,200).

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The report of the United States Bureau of the Census on the production of alums in the United States shows that the total output for 1914 was 313,712,000 pounds, valued at \$3,467,969, compared with 276,294,000 pounds, valued at \$3,022,355, in 1909.

**MARKETS FOR SPORTING GOODS.****COSTA RICA.**

[Consul Samuel T. Lee, San Jose, June 19.]

Most of the cartridges sold in Costa Rica are for revolver shooting. The importation of high-power rifle cartridges is prohibited, except with special permission granted by the Minister of War. Revolver cartridges of calibers .32 and .38, long and short, S. & W. design, are in greatest demand, and a smaller quantity of the Colt design is imported. The Government of Costa Rica imports Colt cartridges, but these shipments are not included in the trade statistics. Shotgun shells of 16 and 20 gauge are the most popular. Both brass and paper shells are used. There is also a smaller demand for .22 caliber short and long rifle cartridges for gallery practice.

The United States is the chief country of origin for these goods, and f. o. b. New York, Boston, or New Orleans prices in United States currency are customary and well understood.

**Prices of Goods Shipped in Previous Years.**

A leading American manufacturer, under date of July 22, 1914, invoiced loaded rifle and revolver cartridges to a local buyer at the following net prices f. o. b. New York, terms cash on receipt of goods (smokeless powder, per thousand): Caliber .32, Colt, new police, metal point, \$7.83; caliber .38, Colt, new police, metal point, \$8.91; caliber .32, Colt, new police, \$6.48; caliber .32, S. & W., short, metal point, \$7.02; caliber .32, S. & W., long, metal point, \$7.83; caliber .30, Remington rifle, smokeless, \$23.94.

An invoice dated January 15, 1915, shows the following net f. o. b. New York prices for shotgun shells (smokeless powder, per thousand, 16 or 20 gauge, 3 wads, 9 shot,  $\frac{1}{4}$  ounce lead per shell): Brass shells, \$19.74; paper shells, \$11.69. Latest quotations show an advance of approximately 10 per cent on these prices.

Loaded shotgun shells, brass or paper, pay duty at the rate of 1 colon per kilogram gross weight (\$0.21 per pound). Loaded revolver and rifle cartridges of .22 caliber or less pay 2 colones per kilogram gross weight (\$0.42 per pound); and those of caliber greater than .22 pay 3 colones per kilogram gross weight (\$0.63 per pound). There is also a surtax of 2 per cent or 5 per cent of the duty, depending on the Province for which the goods are intended.

During 1914 and 1915 Costa Rica imported revolver and rifle cartridges and shotgun shells valued as follows (in United States currency):

Countries.	Cartridges.		Shells.		Total.	
	1914	1915	1914	1915	1914	1915
United States.....	\$2,798	\$1,620	\$303	\$505	\$3,101	\$2,125
All other.....	161	32	494	.....	655	32
Total .....	2,959	1,652	1,287	505	4,246	2,157

**Advertising Literature in Spanish Language.**

The leading American exporters to this market are furnishing the trade with catalogues and other advertising literature in Spanish,

accompanied by separate export price lists, also in Spanish. These price lists are amended from time to time by multigraph circular letters in Spanish, and in this way the importers are promptly notified of changes. The circulars do not change the printed price-list items, but simply give notice of changes in export discounts allowed. The Spanish language is necessary for all literature, circulars, and correspondence.

The vessels of the United Fruit Co., sailing regularly from New York, Boston, and New Orleans furnish ample service between the United States and Port Limón, Costa Rica. The minimum bill of lading costs \$5, and 30 cents per \$100 of value is usually charged for marine insurance.

[A list of importers of sporting ammunition in the San José, Costa Rica, consular district may be obtained from the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce or its district offices. Refer to file No. 78053.]

### FRANCE.

[Consul Kenneth S. Patton, La Rochelle, June 21.]

#### **Many Purchases Made Through Paris or Bordeaux.**

The market for tennis rackets and balls and other sporting goods in the La Rochelle district, which comprises the Departments of the Charente, Charente-Inférieure, and Deux-Sèvres, is very small and wholly retail. No stores are devoted solely to the sale of such goods. The department stores, which are invariably links in a series of such houses, having headquarters and purchasing offices at Paris or Bordeaux, are perhaps the largest handlers of sporting goods. In some instances a member of a club is an agent for some manufacturer, and the club members purchase from him. It is not infrequent for players desiring superior articles to purchase directly from a supply house in Bordeaux or Paris.

Nearly all the sporting goods sold in this district are of British origin. The bulk of these goods are furnished by an English firm which maintains branches at Paris and Bordeaux.

Rackets retail here at prices ranging from 7 francs to 40 francs, and tennis balls from 18 francs to 22 francs a dozen. (The rate of exchange is now about 6 francs to the dollar.) There are tennis clubs at Cognac, Royan, La Rochelle, and Angoulême, but none of these maintain their activities during the war:

[A list of department stores and other dealers in sporting goods in the La Rochelle consular district may be obtained from the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce or its district offices. Refer to file No. 78198.]

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### **WATER SUPPLY FOR MICHIGAN FISHERIES STATION.**

Congress has appropriated \$2,000 for the replacement of the old terra-cotta pipe at the Northville (Mich.) hatchery of the United States Bureau of Fisheries with an iron pipe of sufficient size to insure a reliable water supply. Freshets have so damaged the original line that it has been necessary to replace portions from time to time, and the remainder is now in so precarious a condition as to jeopardize the work of the station. The new pipe, which will be 16 inches in diameter and about 800 feet long, will be put in place during the fall.

**BEER AND WHISKY IN LATIN-AMERICAN TRADE.****DOMINICAN REPUBLIC.**

[Consul Frank Anderson Henry, Puerto Plata, June 29.]

Beer is popular in the Dominican Republic, as shown by total imports amounting to \$147,182 in 1913 and \$105,079 in 1914. Consumption in the Puerto Plata consular district is more than 40 per cent of the total. During 1915 imports into its four ports were: Puerto Plata, \$22,084; Sanchez, \$19,239; Samana, \$2,994; Monte Cristi, \$1,694; total, 71,611 gallons, valued at \$46,011.

There are no breweries in the country, so that all supplies have to be imported. Before the European war the greater part of the beer consumed came from Germany, although the United States had been furnishing small but annually increasing quantities during recent years. The situation is now entirely changed, and nearly all supplies are received from the United States. Light beers are preferred.

Prices at present are from \$6 to \$7 f. o. b. New York per barrel, containing 10 dozen 12-ounce bottles. The local selling price is from \$15 to \$18 per barrel, and a single bottle retails at 25 cents in the hotels and cafés. This high price, which naturally restricts consumption, is partly due to the import tariff and other taxes which are levied. According to paragraphs 1040 and 1041 of the Dominican customs tariff, beer, malt extract, and all similar beverages pay \$6 per hectoliter (22.71 cents per gallon); when packed in bottles or receptacles other than wood, the rate is \$8 per hectoliter (30.28 cents per gallon). There are also consumption taxes charged by the different municipalities.

**Most of Imported Beer is Bottled.**

The beer imported here is, with negligible exceptions, bottled. These bottles are packed 10 dozen in a barrel. The bottle is usually protected by straw, which is said to give better results than corrugated paper. Barrels should be firmly closed to prevent pilfering. As the customs duties are assessed by measurement, the style of packing would not affect these charges. Insurance of all kinds is desirable and is usually assumed by the exporter, who charges it in his price.

Shipments from the United States are all made from New York by steamers of the Clyde Steamship Co. Present rates on beer are 50 cents per 100 pounds or 20 cents per cubic foot, plus 20 per cent for the ports of Puerto Plata, Samana, and Sanchez, and plus 30 per cent for Monte Cristi. Steamships leave about every two weeks for Dominican ports.

Beer is imported by general merchants through commission houses in New York, as one of various lines of their regular business. In addition, many business houses have agencies for well known and advertised brands of American beer. Some of these agents merely take orders, while in other instances large importing houses have exclusive agencies for the entire Republic, and import and distribute on their own account. Some of the large firms do considerable advertising in the local newspapers, and are liberally supplied with advertising material by the manufacturers. Names of some agents are printed on the labels, but usually this is not done. No particular color or style of label is necessary. According to paragraph 1162



of the Dominican customs tariff, lithographs, posters, calendars, and folders for advertising, having no commercial value and destined for free public distribution, are imported free of duty.

**Credit Terms and Locations for Agencies.**

Credit terms usually vary from 30 to 60 days in this trade. Commissions differ according to circumstances, but in the case of agents who merely take orders, 2 per cent is sometimes given. Agencies are sometimes given for the entire Republic, and sometimes they are granted for the northern and southern halves of the Republic. In this consular district, Sanitago and Puerto Plata are the principal towns, and would probably be the best locations for agencies, although there are other places of some commercial importance. In introducing a new brand, difficulty might be met with at first on account of the large number of brands already represented, but a good product, backed by energetic initial efforts, would no doubt be able to secure a foothold.

[A list of business houses which, so far as is known, have not already established agencies, but would be interested in sales of American beer, may be obtained from the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce or its district offices. Refer to file No. 78208.]

**HONDURAS.**

[Consul E. M. Lawton, Tegucigalpa, June 10.]

**American Bottled Beer Feature of Trade.**

American bottled beer is imported into Honduras in gradually increasing quantities. During the fiscal year 1914-15, \$44,810 worth of beer was imported, of which \$42,091 represented shipments from the United States.

Beer is usually introduced into this consular district through exporting agents in New York, acting either in conjunction with local commission firms here or on direct order to New York from the dealer. All the larger dealers here are importers. The most popular method of packing is in barrels of 10 dozen half-bottles, with prices f. o. b. New York from \$6 to \$8.75 per barrel. Perhaps one-sixth of all the imports of beer are in quart bottles.

Light beer is usually preferred here. On account of conditions in this climate, bottles of dark brown or green glass are preferred. Labels with garish colors are usually preferred, but popular brands always bear the regulation label. Some German brands in the past have also had a small additional label: "Importado por John Smith y Cia., Tegucigalpa, Honduras." American manufacturers have never adopted this plan.

**Methods of Advertising Employed.**

The brewery here carries a small display advertisement in the local daily paper, but foreign beers have never advertised except by display cards, calendars, or similar matter. No duty is assessed on advertisements of this class when sent by mail in small quantities. By freight, the customs, port, and municipal charges are about 1 cent per pound in American currency. Modest display cards are preferred to large framed lithographs, as the latter are often used for home interior adornment and fail of their intended purpose. It is not objectionable to place a small amount of advertising matter under the barrel heads of bottled shipments.

Packing in straw is satisfactory, although the breakage on such packages is no less than when bottles are placed in individual corrugated-paper cartons. German beers were usually sent here in boxes, but American boxes of 5 dozen half-bottles usually weigh as much as German boxes of 66 or 72 bottles, so that the accepted American packing is in barrels of 10 dozen 10½-ounce bottles, or 6 dozen quart bottles. The average breakage is about 6 small bottles to the barrel. There is seldom any serious loss from pilfering, and no system of packing seems to have any advantage over another for protection against theft.

The import tariff on beer is 5 cents silver per half kilo, or at the present rate of exchange (Honduras peso worth 40 cents U. S. currency) 2 cents gold for 1.1 pounds. In order to better understand the cost of a shipment from New York to Tegucigalpa, there is given below an actual case of a shipment of 10 barrels of beer, weighing 2,131 pounds: Ocean freight to Amapala, \$37.50; customs duty, \$38.76; customs surtaxes, \$6.78; road and warehouse tax, \$3.87; harbor tax, \$7.74; receiving charges, \$3.24; commission, \$4; lighterage to mainland, \$6.50; customs policies, checking, etc., \$2.70; commission charges at subport, \$0.80; freight to Tegucigalpa, \$25.50; municipal tax (Tegucigalpa), \$8.52; total \$145.91.

To this must be added the cost of consular invoice and any brokerage charges at point of shipment, besides deducting for breakages, deterioration, etc. A half bottle usually retails in this city for 30 cents.

#### **Merchants Have Branch Stores in Smaller Towns.**

Merchandise of this sort is not handled by distributing agents, but as most of the more important merchants here have from 1 to 20 branch stores in smaller towns throughout this consular district, the imports received here are distributed to the several branch stores. Merchants here usually buy for cash, or their orders are financed by local banks or through exporting houses, so that credit matters are not usually considered, but when credit terms are extended, the usual time is four months from date of invoice. The more important houses are quoted by Dun and Bradstreet and the Banco de Comercio or Banco Atlantida in this city will answer inquiries on financial responsibility.

Merchandise must be routed via Panama from New York or New Orleans, or direct if coming from San Francisco. Importers always expect goods to be insured against damage and theft to Tegucigalpa.

The popular bottled goods sold in this district are only those brands manufactured by firms which send traveling salesmen to Central America. A few years ago a certain well-known whisky was sold here. The visits of the traveling agent ceased, and within two years sales of that brand had ceased. The traveling representatives unquestionably control the trade in this line of goods.

[A list of importers of beer in the Tegucigalpa consular district may be obtained from the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce or its district offices. Refer to file No. 78193.]

**ARGENTINA.**

[Consul William Dawson, Jr., Rosario, June 2.]

**Increase in Price of Whisky During Past Two Years.**

The price of whisky in Argentina has increased considerably during the past two years, as a result of the war and internal taxation. This is shown by figures representing the prices paid to importers, generally exclusive agents, by wholesale grocery dealers at Rosario for cases of twelve 1-quart bottles, including import duty and internal revenue and stamp taxes. There is a discount of 5 per cent for cash within 30 days. These prices, for July, 1914, and May, 1916, respectively, are: White Horse, \$15.29, increased to \$18.89; Old Smuggler, \$15.29 to \$17.28; Antiquary, \$19.43 to \$22.08; Johnnie Walker—White label, \$15.29 to \$18.89; red label, to \$22.29; black label, to \$24.84; Dewar—Blue label, \$12.74 to \$19.53; white label, to \$24.20.

The rise in price of different brands depends largely on demand and stocks on hand. Dealers state that the price is rising steadily, and that whisky imported now could not be sold at the prices quoted in May. Wholesalers, in selling to retailers, make a profit of from 2 to 5 paper pesos (\$0.88 to \$2.20) per case, according to the size of the order and the standing and importance of the customer.

A certain demand in Argentina for whisky is largely explained by the considerable number of Englishmen resident in Argentina and the important English shipping in Argentine ports. The demand among natives and foreigners of Latin origin is small. Very little American whisky is consumed in this district. It is used at Rosario for mixing American cocktails, which seem to be losing favor. Whisky is taken here with soda, and the demand is for Scotch whisky. The principal club attended by foreigners at Rosario has four or five brands of English and only one American whisky, the last mentioned being used exclusively for cocktails.

**Handled by Exclusive Agencies in Buenos Aires.**

This office knows of no firms at Rosario which would be likely to be interested in importing American whisky. Alcoholic beverages as a rule are handled by exclusive agents in Buenos Aires, who place subagencies at points where they have no branches. If American whisky could be introduced successfully at any point in Argentina, this would be Buenos Aires, where American interests, shipping, and travel are growing in importance. A Buenos Aires agent could handle the limited demand at Rosario himself, or place a subagency if necessary. The leading English brands of whisky are very extensively advertised by posters, in cafés, bars, and magazines, and on theater curtains.

Cheap whisky is made to a limited extent in Argentina. Distillers not infrequently improve their product by mixing it with imported whisky.

Whisky in bottles of a strength not exceeding 50° C. per liter is classified under paragraph 302 of the Argentine import tariff, and is subject to a specific duty of 36 gold centavos (28.95 cents) per bottle. To this must be added a surtax of 2 per cent assessed on all imports the duty on which is 10 per cent or over, thus making the import duty in reality 29½ cents per bottle. Whisky in casks or

demijohns not exceeding 50° C. per liter is classified under paragraph 301 of the import tariff, and is subject to a specific duty of 30 gold centavos per liter (0.26417 gallon), which, with the usual surtax of 2 per cent, is equivalent to \$1.12 per gallon. In addition to the foregoing import duties the Argentine tariff prescribes certain official charges for customs handling, storage, and statistics which amount to a trifle less than 1 per cent of the value of merchandise.

#### Internal-Revenue Tax Modified.

The internal-revenue tax on imported whisky was modified in February, 1915, and is now 1 paper centavo (0.4246 cent, or 4½ mills) per degree of alcohol (centigrade) per liter (1.05668 quarts, or 0.26417 gallon). This is practically equivalent to a tax of 4 mills per quart for each degree of alcohol (centigrade). Whisky is further subject to a stamp tax (estampillado), which was increased in February, 1915, from 30 to 42 paper centavos (12.7 to 17.8 cents) per liter. In the case of bottled whisky, the full rate for 1 liter is levied on bottles containing from one-half liter to 1 liter.

[An article on wines and liquors in Argentina was published in *COMMERCE REPORTS* for May 25, 1915.]

### AMERICAN CONSULAR OFFICERS ON LEAVE OF ABSENCE.

The following American consular officers are on leave of absence in the United States and will be glad to confer with business men and commercial organizations relative to conditions in their respective jurisdictions. The consul's time is available primarily for personal interviews. He has limited facilities for correspondence, and except in urgent cases letters should be directed to the consulate.

Name.	Post.	Expiration of venue.	Address.
West, George N. ....	Kobé, Japan. ....	Aug. 15	Department of State, Washington, D.C.
Cooke, A. B. ....	Patras, Greece. ....	Aug. 10	121 West Charlotte Street, Norfolk, Va.
Hale, F. D. ....	Huddersfield, England	Sept. 5	Lunenburg, Vt.
Fisher, Fred D. ....	Tientsin, China. ....	Aug. 5	Albany, Oreg.
Masterson, William W. ....	Durban, Natal, South Africa.	Sept. 1	Carrollton, Ky.
Baker, E. Carlton. ....	Nagasaki, Japan. ....	Aug. 30	Apartment No. 75, The Brunswick, Washington, D. C.
Monaghan, J. C. ....	Kingston, Jamaica. ....	Sept. 1	Avenue A and Fourteenth Street, Bayonne, N. J.
Jewell, John F. ....	Chefoo, China. ....	Oct. 1	Department of State, Washington, D.C.
Kemper, Graham H. ....	Erfurt, Germany. ....	Sept. 10	Do.
Goodier, James H. ....	Niagara Falls, Canada.	Sept. 1	27 South Hawk Street, Albany, N. Y.
Hazeltine, Ross. ....	Port Antonio, Jamaica.	Oct. 1	Department of State, Washington, D.C.
Laing, James Oliver. ....	Karachi, India. ....	Sept. 30	C/o University Club, Kansas City, Mo.

### District Offices of the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce.

New York, Room 409 United States Customhouse; Boston, eighteenth floor United States Customhouse; Chicago, 504 Federal Building; St. Louis, 403 Third National Bank Building; Atlanta, 521 Post Office Building; New Orleans, 1090 Hibernia Bank Building; San Francisco, 307 United States Customhouse; Seattle, 848 Henry Building. Cooperative district offices: Cleveland, Chamber of Commerce; Cincinnati, Chamber of Commerce; Asst. Gen'l Frt. Agt., C. N. O. & T. P. Ry. Co., Cincinnati; Los Angeles, Chamber of Commerce; Detroit, Board of Commerce; Philadelphia, Chamber of Commerce; South American Agent, Southern Ry. Co., Chattanooga, Tenn.

# EXPORTS FROM FLORENCE TO UNITED STATES.

[Consul F. T. F. Dument, Florence, Italy, July 12.]

The declared exports from the consular district of Florence for the United States during the six months ended June 30, 1916, were the heaviest in the history of this office, their total value being \$3,001,995, compared with \$1,380,140 and \$1,577,757 during similar periods in 1915 and 1914, respectively.

Heavy increases are shown in exports of antiquities, clover seed, raw hemp, straw braids, hats, printing paper, wine, etc. Special permits are required by the Italian Government to export foodstuffs, and only such quantities as are not needed within the country can go out. The exports of such articles have been affected accordingly. The export of metals is forbidden; special licenses were required for the small quantities shown in the list of exports. The increase in exports of antiquities is likely to continue, as many dealers are removing their entire stocks to the United States. The silk crop was bought by speculators from northern Italy, and in consequence none was exported from this district. High exchange has had much to do with promoting increased exports.

## Principal Articles and Their Value.

The following table shows the articles and their value invoiced for the United States at the Florence consulate during the first six months of 1914, 1915, and 1916:

Articles.	Jan.-June, 1914.	Jan.-June, 1915.	Jan.-June, 1916.
Alabaster .....	\$38,140	\$28,407	\$31,514
Antiquities .....	110,400	81,968	548,797
Books .....	7,115	7,847	11,882
Bronzes .....	4,996	7,108	2,911
Cheese .....	97,388	136,376	64,208
Clover seed .....			240,707
Embroideries and laces .....	28,245	19,214	33,357
Furniture .....	33,451	14,129	17,204
Hemp, raw, braids, or plateaux .....	502,337	276,358	887,631
Household effects .....	3,965	4,289	580
Majolicas .....	5,600	5,800	12,809
Marbles, worked .....	72,082	35,769	43,518
Medicinals .....	3,176	4,138	9,512
Olive oil .....	1,962	3,685	88
Paintings .....	60,366	10,161	7,049
Paper, printing .....	4,426	12,072	24,288
Pastes, alimentary .....	18,013	13,414	14,051
Porcelains .....	(a)	(a)	3,829
Sauces .....	1,583	3,859	
Silk, raw .....	22,971		
Silverware .....	4,119	9,587	2,516
Straw braids:			
Not bleached .....			244,175
Bleached .....	b 111,733	b 242,407	74,490
Straw hats:			
Not blocked .....			463,288
Blocked .....	b 275,838	b 395,365	161,603
Terra cottas .....	12,566	3,908	4,248
Tomato pastes .....	36,737	17,191	853
Vegetables, preserved .....			8,919
Wine, still .....	29,192	27,529	81,167
All other articles .....	51,416	24,549	56,708
<b>Total .....</b>	<b>1,577,757</b>	<b>1,380,140</b>	<b>3,901,995</b>

a Included with majolicas in 1914 and 1915.

b Not separated in 1916 and 1915.

Exports to the island possessions of the United States are not included in the above totals. In the first six months of 1916 cigarette paper to the value of \$1,621 was invoiced for the Philippines.

## FOREIGN TRADE OPPORTUNITIES.

Reserved addresses may be obtained from the Bureau and its district offices. Request for each opportunity should be on a separate sheet and state opportunity number. The Bureau does not furnish credit ratings or assume responsibility as to the standing of foreign inquirers; the usual precautions should be taken in all cases.

*Shoes, umbrella ribs, etc.*, No. 22039.—The representative of an Australian firm is in the United States with a view to purchasing and arranging agencies for shoes, brasher leathers for hats, galloons (outside hat bands), canisters, umbrella ribs, and general merchandise. Goods will be paid for f. o. b. port of shipment. References.

*Food products, etc.*, No. 22040.—The representative of a Venezuelan firm is in the United States for the purpose of arranging for exclusive agencies, on a commission basis, in Venezuela, for wheat flour; rice; hams; alimentary products in general; chemical products; sheet iron; pharmaceutical supplies; soap, machinery for making soap boxes, and tacks; toilet articles; cotton and silk hosiery; sheet celluloid; and linoleums and oil cloths. References.

*Machinery*, No. 22041.—An American consular officer in Chile transmits the name and address of a man who desires to get information relative to machinery for the manufacture of safety matches; also prices, etc., of all materials used in making matches, boxes, etc. He also desires catalogues, etc., of machinery for equipping a small flour mill. Correspondence in Spanish. Reference.

*Fiber, hides, etc.*, No. 22042.—A representative of a Mexican import and export firm informs the Bureau that his firm is in a position to export litle fiber, hides, wool, pecans, and candelilla wax from Mexico. Reference.

*Machinery*, No. 22043.—A merchant in Porto Rico desires to communicate with manufacturers or selling agents of machines for the utilization of coconut husks and for the manufacture of coconut fiber.

*Pianos, clothing, etc.*, No. 22044.—An American consular officer in Canada reports that a woman who contemplates a trip to Russia desires to be placed in touch with manufacturers of the following lines for representation in that country: Pianos, women's clothing, shoes, gloves, thread, candy, music, and mechanical musical instruments.

*Motor cycles*, No. 22045.—A motor cycle dealer in Norway informs an American consular officer of his desire to be placed in communication with American manufacturers of motor cycles. Correspondence may be in English. Quotations f. o. b. New York. Cash against documents will be paid.

*Machinery, electrical supplies, etc.*, No. 22046.—An established merchant and electrical engineer from Argentina, who is now in the United States, desires to represent American manufacturers of electrical, agricultural, and industrial machinery, tools, lubricating oils, and electrical supplies.

*Optical goods*, No. 22047.—A firm in India informs an American consular officer of its desire to be placed in communication with American manufacturers of optical goods, such as pebbles for spectacles, spectacle frames, opera glasses, etc. Illustrated catalogues, prices, discounts, and terms of sale should be sent. Prices should be quoted c. i. f. destination.

*Belt buckles*, No. 22048.—An American consular officer in China reports that a tailor in his district desires to be placed in touch with American manufacturers of high grade sliding belt buckles. Reference. Terms, cash.

*Steel hoops and wire nails*, No. 22049.—A commission merchant in France asks the Bureau to furnish him the names of manufacturers of soft-steel hoops for casks and cases, and of wire nails.

*Glass bottles*, No. 22050.—An American consular officer in the United Kingdom writes that a firm of wholesale manufacturing chemists and perfumers desires to be placed in touch with American manufacturers of white flint and opal glass bottles.

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ISSUED DAILY BY THE BUREAU OF FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC COMMERCE  
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

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No. 184

Washington, D. C., Monday, August 7

1916

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## DISCOVERY OF OIL ON HAULLAGA RIVER, PERU.

[Consul George H. Pickerell, Para, Brazil, July 15.]

An American citizen who has just arrived in Para after completing a transcontinental trip from Lima, Peru, states that while he was in Iquitos reports were current of the discovery of oil on the Huallaga River, about two days' journey from a small town in Peru known as Yurimaguas. Samples of this oil have been secured and found to be of good quality, with the result that various investigations concerning the value of the discovery are under way.

## BUSINESS CARS FOR BUSINESS MEN.

[Consul Talbot J. Albert, Brunswick, Germany, July 13.]

Great business activity is expected in Germany after the war, and the question is being discussed in the Brunswick press as to the advantages of having special compartments in the cars of express trains for business men. It is suggested that these compartments be fitted up with a table covered with green cloth, suitable chairs, writing materials, and other appropriate articles, this special service being analogous to sleeping and dining car service. It is believed that there will be a demand for such cars, and that business men will gladly pay an extra fare for the conveniences furnished.

The chambers of commerce of two cities have already sent the Minister of Public Works petitions for the introduction of this improvement, the railroads being under national control.

## Rotterdam Municipal Loan Oversubscribed.

Commercial Attaché Erwin W. Thompson, at The Hague, reports that the recent municipal loan of the city of Rotterdam of \$2,400,000, at 4½ per cent, was oversubscribed 20 times. There is an abundance of money in the Netherlands; the State Bank, for example, has \$230,000,000 in gold, and against that, the outstanding note issue is only \$262,000,000, which amounts to a cover of about 88 per cent.

**DECLARED EXPORTS FROM SWANSEA TO UNITED STATES.**

[Consul M. K. Moorhead, Swansea, Wales.]

There was a decrease of \$84,850 in the value of the articles invoiced at the American consulate at Swansea for the United States during the first six months of 1916, compared with the same period in 1915. The following were the articles invoiced, with their value:

Articles.	Jan.-June, 1915.	Jan.-June, 1916.	Articles.	Jan.-June, 1915.	Jan.-June, 1916.
Abrasive materials: Rot- ten stone.....	\$230		Hides and skins: Sheep- skins.....	\$126,330	\$42,110
Animals, for breeding purposes:			Iron and steel:		
Horses (one).....		\$100	Ladles, iron, for cop- per smelters.....	100	500
Dogs (two).....		1,400	Tin plates.....	25,350	180
Chemicals:			Total.....	193,600	108,840
Acids, oxalic.....	4,020				
Salts, nickel.....	13,720				
Copper:					
Regulus of.....		54,510			
Copper scale.....	23,940	9,980			

**NEW AIDS TO NAVIGATION IN OHIO.**

Improvements at Conneaut Harbor, Ohio, carried out by the United States Engineers necessitate a rearrangement of the aids to navigation. Included in the operations is the removal of the break-water pierhead on which the present Conneaut Harbor light and fog signal are situated. The commerce of Conneaut Harbor is extensive, the number of vessels entering and departing being about 3,000, with a total registered tonnage of about 9,000,000.

An appropriation of \$63,500 for a light and fog signal and improving the present aids to navigation in Conneaut Harbor was provided in the sundry civil act approved July 1, 1916.

The work consists of building a suitable structure for the main light (an oil-vapor light) on the new west breakwater pierhead, and replacing the present fog bell, which is inadequate, by a modern compressed-air siren. Construction will include a concrete base and the superstructure and riprapping of the foundations. The changes are to be made under instructions from the United States Lighthouse Service.

**GLASS-BOTTLE TRADE OF LOIRE.**

[Consul William H. Hunt, St. Etienne, France.]

Rive de Gier, St. Romain le Puy, and Veauche (Loire) are the recognized centers for the manufacture of glass bottles in the Loire basin, the greater part of the production being consumed by the mineral springs in the region. The production of bottles in 1915 is estimated at 30,000,000, compared with 62,000,000 in 1913.

The wholesale prices of bottles increased about 30 per cent, advancing from \$2.89 per 100 in 1914 to \$3.86 per 100 in 1915. The scarcity of skilled labor greatly decreased the output. There were only 950 workmen employed in bottle making in 1915, compared with 2,400 during the preceding year, while 50 per cent of the ovens were shut down.



**DATE FIXED FOR COMMISSION'S TRIP TO FRANCE.**

The American Industrial Commission to France will start from New York at a somewhat later date than was originally planned. It has been decided that the party will sail Saturday, August 26, on the steamer *Lafayette*.

The commission has been organized by the directors of the American Manufacturers' Export Association, and the postponement of the time of departure was suggested to enable the French officials to give additional time to the perfection of their arrangements for receiving the commission. These, it has already been announced, are to be of an elaborate and unusual nature. They have also expressed a wish that the American visitors should enjoy the greater comforts of the premier vessel of the line on which they are to sail.

The change in date makes possible the participation of several important representatives who would have been unable to make the trip at an earlier time. An official announcement of the personnel is to be made a few days before the sailing. The export association states that the utmost interest in the commission has been displayed by many of the most prominent men in all sections of the United States.

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**BRITISH ENTERPRISE IN CATALOGUE DISTRIBUTION.**

[Commercial Attaché V. L. Havens, Santiago, June 20.]

English manufacturers are cooperating in the publication of a series of uniform catalogues, printed in English, French, and Spanish, which are to be distributed gratuitously to importers in all parts of the world. Circulars sent to a firm in Santiago show these English catalogues as cloth bound, in volumes according to the classification of the merchandise listed, and so arranged that any article or any manufacturer can be easily found. The general classifications of textiles, hardware, drugs, construction materials, etc., are subdivided, and importers are asked to mark on application blanks the special lines in which they are interested, when the volumes containing these sections will be forwarded. The cost of publishing these catalogues is estimated at \$250,000, and in addition to this the English exporters offer to pay freight and duty on them in the distribution to prospective customers.

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**NEW STEEL FISH-DISTRIBUTING CARS.**

In conformity with the policy of "safety first" which the Department of Commerce has adopted, the United States Bureau of Fisheries is making an effort to replace its wooden cars with those of modern steel construction. One has just been placed in service, and Congress has appropriated \$40,000 for the construction of two others.

The six cars in use traveled 149,954 miles during the past year and, although they met with no accidents, the danger to which they are subjected when used with heavy up-to-date rolling stock makes it necessary that the Government should itself use the same improved equipment which it requires of others. These cars carry the little fish from the bureau's hatcheries to the waters in which they are to be planted, a service which covers every State in the country.

**EXPERIENCE OF TANNING COMPANY IN CHINA.**

[Consul General Thomas Sammons, Shanghai, May 25.]

Imports of various kinds of leather into China, amounting approximately to \$4,000,000 annually, are sufficiently large to have caused tentative proposals to be made from time to time for the establishment of tanneries at Shanghai to meet local market demands. As the affairs of the Shanghai Tannery Co. are being liquidated, details of the undertaking from its inception may prove of value.

The Shanghai Tannery Co. (Ltd.) was formed in 1906 with an authorized capital of 100,000 taels (\$76,000). The paid-up capital was 70,000 taels (\$53,200), with stock of 5,000 taels (\$3,800) face value, presented to one of the persons interested as compensation for work in promoting the formation of the company and superintending the construction of the plant.

At the outset, it was intended that the principal product should be sole and harness leather, but the limited amount of available working capital was inadequate to meet the requirements of the slow "pit" process that had been installed. Moreover, it is stated that too much of the available capital was laid out in the construction of the plant.

The pits were constructed in the wrong proportions for the tanning of sole and harness leather. Some of the machines that were ordered were in excess of the requirements and were, in fact, never used. It is also stated that the quantity of leather produced did not justify an input of more than 200 hides a month and the overhead charges were disproportionate to the production.

**Management Changes Hands Several Times.**

The management of the tannery changed hands several times, but despite the changes the physical and financial conditions of the company grew steadily worse until, in 1909, some new capital was obtained and it was decided to enlarge the plant so as to enable it to use 600 hides a month. But during this year a fire of unknown origin badly damaged the tannery. The insurance company paid 75,000 taels (\$57,000), and it was decided to rebuild.

Operations were commenced immediately, and again the plant was ready for work. However, the company was soon deeply in debt. In 1914 a new tanning expert was secured, and he substituted the "drum" system for the antiquated "pit" process, shortening the time required for tanning from six or eight months to two months. The hides are kept in motion by means of a moving drum. The motion is said to cause them to absorb the tanning material much more rapidly.

After this change in method the condition of the company improved. The book returns obtained by the "drum" system were quite satisfactory. It is said the tanning expert in charge at this time was using quebracho and chestnut extracts to the exclusion of all other material, and the leather obtained by this process was good in appearance and quality.

**Enters into Contract with Russian Government.**

In October, 1914, negotiations were commenced with the object of furnishing boots to the Russian Government. Subsequently the

Shanghai Tannery Co. (Ltd.); under an agreement with Russia, entered into a contract for the manufacture of 100,000 pairs of boots a month for 10 months. At this time the output of the company ran from 20,000 to 30,000 pounds of leather a month, but arrangements were made to increase this output to about 100,000 pounds a month. Seventeen additional drums were installed and great quantities of hides especially suited for the contract requirements were purchased at prevailing high prices. The company also provided for its needs in tanning extracts, etc., for 10 months ahead.

One mishap after another is said to have interfered with the arrangements made by the tannery. Shipments of supplies were not made as promised, but finally, notwithstanding all the difficulties, a total of 61,700 pairs of boots were shipped to Vladivostok. The whole shipment was refused. The resulting loss is said to have compelled the company to liquidate its affairs.

#### **Had Been Able to Show Profit for Year.**

The managers of the Shanghai Tannery Co. (Ltd.) stated that during the year preceding the work on the contract the company had been able to show a profit for the first time since its inception.

The duty on sole and cow hides imported into China amounts to about \$1.87 per 133 $\frac{1}{4}$  pounds, and on calfskins, kid, patent, and colored leathers approximately \$5.25 per 133 $\frac{1}{4}$  pounds. The ad valorem duty on other kinds of leather is 5 per cent.

[Articles on the Chinese market for leather were published in **COMMERCE REPORTS** for Jan. 21 and Feb. 29, 1916.]

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## **EXPORTS OF WOLFRAM AND ANTIMONY FROM BOLIVIA.**

[Commercial Attaché William F. Montavon, Lima, Peru, June 14.]

During the first three months of the present year Bolivia exported through the ports of Antofagasta, Arica, and Mollendo 11,950 Spanish quintals (1,211,730 pounds) of wolfram. The average price for this wolfram, containing 65 per cent tungstic acid, was approximately \$160. Of the total amount exported 75 per cent went to the United States and 25 per cent to Europe.

Oruro has enjoyed preeminence among the centers of production; 69.52 per cent of the wolfram was produced in the Oruro field, 19.14 at La Paz and the remainder at Potosi. The bulk of the shipments were made from the port of Antofagasta because of its direct communication with Oruro.

The above data refer only to the exportation and do not indicate the amount of production. It is said that considerable quantities of the ore are being purchased and stored until the close of the war in Europe.

Although antimony had always occupied a place of secondary importance in Bolivia, in the first three months of 1916 the exports of this mineral amounted to approximately \$1,500,000. The custom-house records show an exportation during this period of 6,524,000 kilos (14,382,950 pounds) of sulphate compound, whereas during January-March, 1915, the production was only 462,000 kilos (1,018,535 pounds).

### FOREIGN COMMERCE OF THE UNITED STATES FOR JUNE.

A statement of the foreign trade of the United States for June has just been completed by the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, Department of Commerce. The imports and exports, by great groups, during the month and the 12 months ended June, are presented in the following statement:

Groups.	Month of June—		12 months ended June—	
	1916	1915	1916	1915
<b>IMPORTS.</b>				
Crude materials for use in manufacturing.....	\$100,270,030	\$61,247,388	\$944,105,228	\$575,357,144
Foodstuffs in crude condition and food animals.....	22,264,109	18,079,203	251,533,794	223,929,594
Foodstuffs partly or wholly manufactured.....	42,776,548	29,558,073	309,708,717	285,725,091
Manufactures for further use in manufacturing.....	45,769,329	24,590,056	359,441,501	237,176,522
Manufactures ready for consumption.....	33,700,430	23,651,230	315,253,634	335,876,085
Miscellaneous.....	1,014,992	469,190	17,440,636	16,104,791
Total imports.....	245,795,438	157,695,140	2,197,883,510	1,674,169,740
<b>EXPORTS.</b>				
Crude materials for use in manufacturing.....	57,162,830	30,478,641	536,189,752	510,455,540
Foodstuffs in crude condition and food animals.....	22,805,895	25,964,226	389,799,902	507,003,179
Foodstuffs partly or wholly manufactured.....	54,063,343	46,394,585	596,071,822	454,565,494
Manufactures for further use in manufacturing.....	81,217,762	40,079,374	662,549,838	355,862,239
Manufactures ready for consumption.....	237,515,959	110,539,947	1,996,367,492	807,465,511
Miscellaneous.....	5,474,127	10,606,278	100,418,908	80,826,802
Total domestic exports.....	459,239,936	264,145,051	4,272,397,774	2,716,178,465
Foreign merchandize exported.....	5,544,382	4,402,365	61,261,091	52,410,875
Total exports.....	464,784,318	268,547,416	4,333,658,865	2,768,589,340

Exports of principal items under the heading "Miscellaneous" in June, 1916, were: Horses, \$4,523,030; mules, \$1,824,902; and seeds, \$87,655; and for 12 months ending with June 1916: Horses, \$73,531,146; mules, \$22,946,312, and seeds, \$3,494,196.

### EXPORTS OF HAY FROM NEW BRUNSWICK.

[Consul Edward A. Dow, St. Stephen, New Brunswick, Canada.]

The Order-in-Council passed at Ottawa on June 1, lifting the prohibition of exporting hay to various countries, has had some effect on the hay market in this district, and probably throughout the Province. Shipments for which invoices were certified at the St. Stephen consulate during the last week of June were valued at the rate of from \$16 to \$18 per short ton. The local price paid by dealers was \$18 and they were selling to small consumers at \$20.

The Department of Agriculture writes from Fredericton that there will probably be "a sufficient amount of hay in the Province this season" and that "large quantities of old hay are held by the shippers and farmers, who have been unable to ship to the United States" on account of the Dominion's order forbidding its exportation to certain countries since December, 1915.

A Light List for the upper Mississippi River and tributaries, Thirteenth Lighthouse District, has been issued by the United States Lighthouse Service. Copies may be obtained from the Division of Publications, Department of Commerce, Washington, D. C., or from the lighthouse inspector at Rock Island, Ill.

**INTRODUCING NEW BRANDS IN HAITI.**

[Special Agent Garrard Harris.]

The problem of how to introduce a new brand of goods into the markets of tropical America has often caused much worry to the United States exporter and has frequently resulted in much needless expenditure of money. The best method to use depends, of course, largely upon the article to be introduced. In the case of staples, and as regards the Haitian market, newspaper advertising is inadvisable, since the newspaper readers of Haiti constitute an exceedingly small proportion of the Republic's 1,750,000 population.

If the article to be introduced is a staple, it is best to adopt some easily remembered device as a trade-mark, and then to devote the money that would ordinarily be spent in advertising to the lowering of the introductory price of the goods. If the article be of a better quality than is usually sold at that figure, its fame will spread by word of mouth and a demand be thus created. Once firmly introduced, and the quality faithfully maintained, the price can gradually be raised, for after the Haitian is won over to a particular brand, he will persist in buying it even at a higher price.

**Haitians Loyal to Trade-Marks.**

Illustrating the tenacity with which the Haitians cling to an article once established among them and to a trade-mark with which they are familiar, may be cited the experience of a certain merchant of Jeremie. He ran out of a machete long popular in the country, which was manufactured in England and bore, stamped upon the steel, the device of, say, an alligator. The merchant knew of another merchant over at Aux Cayes who had received a shipment of machetes from the United States, so sent over and bought a half dozen cases of them. Not a one could he sell. The natives would examine the blades, and look for the alligator on the metal. Not finding it, they would not buy. They did without until some alligator machetes were obtained from England, and it entailed an eight or nine months' wait. The merchant has those other machetes yet. He can not get rid of them at any price.

**Pictorial Aids—Introducing Specialties.**

It is possible to assist the sales by some advertising matter; for instance, in the case of flour, by attractive pictures of loaves of bread or of pastry, with the device under which the flour is sold as part of the picture. The advertising must be so simple and obvious as to need no written explanation. Small cards or pictures which the people can put up in their houses are of value, but posters, bills, large lithographs, and the like with much printing on them are of little or no account.

In the case of certain articles not staples, which appeal to the class able to read and write (who are financially better off than the majority of people), newspaper and pictorial advertising may have some effect, but practically all of those staples that have become firmly established in general favor in Haiti have followed the lines herein indicated, viz, making it to the advantage of the dealer to push the goods and selling cheap to start with. Once established, the brand sells itself and the dealer is then compelled to carry it or lose trade.

## BULKHEADS AND LOAD LINES.

Secretary Redfield has asked about 40 of the leading American shipbuilders, presidents and general managers of principal American steamship companies, and best-known naval architects to meet at his office Wednesday, September 27, for an exchange of views on the subject of load lines and bulkheads, and on other phases of the construction of steamers on the ocean and the Great Lakes as related to those subjects.

The United States is almost alone among maritime nations in having no regulations governing load line. Our fleet of ocean cargo carriers is growing so rapidly that this subject can not longer be postponed—indeed already during the European war American ships have been saved from embarrassment and delays to commerce for lack of load-line regulations only by resort to temporary expedients.

The subject of bulkhead and hull construction was carefully considered at the London International Conference on Safety of Life at Sea, and the American delegates had an important part in framing the chapters of the international convention on that subject. The United States has as yet taken no steps to give effect to these portions of the international convention. The subject is difficult and our future as a shipbuilding and maritime nation is involved in a right beginning along the lines indicated by the convention.

### Those Invited to the Conference.

Among those asked to the meeting are the following:

Alfred Gilbert Smith, president New York and Cuba Mail Steamship Co., Pier 14, East River, New York; P. A. S. Franklin (receiver), International Mercantile Marine Co., 9 Broadway, New York; George J. Baldwin, president Pacific Mail Steamship Co., Room 110, 55 Wall Street, New York; Andrew W. Preston, president United Fruit Co., 131 State Street, Boston, Mass.; Franklin D. Mooney, president American Steamship Association, 11 Broadway, New York (also president New York and Porto Rico Steamship Co.); H. H. Raymond, president Clyde and Mallory Lines, Pier 36, North River, New York; J. H. Jenkins, president Merchants' and Miners' Steamship Co., Light and German Street, Baltimore, Md.

Capt. C. W. Jungen, manager Southern Pacific Steamship Co., Pier 49, North River, New York; W. H. Pleasants, vice president and general manager Ocean Steamship Co., Pier 35, North River, New York; Joseph P. Grace, William B. Grace & Co., Hanover Square, New York; Mr. J. Pluymert, technical adviser, Standard Transportation Co., 26 Broadway, New York; George F. Dearborn, president American-Hawaiian Steamship Co., 8 Bridge Street, New York; Edgar F. Luckenbach, Luckenbach Steamship Co., 8 Bridge Street, New York; William Livingston, president Lake Carriers' Association, Detroit, Mich.

Mr. Homer L. Ferguson, president Newport News Shipbuilding and Dry Dock Co., Newport News, Va.; Mr. Samuel M. Knox, president New York Shipbuilding Co., Camden, N. J.; Mr. J. W. Powell, president Fore River Shipbuilding Corporation, Quincy, Mass.; Mr. M. E. Farr, president American Shipbuilding Co., foot of West Fifty-fourth Street NW., Cleveland, Ohio; Mr. Antonio C. Pessano, president Great Lakes Engineering Works, Detroit, Mich.; Mr. J. V. Paterson, president Seattle Construction and Dry Dock Co., Seattle, Wash.; Mr. M. A. McGregor, president Union Iron Works, San Francisco, Cal.; Mr. Frederick W. Wood, president Maryland Steel Co., Sparrows Point, Md.; Mr. Henry S. Grove, president Wm. Cramp & Sons Ship and Engine Building Co., Philadelphia, Pa.; Mr. W. G. Coxe, president Harlan & Hollingsworth building Co., Detroit, Mich.

Chief Constructor David W. Taylor, United States Navy, Bureau of Construction and Repair, Navy Department, Washington, D. C.; Chief Constructor

W. L. Capps, United States Navy, Bureau of Construction and Repair, Navy Department, Washington, D. C.; Mr. Stevenson Taylor, president American Bureau of Shipping, 66 Beaver Street, New York; Prof. C. H. Peabody, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Boston, Mass.; Prof. H. C. Sadler, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Mich.; Frank E. Kirby, Biddle Avenue, Wyandotte, Mich.; W. L. Babcock, 17 State Street, New York; Irving Cox, 15 William Street, New York; Theodore E. Ferris, 30 Church Street, New York; Dr. S. W. Stratton, director, Bureau of Standards, Department of Commerce, Washington, D. C.; H. B. Walker, president and general manager Old Dominion Steamship Co., Pier 25, North River, New York; Geo. Uhler, supervising inspector general Steamboat-Inspection Service, Department of Commerce, Washington, D. C.; E. T. Chamberlain, Commissioner of Navigation, Department of Commerce, Washington, D. C.; E. F. Sweet, Assistant Secretary of Commerce, Washington, D. C.; N. Sumner Myrick, Barristers Hall, Pemberton Square, Boston, Mass.; Mr. Chas. B. Calder, vice president and general manager Toledo Shipbuilding Co., Toledo, Ohio; Mr. Charles West, vice president and general manager Manitowoc D. D. and S. B. Co., Manitowoc, Wis.; Mr. John S. Ashley, chairman Advisory Committee, Great Lakes Protective Association, Leaders News Building, Cleveland, Ohio.

## FARM AND INDUSTRIAL LEGISLATION IN COSTA RICA.

### Rural Credits.

The International Bank of Costa Rica has 30 rural credit branches, which in the past year have loaned money to farmers with a success that has more than justified their existence. In view of the crop results made possible by these farm loans, the International Bank is planning to increase its rural credits fund, if this is approved by Congress, and to establish more branches. A department of mortgages is also planned by the International Bank. The President has authorized the issue of 99,000 bank notes of 100 colones each (colon=46.53 cents) and 100 of 50 colones to replace a like amount of bank notes of 20 colones each that have been retired from circulation.

### Proposed Cement Factory.

The President has submitted to Congress for approval a proposal from Guillermo de la Guardia for the manufacture of Portland cement. The applicant asks the exclusive right to the exploitation of this industry for 30 years, and he offers to sell the cement in Costa Rica at 15 per cent less than the cost of the imported article for the first five years and at 25 per cent less during the remaining 25 years of the life of the concession. Permission is also asked of Congress for the establishment of a factory for the manufacture of paper bags and paper boxes. In addition to these proposed factories the Centro-America states that large pottery works are to be established in San José.

### Electrical Activity.

A large electric plant is to be established in San Ramon and electric lighting in Alajuelita, Sabanilla, and Turrialba. The Electric Co. of Cartago is about to increase its capital and to amend its statutes. A large order of electric light bulbs for the Government has arrived at San José. In the Province of Alajuela contributions are being taken for the purchase of an electric stove for use in supplying food to the children of the poor.

**DAIRY MACHINERY IN EUROPEAN COUNTRIES.****UNITED KINGDOM.**

[Consul Horace Lee Washington, Liverpool, England, June 10.]

According to a report from the health officer for the city of Liverpool, there are between 6,000 and 7,000 milch cows within the city area. Before the war a milking machine of a continental make was placed on the market. A representative of the American consulate has been informed by the secretary of the Liverpool Cow Keepers' Association that this machine proved very successful, and that it won several prizes at agricultural shows here. Since the outbreak of hostilities sales of these machines have ceased.

A representative of one of the largest milk contractors in this district, a firm which is generally known throughout England, says that if machines of this description were pushed at the present time there would be, owing to the shortage of labor, a good market for them.

**Asks for Information About American Milking Machines.**

The secretary of the Liverpool Cow Keepers' Association, 175 Walton Lane, Liverpool, has expressed a desire to be supplied with full details of the manufacture of American milking machines, in order that he may place them before the association. He states that if it appears, on investigation, that the American article could be used to advantage there would probably be a very good trade here.

The consulate is informed by the trade that the price of milk delivered to householders has increased from 8 to 10 cents per quart. Recently there has been considerable comment in the press as to the price of 12 cents being charged in certain parts of England.

[A list of milk dealers and contractors in Liverpool, England, may be obtained from the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce or its district offices. Refer to file No. 78174.]

[Vice Consul Ripley Wilson, London, England, May 17.]

**Should be Adapted to Use by Inexperienced Persons.**

With inexperienced hands and many women working on the farms, machinery of a simple nature is important. It is believed that one of the best selling points points now for a cream separator would be ease of operation and the possibility of keeping it in order where a person is unfamiliar with such apparatus.

In the past Sweden and Germany have supplied this market with separators, and a few have been imported from the United States and from France. The manufacture of such machinery in England has been limited. Part of this supply is now cut off. It is especially difficult to obtain containers and pasteurizers.

Very little butter is manufactured in England, by far the greater part of what is consumed here coming from Denmark, Russia, France, Holland, and other countries. Denmark furnishes three times as much as Russia and nearly twice as much as the total from all the other foreign countries.

[A list of dairy machinery dealers and suppliers in London may be obtained from the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce or its district offices. Refer to file No. 77071.]



ITALY.

[Vice Consul Ulysses J. Bywater, Rome, June 3.]

**Italian Cooperative Societies Active in Introducing Machinery.**

The dairying industry is extensively developed in many parts of Italy, with the chief centers at Milan and Florence. The introduction of modern methods and machinery is only beginning, and the greatest difficulty to be overcome in marketing American products here would be the initial cost of installing the machines. It is probably only a matter of time, however, until the employment of such machinery will become quite general.

Agricultural and dairy machinery is usually bought and brought into this country by the agrarian cooperative societies, which exist in almost every Province. Headquarters for these societies are maintained in this city, under the name of the Comitato Agrario Nazionale, at 48 Via Fontanella di Borghese. American manufacturers should correspond with this committee in the Italian language, describing the machinery they manufacture and giving terms and conditions of payment and delivery. This will serve to put their names on the records for reference whenever the societies are purchasing.

The Istituto Nazionale di Credito per la Cooperazione has also been formed in Rome, under the auspices of the Ministry of Agriculture, with the purpose of supplying credits to legally registered cooperative societies in Italy. This company is in the market for agricultural machinery of all kinds. It may be addressed at 52 Piazza Barberini, Rome.

In seeking to introduce American products it is advisable to use local dealers or these cooperative societies rather than export houses. It is better also that the main agency should be located in one of the large commercial centers, such as Milan, Genoa, or Turin, rather than in Rome, where there is little direct importation.

[A list of general agents for agricultural machinery at Rome may be obtained from the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce or its district offices. Refer to file No. 77818.]

**AMERICAN CONSULAR OFFICERS ON LEAVE OF ABSENCE.**

The following American consular officers are on leave of absence in the United States and will be glad to confer with business men and commercial organizations relative to conditions in their respective jurisdictions. The consul's time is available primarily for personal interviews. He has limited facilities for correspondence, and except in urgent cases letters should be directed to the consulate.

Name.	Post.	Expiration of venue.	Address.
West, George N.....	Kobe, Japan.....	Aug. 15	Department of State, Washington, D. C.
Cooke, A. B.....	Patras, Greece.....	Aug. 10	121 West Charlotte Street, Norfolk Va.
Hale, F. D.....	Huddersfield, England	Sept. 5	Lunenburg, Vt.
Masterson, William W.....	Durban, Natal, South Africa.	Sept. 1	Carrollton, Ky.
Baker, E. Carlton.....	Nagasaki, Japan.....	Aug. 30	Apartment No. 75, The Brunswick, Washington, D. C.
Monaghan, J. C.....	Kingston, Jamaica.....	Sept. 1	Avenue A and Fourteenth Street, Bayonne, N. J.
Jewell, John F.....	Chefoo, China.....	Oct. 1	Department of State, Washington, D. C.
Kemper, Graham H.....	Erfurt, Germany.....	Sept. 10	Do.
Goodier, James H.....	Niagara Falls, Canada.	Sept. 1	27 South Hawk Street, Albany, N. Y.
Hazeltine, Ross.....	Port Antonio, Jamaica.	Oct. 1	Department of State, Washington, D. C.
Laing, James Oliver.....	Karachi, India.....	Sept. 30	C/o University Club, Kansas City, Mo.
Leonard, Walter A.....	Colombo, Ceylon.....	Oct. 14	Essex, Iowa.

**MANUFACTURE OF MACHINERY IN THE NETHERLANDS.**

[Consular Agent A. C. Nelson, Scheveningen.]

Several letters have been received from American machinery manufacturers requesting information regarding the introduction of their products in the Netherlands. As many are not conversant with the high standard of this branch of Dutch industry, it may perhaps be opportune to give a general review of the industry for the benefit of those wishing to compete in the Dutch market.

There are now in the Kingdom 190 plants (excluding repair shops for boilers and machinery) that furnish employment for about 26,500 hands. Many have their own foundries and several are engaged in structural work for bridges, lighthouses, roofs, etc. Some make a specialty of railway materials, while others are also connected with the shipyards. Exact figures as to the number of workmen employed in each branch can not be obtained.

**Location of Plants.**

The Province of South Holland contains the largest number of works (62) and employs the largest number of men (10,770). The shores of the Nieuwe Maas (Meuse), between Schiedam and Rotterdam, and of the Noord, between the latter place and Dordrecht, are the principal centers of the engine-making industry. In North Holland, which ranks next, with 32 works and about 4,460 hands, the manufacture of machinery is mainly at Amsterdam (where one of the works employs not less than 2,500 hands), Alkmaar, and Haarlem. Important plants are also found in most of the provincial capitals and in such industrial sections as Twente (the one at Hengelo has 1,150 hands), the "Groningen Veenkolonien" or peat districts of southwest North Brabant, and the Zaanland.

**Branches of Machinery Industry—Motors Find Large Market.**

The Dutch market is too restricted to specialize in the manufacture of one particular kind of machinery or tool, yet a few manufacturers have succeeded in finding an adequate market for certain special articles. Several works build ship's engines, a branch in which as regards quality the Netherlands is not surpassed by other European countries; others make plants for sugar mills; others machinery for transporting and hoisting heavy loads, and for turn bridges, lock gates, etc. Another branch makes pumps; a fourth dredges, excavators, etc.; a fifth locomotives and other railway plant, while others supply the necessary equipment for dairies and oil mills.

Great success has been achieved in the construction of motors for cars and boats—boats driven by petroleum motors are used in the Netherlands more than in any other country—and for supplying power in factories and workshops. Several plants are engaged solely in the manufacture of these articles, which find a large market in all countries.

**Products of the Foundries.**

Some of the foundries produce cast-iron articles, such as stoves, heating apparatus, furnaces, rice stoves (a specialty of a few foundries that finds a market in all parts of the world), building

materials, etc., and are in most cases combined with enamel works. There are also copper, bronze, brass, and lead factories, while others deal with amalgams and alloys that are used in the manufacture of a great variety of technical and domestic articles.

The most important iron foundries are at Almelo, Amsterdam, Bergen-op-Zoom, Bois-le-Duc, Breda, Haarlem, Kampen, Maastricht, Middelburg, Oosterhout, Prinsenhage, Rotterdam, Tegelen, Tilburg, and Vaassen. They employ, in all, about 1,200 people. Nearly all the iron and steel used in the Netherlands comes from abroad. Cast steel is produced only from time to time and in small quantities in a few engineering works for their own use, though the plants at Ede, Hoogezaand, Ridderkerk, and Rotterdam also supply it to others.

**Structural Iron Works—Railway Rolling Stock.**

Some 30 structural iron works are filling important orders for the State Engineering Department, the railroads, etc., turning out bridges, lock gates, landing stages, viaducts, petroleum tanks, light-houses, gasometers, installations for water supply, roofings, turntables, and switches. These articles are also often made for export to foreign countries and to the Dutch East Indies.

Railway cars and trucks are constructed principally at Amsterdam, Haarlem, Rotterdam, The Hague, Delft, Utrecht, and Nymwegen. The works at Amsterdam and Haarlem make passenger coaches, while those at Nymwegen, Delft, and Utrecht make principally freight and cattle cars and trucks. Tramcars are built at Rotterdam and The Hague.

At Amsterdam and Rotterdam works are engaged in making material for narrow-gauge lines (Decauville's system), and are supplying rails, switches, etc., for factories, etc.

**Engine and Boiler Fittings—Electric Supplies.**

Among the most important industries connected with the machinery trade is the manufacture of engine and boiler fittings and of articles used in the electro-technical industry (electric motors, dynamos, converters, accumulators, carbureters, measuring instruments, telephones, Röntgen-rays apparatus, electric timepieces, and incandescent lamps). The Netherlands has over 50 important electric-supply works.

Dynamos and electric motors are made at Slikkeveer, near Rotterdam, while other manufacturers of electrical apparatus are found at Hengelo, Utrecht, Alkmaar, Gilze Ryen (near Breda), de Bilt, Rotterdam, and Dordrecht.

Five establishments are engaged in the manufacture of metallic and carbon filament lamps; the one at Eindhoven employs about 3,000 operators. The others are at Venlo, Tilburg, Nymegen, and Boxtel. These lamps find a ready market all over the world, especially in England, Denmark, Germany, Russia, Sweden, Norway, France, Belgium, Spain, Switzerland, and Italy. A factory at Middelburg that makes brass fittings for incandescent lamps (employing about 400 hands) produced 54,000,000 fittings in 1910.

At Vaals, in the Province of Limburg, is found an arc-light plant, and at Amsterdam a factory that produces cables and wires of all

sorts for telephones and bells, as well as for submarine purposes. Hengelo has an important establishment engaged in the manufacture of engine and boiler fittings (taps, valves, etc.).

**Anchors, Chains, Bolts, Rivets, Nuts, Etc.**

Closely connected with the machinery trade is the manufacture of ship anchors, chains, bolts, rivets, etc. This branch occupies a prominent place in the Dutch industry, although circumstances are not absolutely in its favor. Although the products are by no means inferior to the imported articles, the small output and the cost of production make it difficult to compete in prices.

Bolts and nuts of every description, screws, rivets, and all kinds of railway, tram, and fence fastenings are manufactured in large quantities by several well-equipped establishments that furnish employment to over 1,050. These firms are engaged in a considerable export trade with England, the Dutch Indies, Africa, and other countries. Some make a specialty of the heavy material used in the building of engines, bridges, ships, railroads, and the ironwork for telegraphs and telephones, while others specialize in less heavy material in steel and copper intended for the manufacture of motor cars, bicycles, instruments, and lighting apparatus. The former have works at Helmond, Slikkeveer, and Utrecht; and the latter at Nymegen and Ysselmonde.

**Dutch Dredges Have Wide Sale—Other Machinery Exported.**

The machinery trade, as well as the industries connected with it, has been developed in the last few years and has achieved notable successes in entirely new fields. The plants engaged in the manufacture of dredging materials, in particular, have gained a world-wide reputation, the development of this branch of industry being due mainly to the activity of the Dutch civil engineers and contractors for large undertakings, who found a field for their enterprise in nearly every country.

Sugar-mill machinery is largely exported to the Dutch Indies and to South America; machinery for margarine factories to all countries of the world; brick-making plants to Belgium, Germany, and Russia; cranes to Belgium; machine tools for working sheet iron to the Dutch Indies, Germany, and Belgium; and pumps, to Italy. In fact, during recent years the Dutch machinery trade has been fully able to compete in various fields, not only at home, but also in the colonies and in foreign countries.

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### **BUSINESS OPENINGS IN MARTINIQUE.**

[Special Agent Garrard Harris, Port de France, July 8.]

If there were a branch of an American bank here most of the greatly increased business now done with the United States would be permanent, even after the war.

At present there is a good chance to get the lighting franchise, erect a hydroelectric plant, and sell electricity for cooking as well as lighting. The price of household fuel is high. There is also the possibility of a paying investment in an electric tramway, provided the franchise can be secured and the enterprise economically managed. Indeed, the two might be advantageously combined. There is an abundance of water power.

## YEAR'S EXPORTS OF DOMESTIC BREADSTUFFS, OILS, ETC.

The exports of domestic breadstuffs, cottonseed oil, food animals, meat and dairy products, cotton, and mineral oils from the principal customs districts of the United States during June, according to statistics completed by the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, Department of Commerce, follow:

Items.	June—		12 months ending June—	
	1916	1915	1916	1915
<b>EXPORTS BY GROUPS.</b>				
Breadstuffs.....dollars	26,260,004	28,823,576	415,989,016	558,663,479
.....pounds	11,395,663	26,156,688	264,149,949	317,992,417
Cottonseed oil.....dollars	1,272,546	1,853,035	22,515,718	21,756,944
.....do	109,890	446,880	2,638,169	675,120
Cattle, hogs, and sheep.....do	23,679,979	26,718,074	254,944,907	200,182,672
Meat and dairy products.....do	549,926	323,140	5,911,456	8,426,237
Cotton.....pounds	284,230,702	167,768,309	3,061,103,377	4,403,560,238
.....dollars	37,504,120	15,844,362	370,993,002	376,214,487
Mineral oils.....gallons	220,963,989	210,358,304	2,413,563,904	2,177,417,335
.....dollars	19,414,857	13,351,634	164,234,618	132,042,624
Total.....do	108,142,086	87,037,561	1,231,315,930	1,289,735,526
<b>EXPORTS BY PRINCIPAL ARTICLES.</b>				
Corn.....bushels	4,370,231	3,723,381	35,841,310	47,441,517
.....dollars	3,609,960	3,151,981	28,878,025	37,604,473
Oats.....bushels	8,794,907	10,322,707	95,546,330	96,756,363
.....dollars	4,310,375	5,769,068	47,805,065	57,438,963
Wheat.....bushels	5,903,365	9,395,520	172,723,196	258,971,975
.....dollars	7,475,866	12,906,952	214,833,320	332,868,498
Flour.....barrels	1,380,009	890,985	15,233,460	15,968,355
.....dollars	7,611,336	5,923,564	85,574,064	93,575,180
Beef, canned.....pounds	3,624,740	9,831,730	50,895,535	75,191,209
.....dollars	858,056	1,256,610	9,315,442	11,965,057
Beef, fresh.....pounds	40,037,431	47,981,989	231,206,811	169,469,660
.....dollars	5,176,790	6,255,924	28,884,178	21,619,144
Beef, pickled, etc.....pounds	2,067,097	3,167,701	38,340,007	31,790,336
.....dollars	250,083	372,183	4,021,385	3,376,454
Oleo.....pounds	7,140,589	8,790,635	102,232,259	80,481,946
.....dollars	958,393	951,473	12,519,110	9,341,198
Bacon.....pounds	37,811,804	42,505,154	571,856,561	346,734,715
.....dollars	5,142,781	5,752,053	78,003,324	47,047,383
Hams and shoulders.....pounds	17,891,631	39,143,120	279,212,787	201,376,287
.....dollars	2,672,831	5,275,573	40,528,480	28,710,602
Lard.....pounds	45,404,643	30,541,022	425,165,161	472,243,128
.....dollars	6,044,093	3,248,974	47,431,569	52,166,007
Neutral lard.....pounds	4,229,531	1,469,012	34,632,964	26,121,054
.....dollars	592,522	165,539	4,050,394	3,022,321
Pork, pickled, etc.....pounds	5,758,805	5,145,540	119,274,733	49,070,938
.....dollars	709,017	564,186	13,407,968	5,322,887
Lard compounds.....pounds	3,730,018	5,024,494	48,715,294	65,638,311
.....dollars	444,203	426,089	4,884,054	5,656,359
Crude oil.....gallons	15,990,859	21,318,076	161,927,961	149,222,262
.....dollars	752,055	634,385	5,709,059	4,808,317
Illuminating oil.....gallons	75,102,214	81,669,232	821,528,024	884,030,246
.....dollars	5,358,318	5,002,270	52,132,592	53,409,313
Lubricating oil.....gallons	26,889,743	23,109,407	248,511,311	213,323,252
.....dollars	4,381,562	2,944,461	37,022,972	25,011,973
Gasoline, naphtha, etc.....gallons	34,651,800	27,790,218	287,219,755	241,008,301
.....dollars	6,944,631	3,102,403	44,725,135	27,103,501
Residuum fuel oil, etc.....gallons	68,329,343	56,471,371	894,376,033	689,833,269
.....dollars	1,978,261	1,668,115	24,644,360	18,709,520

## District Offices of the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce.

New York, Room 409 United States Customhouse; Boston, eighteenth floor United States Customhouse; Chicago, 504 Federal Building; St. Louis, 402 Third National Bank Building; Atlanta, 521 Post Office Building; New Orleans, 1020 Hibernia Bank Building; San Francisco, 307 United States Customhouse; Seattle, 848 Henry Building. Cooperative district offices: Cleveland, Chamber of Commerce; Cincinnati, Chamber of Commerce; Asst. Gen'l Frt. Agt., C. N. O. & T. P. Ry. Co., Cincinnati; Los Angeles, Chamber of Commerce; Detroit, Board of Commerce; Philadelphia, Chamber of Commerce; South American Agent, Southern Ry. Co., Chattanooga, Tenn.

## FOREIGN TRADE OPPORTUNITIES.

Reserved addresses may be obtained from the Bureau and its district offices. Request for each opportunity should be on a separate sheet and state opportunity number. The Bureau does not furnish credit ratings or assume responsibility as to the standing of foreign inquirers; the usual precautions should be taken in all cases.

*Shellac*, No. 22051.—An American consular officer in Switzerland transmits the name and address of a manufacturer who is in the market for shellac. Correspondence in German preferred. Quotations should be c. i. f. port of entry.

*Moving picture machines, etc.*, No. 22052.—An American consular officer in East Africa reports that a firm in his district wishes to receive catalogues and prices on moving-picture machines with films, hand-power printing machinery with accessories, sewing thread of various grades, shears and scissors, and supplies for small motor garages. The cheaper grades of these articles are desired. Correspondence in English.

*Crusher*, No. 22053.—The Bureau is informed that a man in South America desires to purchase a small rock crusher or stamp mill for use in crushing quartz of a very hard grade, to be operated by a 24-horsepower stationary oil engine. Quotations f. o. b. New York.

*Food products*, No. 22054.—An American consular officer in Greece reports that an institution in his district is in the market for large quantities of beans, sugar, rice, wheat, and cotton candlewick.

*Hardware, flour, etc.*, No. 22055.—A merchant in an insular possession of a foreign country writes the Bureau that he desires to represent American manufacturers and exporters of hardware, flour, tanned skins, lard, cotton piece goods, motors, automobiles, etc.

*Agricultural machinery*, No. 22056.—An American consular officer in France reports that a man in his district desires to represent American manufacturers of agricultural machinery, particularly plows. Correspondence and printed matter should be in French.

*Roots and herbs*, No. 22057.—A dealer in botanical roots and leaves in Switzerland informs an American consular officer that he is in the market for sassafras bark, senega root, hydrastis canadensis root, and lobelia herb.

*Tobacco*, No. 22058.—An American consular officer in Denmark reports that a manufacturer of tobacco products wishes to be placed in touch with American exporters of raw tobacco.

*Gum kadaya*, No. 22059.—A firm in India advises an American consular officer of its desire to be placed in touch with American importers of gum kadaya.

*Agricultural machinery*, No. 22060.—Supplementing foreign trade opportunity No. 21661, for exclusive agencies in the Argentine Republic, the man now informs the Bureau that communication is particularly desired with manufacturers of plows of all kinds; harvesters for wheat, corn, beans, and alfalfa; corn huskers and shredders; reapers, stackers, sowers, etc.; dairy farm implements; windmills for pumping water; water pumps (hand and power); kerosene motors for pumps, and steam tractors with furnace fitted for burning wood. Reference.

*Machinery*, No. 22061.—An American consular officer in Norway writes that a firm in his district contemplates erecting a factory for the manufacture of envelopes and desires to receive quotations for the requisite machinery. Correspondence may be in English.

*Spruce gum*, No. 22062.—A man in Canada requests the Bureau to place him in touch with importers and users of spruce gum, of which he is able to supply large quantities.

*Machinery*, No. 22063.—A producer of aerated water in East Africa informs an American consular officer of his desire to receive catalogues, with prices and discounts, of machinery used in that business.

*General representation*, No. 22064.—The Bureau is in receipt of a letter from a commission agent in Argentina, who represents a number of European manufacturers and exporters, requesting it to place him in touch with American manufacturers and exporters who desire to establish agencies for their products in that country. References.

# COMMERCE REPORTS



DAILY CONSULAR AND TRADE REPORTS  
ISSUED DAILY BY THE BUREAU OF FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC COMMERCE  
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

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1916

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## BRITISH IMPORT PROHIBITIONS.

[Telegram received from American consul general, London, Aug. 4.]

From and after August 7 the importation of airguns and rifles, sporting guns, carbines, rifles, and oranges is prohibited. The prohibition on oranges does not apply to fruit from British territories or to oranges carried in specially licensed ships. From and after July 28, the importation of opium and cocaine products is prohibited. [The import prohibition on the above products was announced in **COMMERCE REPORTS** for Aug. 1, 1916.]

## OPPORTUNITY FOR AMERICAN MOLASSES IN CANADA.

[Consul Felix S. S. Johnson, Kingston, Ontario, June 13.]

That there will be a demand in Canada for American molasses and sirups seems certain. Great difficulty is now experienced in obtaining molasses from Barbados, and the price has risen from 47 to 59 cents because of increased freight charges. By a preferential agreement sirups and molasses from the British West Indies enter Canada free of duty, whereas from other countries the rate of duty is  $1\frac{1}{2}$  cents per imperial gallon for tested cane molasses of not less than 20° nor more than 35°. There is levied as well a war tax of  $7\frac{1}{2}$  per cent ad valorem. To comply with the trade requirements it would be necessary for American firms to put up their product in 2 and 3 pound tins, as these sizes take well with the people.

The demand for molasses is greatest in the Province of Quebec, for which reason American exporters should investigate market conditions at Montreal, Quebec, Three Rivers, and Sherbrooke. In the Province of Ontario scarcity prevails at Ottawa, Kingston, and Toronto. [A list of interested Kingston firms may be obtained, upon request, from the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce or its district offices. Refer to file No. 77388.] Shipments from the Southern States should be made to New York by water, and then by rail to Canada.

**INCREASED SUGAR CROP OF ST. CROIX.**

[Vice Consul Luther K. Zabriskie, St. Thomas, Danish West Indies, July 19.]

This year's sugar crop of St. Croix, Danish West Indies, promises to be the largest this island has yielded since 1903, and in spite of the labor troubles and the consequent increase in wages and the exceedingly high steamship freight rates, the cane growers are anticipating greater net profits than they have enjoyed for a number of years. Estimates place the probable output at 30,000,000 Danish pounds (100 English pounds equal 90.72 Danish pounds). Approximately 50,000 gallons of rum will be produced, but none of the St. Croix factories are at present manufacturing molasses. The larger part of this sugar is sold c. i. f. New York, whence it is resold to Canada, and the March prices of sugar in St. Croix, which might be taken as the average for the season, were about \$90 per ton. All the rum is shipped to Copenhagen, and has been selling at \$0.50 per gallon, including the packing.

**Exports of Sugar.**

The following figures show the amounts of sugar exported from St. Croix during the past 16 years:

Year.	Amount.	Year.	Amount.	Year.	Amount.
	<i>Danish lbs.</i>		<i>Danish lbs.</i>		<i>Danish lbs.</i>
1900 .....	26,387,779	1906 .....	12,561,930	1912 .....	20,046,538
1901 .....	18,785,396	1907 .....	24,381,682	1913 .....	12,136,514
1902 .....	26,455,691	1908 .....	23,335,600	1914 .....	10,583,783
1903 .....	34,709,480	1909 .....	8,036,618	1915 .....	8,159,009
1904 .....	23,331,274	1910 .....	22,021,604		
1905 .....	27,712,849	1911 .....	21,328,418		

The amount of sugar that is annually consumed in St. Croix is 600,000 to 650,000 Danish pounds. The export duty on sugar is 6 per cent ad valorem, which approximates \$0.20 per 100 Danish pounds.

**Sugar Cane the Principal Agricultural Product.**

The growing of sugar cane is the most important agricultural industry in St. Croix at present, there being 13,000 acres of land under cultivation for this purpose. In 1913, 2,147 acres were planted in cotton, but on account of destructive insect pests and the various difficulties encountered as a result of the war the cultivation of cotton has almost ceased on the island. Approximately 30,000 acres are devoted to other products, of which grass for pasturage constitutes the most important item.

For the sugar-cane crops the land is fallow plowed and is fertilized with from 20 to 30 tons of pen manure to the acre.

The Colonial Government owns a gasoline motor plow, which is under the management of the director of the agricultural experiment station and is rented out. In addition, the West India Sugar Factory possesses a fuel-oil motor plow (English "Fowler") which is employed by the factory on its own estates.

**The Sugar-Cane Interests.**

Formerly there were approximately 100 sugar estates in St. Croix, but in recent years many of these have been merged into large hold-



ings. The sugar-cane interests are now controlled by the following: The Danish Plantation Co., which has no factory of its own; the West India Sugar Factory; the St. Croix Sugar Factory; the La Grange Sugar Factory; and eight small, individual concerns, six of which have factories on their estates.

The Danish Plantation Co. is a joint stock company with headquarters in Copenhagen, and was established in 1903 for the purpose of helping out the Danish West Indies when their affairs were in an unsatisfactory state. The company has proven of great benefit to St. Croix, but as a paying proposition for its promoters the results have not been so satisfactory. The company owns a number of estates which were large producers of cotton up to the time the war started. Now the greater portion of these are employed for cattle-raising purposes. The cane grown by the Danish Plantation Co. is delivered to different factories, the so-called Bethlehem factory taking the larger amount.

The West India Sugar Factory, which is generally known as "the Bethlehem concern," because the factory is situated at Bethlehem, operates 23 estates, 20 of which are growing sugar cane. On the remaining three cotton is grown, and cattle raising is carried on to a small extent. The sugar factory is comparatively new, and is fitted out with Austrian machinery. In addition to utilizing the output from its own estates, about 10 per cent additional stock is bought outside. The management calculates to make at least 7,000 tons of sugar this year.

The West India Sugar Factory is a stock company, with domicile in St. Croix and its directorate in Copenhagen.

One half of the St. Croix Sugar Factory is owned by the Danish Government and the other half belongs to the Danish Sugar Factory (of Copenhagen). The factory is located just outside of Christiansted, and has machinery that was installed 40 years ago. Various improvements have been added from time to time. This concern owns but three plantations, its business being principally to purchase canes from near-by estates, which constitute about three-quarters of its total crop. Its estimated output of sugar in 1916 is 3,000 tons.

The La Grange Sugar Factory, owned by a resident of Denmark, is fitted out with up-to-date machinery, brought from Glasgow, and is capable of turning out 30 tons of sugar daily (24 hours). Two thousand tons are counted on by this factory for 1916. On January 1, 1916, the entire concern, including machinery and other complements, was offered for sale for \$300,000.

Of the eight individual concerns, the following are the most important: "Concordia," "Whim," "Hogensborg," "Diamcnd," and "Clifton Hill." Rum alone is made by several of these individual concerns, and the combined output from them for 1916 is estimated at 2,000 tons of sugar, or its equivalent in rum.

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A collection of pamphlets issued by the Central Food Distributing Department of Germany, giving instructions on the utilization of food materials in war time, has been forwarded from Berlin by Consul General Julius G. Lay. They may be inspected at the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce or its district offices. Refer to file No. 78527.

**SPANISH CUSTOMS MODIFICATIONS AND TRADE.**

[Consul General Carl Bailey Hurst, Barcelona, June 2.]

The results of the policy adopted by the Spanish Government in regard to recent customs modifications are reflected in the export statistics. During the latter half of 1914 the Spanish Government restricted the exportation of live animals, and in consequence the number of horses exported in 1915 amounted to 418, compared with 3,681 in 1913; mules, 413, compared with 11,177 in 1913; and cows, 4,506, compared with 32,916 in 1913. On January 2, 1916, restrictions on the export of live animals were removed, but a heavy export tax was imposed, with the result that during the first three months of 1916 the export of horses and cows decreased by a few head, but 18,262 mules were exported in contrast to 67 during the corresponding period of 1915.

The duties on exports and imports of wheat have undergone numerous variations, depending on the domestic harvest and other considerations. The annual consumption of wheat in Spain is calculated at 4,200,000 metric tons of 2,204.6 pounds each, of which 3,600,000 tons are for bread and 600,000 for seeding and the manufacture of macaroni, etc. The domestic crop of 1915 not being sufficient for this demand and importation in 1915 having been less than during 1914 owing to transportation difficulties, the duty on wheat was removed, so that imports of wheat during the first three months of 1915 were over five times those of the corresponding period of 1915.

**Increase in Prices of Staples.**

Since July 31, 1914, the prices of many staple articles of food have increased, varying in different parts of the country, but those charged in Barcelona, Spain's largest city, may be taken as an example. Wheat, which on July 31, 1914, cost \$2.16 for a Spanish bushel or fanega of 96 pounds, is now quoted at \$2.88 a bushel. Other articles have risen since July 31, 1914, until the present time per 100 kilos (220.46 pounds) as follows: Corn, from \$3.60 to \$6.21; potatoes, \$1.80 to \$4.73; beans, \$9.81 to \$11.34; eggs, \$0.23 per dozen to \$0.26; white coconut oil, \$20.70 to \$31.50; raw linseed oil, \$15.84 to \$25.20; rice, \$12.42 to \$12.69; hemp, \$20.70 to \$28.80; oats, \$4.14 to \$5.40; and barley from \$4.01 to \$5.22. Cardiff coal has increased in price from \$8.37 a ton to \$27.90, and Spanish Asturias coal from \$8.64 to \$19.53.

Prices of industrial products and materials used in industries and manufacture show a corresponding increase, and an upward tendency is manifest.

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**SURVEY OF OTTAWA-PRESCOTT HIGHWAY STARTED.**

[Consul Frank C. Denison, Prescott, Ontario, Canada, July 24.]

The movement for an up-to-date road from Prescott to Ottawa, as reported a year ago, has produced results. Ontario Government surveyors have begun the locating of the highway, with the expectation that it will be late in the season when their work is completed.

Newspapers report that it is expected the work of building will begin as early as possible in 1917, and that very substantial progress during the coming year is anticipated.

**BY-PRODUCTS FROM COKE-OVEN OPERATIONS.**

The value of by-products recovered from American coke manufacture in 1915 was nearly \$30,000,000, a large increase over the previous high-water mark of \$17,500,000 in 1914. Although there were material increases in the output and value of gas, tar, and ammonia, which was to be expected with a greater output of by-product coke, the increase in benzol products presented the most interesting feature of the year in the coke industry. The value of these products rose from less than \$1,000,000 in 1914 to more than \$7,760,000 in 1915, according to the United States Geological Survey. Benzol has been recovered in this country from coke-oven gas for a number of years, but prior to 1915 the market was small and prices were low.

In 1914 there were 14 benzol plants in the United States, but they were all controlled by one company, and therefore it is not feasible to publish the statistics of their production for that or previous years. Last year 16 additional coke plants were equipped with benzol apparatus, and the output was very greatly increased.

The benzol products obtained in 1915 amounted to 16,600,657 gallons. More than 13,000,000 gallons of the total output was reported as crude light oil and had an average value of 33 cents. Some of the plants have their own stills and refineries, and the pure benzol reported from those sources amounted to 2,516,483 gallons, with an average value of nearly 57 cents, at least three times the value of crude benzol before the war, and 623,506 gallons of toluol, with an average value of \$2.45 a gallon. Crude benzol, which in 1914 was used to some extent for motor fuel, contained the toluol, which is now separated out and sold at fancy prices.

Quantities and values of by-products from coke-oven operations in 1915 were:

Product.	Quantity.	Value.
Tar obtained and sold.....gallons.	138,414,601	\$3,568,384
Ammonia obtained and sold:		
Sulphate.....pounds.	199,900,487	5,648,958
Liquor.....gallons.	10,626,612	1,240,473
Anhydrous.....pounds.	30,002,196	2,978,044
Gas produced.....M cubic feet.	213,667,614	
Surplus gas sold or used:		
Illuminating.....do.	17,196,426	3,053,311
Domestic fuel.....do.	27,690,624	3,158,129
Industrial fuel.....do.	39,568,864	2,383,459
Benzol products:		
Crude light oils.....gallons.	13,082,678	4,304,281
Secondary light oils.....do.	182,039	28,731
Benzol.....do.	2,516,483	1,428,323
Toluol.....do.	623,506	1,529,535
Solvent naphtha.....do.	196,151	46,233
Naphthaline.....pounds.	465,965	46,937
Other products.....		379,491
Total by-products.....		29,821,579
Coke.....short tons.	14,072,895	48,554,325
		78,382,904

\* Includes breeze, retort carbon, domestic coke and coke dust, and aniline oil.

The total production of the cyanide industry in this country for 1914 was 16,450,225 pounds, valued at \$2,398,674, compared with 13,291,080 pounds, valued at \$1,941,893, in 1909, according to figures reported by the United States Bureau of the Census.

**REGISTRATION OF COMPANIES IN CANADA.**

[Consul General John G. Foster, Ottawa.]

The Dominion of Canada Companies Act (sec. 17) authorizes the Secretary of State to issue letters patent to any company incorporated under the laws of any of the Provinces, or of the United Kingdom, or of any foreign country, incorporating the shareholders as a company under the act. Practically no use is made of this authorization, however, it being regarded as much better practice to incorporate a subsidiary company.

Section 5 of the act authorizes the Secretary of State by letters patent, under his seal of office, to grant a charter to any number of persons (not less than five) who apply therefor, constituting such persons, and others who have become subscribers to the memorandum of agreement, and who thereafter become shareholders in the company thereby created, a body corporate and politic, for any of the purposes or objects to which the legislative authority of the Parliament of Canada extends. Exceptions to this authority, under the act, are the construction and working of railways, or of telegraph or telephone lines, the business of insurance, loan companies, and banking, and the issue of paper money.

**Applications for Registration.**

The applicants for such letters patent must file in the Department of the Secretary of State an application setting forth the following particulars:

(a) The proposed corporate name of the company, which shall not be that of any other known company, incorporated or unincorporated, or any name liable to be confounded therewith, and shall not be otherwise on public grounds objectionable; (b) the purposes for which its incorporation is sought; (c) the place within Canada which is to be its chief place of business; (d) the proposed amount of its capital stock; (e) the number of shares and the amount of each share; (f) the names in full and the address and calling of each of the applicants, with special mention of the names of not more than 15 and not less than 3 of their number who are to be the first or provisional directors of the company; (g) the amount of stock taken by each applicant; the amount, if any, paid in upon the stock of each applicant, and the manner in which the same has been paid and is held for the company.

**Registration Fees.**

The fees provided are the same for an original incorporation or for reincorporation and are as follows: When authorized capital is \$50,000 or less, \$100; when authorized capital is more than \$50,000 and not more than \$200,000, \$100 (and \$1 for every \$1,000 or fractional part thereof in excess of \$50,000); when authorized capital is more than \$200,000 and not more than \$500,000, \$250 (and \$0.50 for every \$1,000 or fractional part thereof in excess of \$200,000); when authorized capital is more than \$500,000, \$400 (and \$0.20 for every \$1,000 or fractional part thereof in excess of \$500,000).

All fees must be paid in cash or by an accepted check made payable to the order of the Secretary of State and should be transmitted to him by registered letter. The application for incorporation must be in accordance with a prescribed form.

**Effect of Dominion Registration.**

For several years there has been a legal dispute as to the respective jurisdictions of Dominion and Provincial Governments concerning the incorporation of companies. All the Provinces have enacted

statutes providing for the incorporation of companies, and in all the Provinces except Quebec the acts are intended to apply to Dominion corporations as well as to those companies which have received incorporation under foreign or British laws. The most drastic of these provincial acts is that of British Columbia, which came into force in July, 1910. This law resulted in a suit brought by the John Deere Plow Co., a company incorporated under Dominion charter and authorized to carry on business in agricultural implements throughout Canada. The case was decided by the Supreme Court of British Columbia adversely to the company, but was appealed to the Imperial Privy Council, which has rendered a decision to the effect that the British Columbia act can give no right to interfere with the powers conferred upon the company by the Dominion Parliament. This judgment affects the companies acts in force in Ontario, Manitoba, Alberta, Saskatchewan, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, and the Yukon. The act of the Province of Quebec specifically excepts Dominion companies from its provisions, and is therefore unaffected. The act of Prince Edward Island is of different character and is likewise not affected by the decision.

The ruling in this case asserts the paramount jurisdiction of the Dominion over trade and commerce, and is generally interpreted to mean that a company incorporated under the Dominion act to do business throughout Canada may disregard the provincial acts, so far as incorporation is concerned. Such companies, although incorporated with full powers to trade, are subject, however, to provincial laws of general application. Thus, although a company may have capacity to hold land it can not refuse to obey the laws of the Province in which the land is situated, as to mortmain, nor can it escape the payment of provincial taxes, even though these may assume the form of requiring, as the method of raising of revenue, a license which affects a Dominion company in common with other companies.

In view of the John Deere Plow Co. decision and the policy of the Canadian Department of State, it is believed that it would be advisable for all companies intending to do business throughout Canada to seek incorporation of a subsidiary company under the Dominion of Canada Companies Act. A considerable number of provincial companies have sought Dominion incorporation.

[The registration of foreign corporations is of special importance in British Columbia, where commercial travelers representing companies not registered under the provincial act (or, according to the above decision, under the Dominion Companies Act) are subject to fine. In the other Provinces, however, it is understood that the soliciting of orders for corporations not registered under provincial or Dominion laws is not penalized. Previous notices on this subject were published in Foreign Tariff Notes No. 2, pages 57-58; No. 12, page 176; and No. 15, page 55.]

#### **Dutch Maximum Prices for Peat.**

Commercial Attaché Erwin W. Thompson, at The Hague, reports that the Netherlands Government has established maximum prices for peat on account of the scarcity and high price of coal. The development of peat beds is becoming quite extensive, and the establishment of maximum prices was for the purpose of protecting the poorer people against exorbitant prices in this good substitute for coal.

**WORK OF NEW ZEALAND BOARD OF TRADE.**

[Consul General Alfred A. Winslow, Auckland, June 29.]

About the first of the year the New Zealand Government organized a Dominion Board of Trade, consisting of three members and a secretary, to investigate the commercial and industrial conditions growing out of the European war, with authority to sit in different parts of the Dominion and summon individuals and representatives of commercial bodies and industries to appear before it and answer question relative to their interests.

This Board of Trade has now visited the important centers of the Dominion and has quite fully studied industrial conditions, especially as regards their bearing on the cost of living, with the result that it has made recommendations to the New Zealand Government relative to the control of certain products and wholesale and retail prices at which they shall be sold.

**Recommendations Covering Wheat, Flour, and Bread.**

According to the New Zealand Herald, a leading daily paper of Auckland, the board offered the following recommendations regulating the wheat, flour, and bread trade:

We feel that the distribution of the food supply of the Dominion can not safely be left in a time of crisis to the working of an unregulated system of supply and demand, and we consider that the situation as regards prices of flour and by-products of wheat should be closely and continuously watched, with the aid of returns periodically furnished to the Board of Trade through the Government statistician. We therefore recommend that it be enacted that millers and recognized dealers in grain should be registered with the Board of Trade, and should furnish from week to week the quantities of wheat purchased and the prices paid. Appropriate penalties should be provided for omitting to furnish or for furnishing false returns. It would be the duty of the board, in conjunction with the Government statistician, to collate the information thus supplied, and weekly to furnish an official quotation of the actual market prices. At present the leading newspapers publish weekly market quotations, and we are in possession of evidence that the publication of unreliable information by speculators has, on occasions, artificially raised the price of wheat to genuine dealers and detrimentally affected the industry generally. We further recommend that threshing-mill proprietors be required to register with the Board of Trade and send weekly returns of quantities of grain threshed to the Government statistician. Appropriate penalties should be provided for failure to comply.

We have considered the question whether the fixing of a maximum price for wheat, flour, and breads by legal enactment or by the method of "recommended prices" adopted in England would be best suited to the conditions here. There are difficulties under both systems, but, on the whole, we prefer the latter method.

The majority of master bakers discourage over-the-counter sales of bread by charging the customer in the shop the same price as for delivery. It, therefore, is recommended that a relative over-the-counter price be made compulsory, and that it be at least 3 cents less than the price for delivery. This provision should apply to the four main centers and the secondary towns.

**Beneficial Results of Board's Action.**

It is generally understood that the action of the Board of Trade has to some extent influenced prices in New Zealand, and that it may have material beneficial results when additional legislation and regulations have been put in force. The cost of food products and household necessities for this Dominion have increased 20 to 30 per cent since the outbreak of hostilities, which has made it almost imperative that wages be raised, and in many cases a war bonus has been allowed even in the case of civil servants.

**AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT IN URUGUAY.**

[Special Agent F. H. von Motz, June 4.]

Although Uruguay is essentially a cattle country, much encouragement has been given to agriculture by the Government and the railways. [See report on seed distribution in Uruguay in **COMMERCE REPORTS** for Apr. 1; also report on Government experimental farm in Uruguay, Apr. 21.] The cultivated area, although still small, is increasing, and everything points toward improved agricultural conditions. With carefully selected drought-resisting seeds and modern methods a much better yield is expected. When this transpires agriculture will receive an impetus and farmers are likely to turn from cattle raising to farming, thus opening up an increasing market for implements.

A prominent firm remarked on the small attention given by American manufacturers to the Uruguayan market and mentioned that the sale of implements might be easily increased by sending well-informed traveling salesmen, as is now done in Argentina, who can give actual demonstrations of harrows, plows, seeding machinery, and especially corn planters, cultivators, and shellers. A long stay in Uruguay is not necessary to get the business, but to make sales educational work among the farmers is imperative in cooperation with the small dealers and large importers with a view to establishing better selling organizations in the farming districts.

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**LINEN-TRADE CONDITIONS IN SCOTTISH MARKET.**

[Consul Howard D. Van Sant, Dunfermline, July 18.]

Attention is given to conditions in the linen trade here in recent publications issued in the Dunfermline district. The Edinburgh Scotsman in a review of the trade states:

The movement in linens is not expanding. All the present conditions are conducing to a careful policy on the part of buyers. In some of the important directions demand is much quieter, though at distributing centers there is no surplus of linen goods. There are various grades of linens which New York is short of, and it is admitted that cotton substitutes are employed only when the original fabric is unobtainable. In the matter of price, no relief has come through large shipments of the raw material. Values of the fiber are strongly maintained, and there is only one source of supply as regards the better qualities. Spinners are going along carefully and making only occasional purchases, as the situation scarcely warrants the carrying of large stocks at the prices being charged. It is even argued that the matter of supply will be smaller in the next season. Good tows are wanted, and of tows in general there is now a moderate supply at long prices. Yarns are not meeting with the activity of many past months. Finished yarns have been going at something less in certain qualities.

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**AMERICAN PETROLEUM BREAKS ALL RECORDS.**

The petroleum marketed in the United States in 1915 amounted to 281,104,104 barrels, valued at \$179,462,890. The United States Geological Survey reports that more crude petroleum was marketed in the United States in 1915 than in any previous year in the history of the industry—nearly a 6 per cent increase over that credited to 1914, and about 5 per cent in excess of the estimated total made public by the Geological Survey on January 1. The average price received at the well for this output was 64 cents a barrel.

**FOREIGN COMMERCE OF PHILIPPINES DURING MAY.**

[J. F. Boomer, correspondent, Manila, June 20.]

The feature of the foreign commerce of the Philippine Islands for May, 1916, as compared with the corresponding month of last year, is an increase of nearly 100 per cent in the value of exports. The figures are: For May, 1916, \$7,437,497; for May, 1915, \$4,027,338; balance in favor of May, 1916, \$3,410,159.

Many commodities have shown substantial increases, and several new articles of export which appeared in the commerce for the month were not represented a year ago. The remarkable showing, however, is accounted for principally by the increases shown in the staple products of the islands. Some have resulted from marked development in local production, others are due to transportation and foreign-trade conditions.

Coconut oil is a commodity whose increased exportation seems to be accounted for principally by development in production, though affected to some extent also by ocean-transportation conditions. The production of coconut oil for export originated in a desire to prepare the salable portion of the coconut for the foreign market in the smallest possible bulk to reduce the cost of transportation. With this object in view, one fairly large oil mill has been established in Manila and is being run successfully, while another is now being established in Cebu. The total value of the coconut oil exported during May, 1916, was \$340,766, as against \$144,000 for May, 1915. It is expected that an increasingly large proportion of the coconuts produced in the islands will be marketed as oil in the future.

**Reduced Quantity of Copra Exported.**

While the expansion in the foreign trade in coconut oil was being registered, there was a marked falling off in the quantity of copra exported. The total value of this commodity sold abroad during May, 1915, was \$1,181,424, while that for May, 1916, was only \$151,565. Not all of this difference was due to the fact that more copra is being rendered into oil in the islands now, but a considerable part of it may be attributed to that fact.

A fivefold increase, approximately, is noted in the exports of embroideries over those of the corresponding month last year. The value was \$75,670, as compared with \$15,305 for May, 1915.

Among the more important staples, sugar showed the greatest increase. This was due to two principal factors. The tonnage available during the month was greater than in May of last year, and there was an advance in price. If figures were available they would probably show also an increase in the quantity of sugar harvested. The total value of this commodity shipped during the month was \$2,460,863, a great advance over \$659,810 in the corresponding month last year. This is obviously due in a large measure to temporary conditions, although there has been also an expansion in the industry.

The figures for Manila hemp reflect the larger tonnage available in May, 1916, as well as a healthy condition of the export trade in



that commodity. The values for hemp in May, 1915 and 1916, respectively, were \$1,464,480 and \$3,113,137

**Largely Increased Trade in Maguey Fiber.**

Trade in maguey fiber increased more than 500 per cent, from \$47,833 to \$314,566. The production of this fiber has increased very materially during the year, largely because the plantings heretofore made have just reached the harvesting stage. Much has been done to spread the cultivation of maguey, and planting has been undertaken in many communities. Unless some setback is experienced, the exports of the fiber may be expected to increase materially in the next few years.

Shipments of various tobacco products were greatly in excess of the corresponding shipments for May, 1915, a result of improved shipping facilities. The figures were: May, 1915, \$358,457; May, 1916, \$601,561.

A notable increase was registered by several of the less important articles of export, which in the aggregate helped materially to swell the total of foreign trade. The value of Philippine hats exported was \$35,255, as compared with \$10,827 for May, 1915. A similar increase was noted in knotted hemp, the value of the exports of which was \$46,214, compared with \$10,436 for May of last year.

Philippine rope to the value of \$10,240 was exported, against \$4,912 last year. A modern rope-making plant has been established in Manila recently, and is able to meet more than the local demand with rope of a good grade. Several old-style ropewalks are in operation, but the quality of their product does not compare well with that made by modern machinery.

**Demand for Dyewoods Disclosed by Export Figures.**

Dyewoods were exported to the value of \$5,505. These shipments are due to the shortage of dyestuffs in the world's markets. Practically none of this wood had been exported heretofore. Exports included an unusually large amount of old scrap copper, valued at \$11,106, compared with \$4,842 for May, 1915.

The value of the imports for May was slightly more than for the corresponding month last year. The figures for May, 1915, were \$3,404,579 and those for May, 1916, \$3,613,811.

A small increase was shown in the value of cotton goods imported. For May, 1915, it was \$676,526, and for May, 1916, \$706,351.

There was a slight decline in imports of several food articles, including wheat flour, which fell from \$279,061 to \$199,284. This difference probably does not indicate any considerable variation in the amount consumed, but rather is the result of circumstances, such as the arrival of cargoes, or the failure to arrive within the period under consideration. A similar decrease in the value of meat products was noted, from \$165,807 to \$119,116. On the other hand, the value of dairy products increased to \$56,607 from \$43,081 for May, 1915.

The value of the rice imported during May, 1916, was considerably lower than that for the corresponding month last year. The

amount was \$346,954, compared with \$540,550. The difference is probably accounted for by the improvement in the domestic rice crop.

Nearly half the total trade of the islands for the month was with the United States. The foreign commerce of the Philippine Islands for May, by countries, was:

Countries.	Imports.	Exports.	Total trade.
United States.....	\$1,714,489	\$3,463,822	\$5,178,311
Hawaii.....	17,686	13,450	31,136
Guam.....	.....	9,585	9,585
United Kingdom.....	208,233	2,112,822	2,321,055
Japan.....	354,202	152,090	506,091
China.....	221,863	164,963	386,826
Spain.....	78,744	282,063	360,807
French East Indies.....	343,945	453	345,398
Australasia.....	120,974	184,546	305,520
Hongkong.....	6,618	235,840	242,458
British East Indies.....	142,347	63,462	205,809
France.....	72,919	112,520	185,439
Dutch East Indies.....	154,300	12,032	166,332
Netherlands.....	11,877	244,620	256,497
Switzerland.....	34,281	7,500	41,781
Siam.....	19,867	3,621	23,488
Japanese China.....	20,747	328	21,075
Italy.....	10,016	10,554	20,570
Norway.....	15,444	.....	15,444
Denmark.....	1,118	3,210	4,328
Canada.....	3,520	65	3,585
Germany.....	3,064	.....	3,064
Belgium.....	981	.....	981
Sweden.....	691	.....	692
Austria-Hungary.....	30	.....	30
Other countries.....	406	201,236	201,642
Total, 1916.....	8,558,363	7,279,381	10,837,744
Total, 1915.....	3,404,579	4,027,338	7,431,917

### AMERICAN PRODUCTION OF COTTON GOODS.

The growth of the cotton-goods industry in the United States between 1909 and 1914 is shown by the 1914 census of manufactures, a summary of which has been made public by the Bureau of the Census. Although only one additional establishment was reported at the end of the five-year period, the total value of the products increased 11.6 per cent, and the total cost of the principal materials used increased 18.3 per cent. The industry has been studied in relation to three branches—cotton goods, cotton small wares, and cotton lace goods.

The quantity of raw cotton consumed in the three branches of this industry in 1914 was 2,523,500,837 pounds, as compared with 2,335,344,906 pounds in 1909. The cost of cotton consumed during the later year was \$330,315,223, representing an increase of 20.2 per cent. The proportion which the quantity of foreign cotton formed of the total was 3.6 per cent in 1914 and 3.3 per cent in 1909. The amount of cotton waste purchased as such for use decreased from 80,044,061 pounds in 1909 to 54,116,105 pounds in 1914, and the cost decreased from \$4,225,790 to \$3,542,631. Cotton yarns purchased for consumption showed an increase from 126,707,003 pounds, at a cost of \$34,384,791, in 1909 to 139,482,027 pounds, at a cost of \$39,793,131, in 1914. The quantity of yarns other than cotton purchased for consumption decreased from 5,605,522 pounds to 3,309,277 pounds, or by 41 per cent, but the consumption of fibers other than cotton in-

creased from 1,627,189 pounds to 4,276,476 pounds, or by 162.8 per cent, indicating a tendency on the part of the mills to spin their accessory yarns instead of purchasing them.

Quantities and values of the various products for the two years were:

Products.		1903	1914
Total value.....		\$628,391,813	\$701,152,268
Woven goods.....	square yards	6,267,561,279	6,815,645,683
	value	\$447,167,319	\$488,728,054
Ducks.....	square yards	102,476,322	248,539,379
	value	\$27,485,892	\$47,911,989
Ginghams.....	square yards	537,430,463	489,661,133
	value	\$37,939,040	\$36,706,542
Fancy weaves, total.....	square yards	1,318,765,235	1,422,787,368
	value	\$126,873,133	\$131,813,609
Drills.....	square yards	238,869,407	289,969,885
	value	\$17,750,151	\$21,256,698
Twills, sateens, etc.....	square yards	388,314,961	392,108,735
	value	\$34,274,107	\$32,891,854
All other fancy weaves.....	square yards	691,580,867	740,708,748
	value	\$74,848,875	\$77,665,057
Napped fabrics.....	square yards	305,655,864	263,862,227
	value	\$25,685,367	\$24,352,020
Velvets, corduroys, plushes, etc.....	square yards	19,706,438	29,128,703
	value	\$6,965,634	\$8,540,143
Toweling and terry weaves.....	square yards	52,778,170	75,732,241
	value	\$6,037,075	\$9,805,232
Mosquito netting and similar fabrics.....	square yards	59,100,819	97,981,783
	value	\$2,108,560	\$2,820,524
Bags and bagging.....	square yards	63,107,568	129,357,002
	value	\$4,862,451	\$9,705,616
Tapestries.....	square yards	10,657,385	10,137,710
	value	\$4,723,907	\$5,411,592
All other woven goods.....	square yards	3,737,883,015	4,048,458,137
	value	\$201,481,260	\$211,650,787
Yarns manufactured for sale.....	pounds	470,370,993	497,986,999
	value	\$109,314,953	\$127,363,952
Thread.....	pounds	25,700,357	26,507,023
	value	\$20,516,269	\$22,917,099
Twine.....	pounds	13,715,771	13,284,875
	value	\$2,417,391	\$2,792,125
Cordage and rope.....	pounds	7,603,907	5,515,658
	value	\$1,164,126	\$891,223
Cotton waste not used.....	pounds	310,513,248	317,360,019
	value	\$10,874,386	\$14,421,929
All other products, value.....	value	\$39,936,969	\$44,037,886

\* In addition, cotton goods to the value of \$6,538,130 were produced in 1914 by establishments engaged primarily in other lines of industry.

### TO EXPEDITE RAND MINING SHIPMENTS.

[Consul Edwin N. Gunsaulus, Johannesburg, Union of South Africa, June 28.]

The Transvaal Chamber of Mines, with headquarters at Johannesburg, has dispatched to the United States, on behalf of certain of the mining groups who are members of the central buying committee, a representative of the chamber with a view to expediting shipments of mining machinery and other materials ordered from that country, this precaution being taken on account of the danger of delayed shipments due to the abnormal conditions prevailing. It is not intended that any direct purchases shall be made through this representative, so long as the mines are able to obtain the stocks necessary for their requirements through local merchants and the usual agencies employed, his mission being primarily to facilitate shipments generally.

[The name and address of this representative in the United States can be obtained at the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce or its district offices. Refer to file No. 78965.]

**MINERAL PRODUCTION IN NEW ZEALAND.**

[Consul General Alfred A. Winslow, Auckland, July 1.]

According to statistics given out by the Department of Mines, there was a slight decrease in the mineral production in New Zealand during 1915, which is attributed to the shortage of miners, caused by enlistments in the army.

The value of gold and silver produced during 1915 amounted to \$6,562,422, as compared with \$7,799,291 for 1914. The value of bullion obtained from quartz mines was \$5,015,045 as a result of treating 484,629 tons of ore, and \$746,326 from alluvial claims, as compared with \$765,612 for the year 1914.

The output of coal last year amounted to 2,208,624 tons, compared with 2,275,593 tons during 1914, the latter being a record production.

The value of gold exported during 1915 amounted to \$8,246,542, as compared with \$4,357,304 for 1914. This large increase in exports is accounted for because during quite a portion of 1914 and some of 1915 there was an embargo placed on the exportation of gold, which resulted in quite an accumulation of bullion that found a market in the latter part of 1915, much of it going to the United States.

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**BRANCH OF BANCO NACIONAL ULTRAMARINO FOR PARA.**

[Consul George H. Pickercell, Para, Brazil, July 11.]

The Banco Nacional Ultramarino, the strongest Portuguese financial institution, with headquarters in Lisbon, will open a branch in Para next September. This bank has offices in Rio de Janeiro, Santos, and São Paulo and another is about to be opened in Pernambuco. The operations of the bank were extended to Brazil only about two years ago and, owing to its efficient management, it has been able to secure a commanding position in the Brazilian exchange market. With a Portuguese colony in this city of over 25,000, comprising a most active and enterprising merchant class, there is no doubt that the bank in Para will do an important business and contribute materially toward the development of Portuguese trade with northern Brazil. The writer is informed that it is also proposed to open a branch in Manaus later.

American banks doing business in Brazil should be encouraged by the success that has accompanied the activities of the Banco Nacional Ultramarino.

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**INCREASED RETURNS OF DUTCH FISHERIES.**

[Consul Frank W. Mahin, Amsterdam, Netherlands, July 8.]

The catch of fish brought into Ymuiden, the market at the entrance of the North Sea Canal, realized in June this year the equivalent of \$1,150,000, against \$275,000 in June, 1915, and \$202,000 in the corresponding month of 1914. The total for the first six months of this year was the equivalent of \$4,640,000, against \$2,108,000 and \$1,450,000 in the like periods of 1915 and 1914, respectively.

The great increase this year is due mainly to a larger catch, but higher prices (20 to 30 per cent above those of 1915) have also contributed to the augmented returns.

**AMERICAN CONSULAR OFFICERS ON LEAVE OF ABSENCE.**

The following American consular officers are on leave of absence in the United States and will be glad to confer with business men and commercial organizations relative to conditions in their respective jurisdictions. The consul's time is available primarily for personal interviews. He has limited facilities for correspondence, and except in urgent cases letters should be directed to the consulate.

Name.	Post.	Expira- tion of venue.	Address.
West, George N. ....	Kobé, Japan. ....	Aug. 15	Department of State, Washington, D. C.
Cooke, A. B. ....	Patras, Greece. ....	Aug. 10	121 West Charlotte Street, Norfolk, Va.
Hale, F. D. ....	Huddersfield, England	Sept. 5	Lunenburg, Vt.
Masterson, William W. ....	Durban, Natal, South Africa.	Sept. 1	Carrollton, Ky.
Baker, E. Carlton. ....	Nagasaki, Japan. ....	Aug. 30	Apartment No. 75, The Brunswick, Washington, D. C.
Monaghan, J. C. ....	Kingston, Jamaica. ....	Sept. 1	Avenue A and Fourteenth Street, Ba- yonne, N. J.
Jewell, John F. ....	Chefoo, China. ....	Oct. 1	Department of State, Washington, D. C.
Kemper, Graham H. ....	Erfurt, Germany. ....	Sept. 10	Do.
Gooler, James H. ....	Niagara Falls, Canada. ....	Sept. 1	27 South Hawk Street, Albany, N. Y.
Haseltine, Ross. ....	Port Antonio, Jamaica. ....	Oct. 1	Department of State, Washington, D. C.
Laing, James Oliver. ....	Karachi, India. ....	Sept. 30	C/o University Club, Kansas City, Mo.
Leonard, Walter A. ....	Colombo, Ceylon. ....	Oct. 14	Essex, Iowa.

**BETTER FACILITIES FOR FISHERIES SERVICE IN ALASKA.**

An appropriation of \$20,000, granted by Congress in the sundry civil appropriation act, will enable the United States Bureau of Fisheries to construct some badly needed houses for the natives on the Pribilof Islands. The houses now on the islands are relics of the time before the Government took direct charge, and in many cases are in a deplorable condition and unfit for habitation. It is proposed to build 6 dwellings on St. Paul Island and 5 on St. George, each to consist of 4 or 5 rooms. Some of the dwellings whose condition warrants the expenditure will be repaired and enlarged, more sanitary outbuildings will be provided, additional storehouses and workshops will be constructed, water will be supplied to each village, the hospital on St. Paul will be repaired, and various other much-needed improvements will be undertaken.

Another item of interest in the bill is an appropriation of \$10,000 for the purchase or construction of two motor boats for the fisheries inspection service in Alaska. The acquisition of these boats will very materially increase the efficiency of the work of the bureau in that Territory.

**OFFICES OF THE BUREAU OF FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC COMMERCE.****DISTRICT OFFICES.**

**NEW YORK:** Room 409, Customhouse.  
**BOSTON:** 18th floor, Customhouse.  
**CHICAGO:** 504 Federal Building.  
**ST. LOUIS:** 402 Third National Bank Building.  
**ATLANTA:** 521 Post Office Building.  
**NEW ORLEANS:** 1020 Milburnia Bank Building.  
**SAN FRANCISCO:** 307 Customhouse.  
**SEATTLE:** 849 Henry Building.

**COOPERATIVE OFFICES.**

**CLEVELAND:** Chamber of Commerce.  
**CINCINNATI:** Chamber of Commerce.  
**CINCINNATI:** C., N. O. & T. P. Ry. Co.  
**LOS ANGELES:** Chamber of Commerce.  
**DETROIT:** Board of Commerce.  
**PHILADELPHIA:** Chamber of Commerce.  
**CHATTANOOGA:** South American Agent, South-  
 ern Ry. Co.

## FOREIGN TRADE OPPORTUNITIES.

Reserved addresses may be obtained from the Bureau and its district offices. Request for each opportunity should be on a separate sheet and state opportunity number. The Bureau does not furnish credit ratings or assume responsibility as to the standing of foreign inquirers; the usual precautions should be taken in all cases.

*Machinery*, No. 22065.—A firm in Russia desires to communicate with manufacturers of machinery for making asbestos shingles and cement tile roofing.

*Enameled ware, glassware, etc.*, No. 22066.—An American consular officer in Africa writes that a firm in his district is in the market for enameled kitchen ware and plates, a cheap line of glass tumblers, and lamps and lamp chimneys. Cable address should be given.

*Chemicals and dyestuffs*, No. 22067.—A chemist in the United Kingdom asks the Bureau to place him in communication with manufacturers and exporters of chemicals and dyestuffs, with a view to securing the general representation.

*Machinery*, No. 22068.—An American consular officer in the West Indies reports that a company in his district contemplates installing some new ice-making machinery and entering into the business of manufacturing cottonseed meal and cottonseed oil. Communication with manufacturers of the requisite machinery and equipment is desired.

*Pest exterminator, etc.*, No. 22069.—An American consular officer in Australia transmits the name of a man in his district who is desirous of entering into commercial relations with American manufacturers and exporters of an effective pest exterminator, and also of perfumes. References.

*Hoes*, No. 22070.—An American consular officer in Brazil reports a possible market in his district for two, two and a half, and three pound hoes. The name and address of an interested firm and further information may be obtained from the Bureau or its district offices. Samples of the hoes may also be inspected at those offices. (Refer to file No. 77500.)

*Wearing apparel, etc.*, No. 22071.—A commercial agent of the Bureau reports that a business man from Greece, who is now in the United States, desires to represent American manufacturers and exporters of satins, underwear, hosiery, cotton oils, oleo oil, corn oil, cornstarch, starch, glucose, flours, beer malt, box-calf leather, kid skins, soap, linoleums, and oilcloth. References.

*Roofing materials*, No. 22072.—An American consular officer in Central America writes that a man in his district desires information and quotations on asbestos shingles. Correspondence in Spanish.

*Machinery, etc.*, No. 22073.—A commercial agent of the Bureau in South Africa writes that a large corporation in that territory desires information and prices on orange-grading machines, small gas tractors for orchard cultivation equipped to burn alcohol, sprayers for orange orchards, boxwood to pack oranges for export, and any machinery suitable for orange culture and for the preparation of the crop for export.

*Drying kilns, etc.*, No. 22074.—A commission merchant in South America requests the name of a manufacturer of a kiln for drying a ton of copra in six hours or less. Communication is also desired with contractors or direct purchasers of coconuts.

*Piece goods*, No. 22075.—A commercial agent of the Bureau in Japan writes that a tailoring establishment, using American styles, desires to receive samples of piece goods.

*Hides and skins*, No. 22076.—A broker in Canada handling hides and calfskins requests the Bureau to place him in touch with American firms interested in extending their business in that country. References.

*Haberdashery, etc.*, No. 22077.—An American consular officer in the Netherlands reports that an agent in that country wishes to represent, on a commission basis, American manufacturers of women's cotton and woolen dress goods, hosiery, underwear of all kinds, buttons, cotton laces, men's furnishings, etc. Correspondence in English. Reference.

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1916

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## LICENSES TO IMPORT ORANGES INTO GREAT BRITAIN.

[Cablegram from American consul general, London, Aug. 7.]

Owners and charterers of ships who desire to forward oranges from the United States to the United Kingdom should apply for license not later than August 25.

[A notice regarding the import restrictions on oranges in Great Britain was published in COMMERCE REPORTS for Aug. 8.]

## FRENCH TRADE FOR SIX MONTHS.

[Cablegram from American consulate general at Paris, dated Aug. 7.]

The total value of the foreign trade of France, exclusive of gold and silver, for the first six months of 1916 was \$1,192,104,451, against \$963,315,496 for the corresponding period in 1915. The imports were valued at \$860,598,194, compared with \$690,079,799, and the exports amounted to \$331,506,257, against \$273,235,697. The imports and exports were as follows, by classes:

Articles.	Imports.		Exports.	
	Jan.-June, 1915.	Jan.-June, 1916.	Jan.-June, 1915.	Jan.-June, 1916.
Food products.....	\$198,660,304	\$233,119,103	\$55,095,710	\$42,559,974
Industrial materials.....	278,567,515	373,372,833	59,597,809	67,116,138
Manufactures.....	212,851,980	249,106,263	144,443,323	199,076,219
Postal packages.....			15,099,355	22,753,923
Total.....	690,079,799	860,598,194	273,235,097	331,503,257

The value of the imports from the United States during the first six months of 1916 was \$232,188,264 against \$201,631,153 for the corresponding period in 1915, and the exports to the United States were valued at \$47,696,669 against \$37,483,302.

## **ECONOMIC CONDITIONS IN SWITZERLAND.**

[Consul Walter H. Schulz, Berne, July 12.]

The commission charged by the Swiss Government to render a report on the economic situation of the country has finished its labors. It reports that the importation of grains in 1915 was satisfactory and praises the Swiss Department of Agriculture for the efficient manner in which the foodstuff situation has been handled throughout the country.

Little or nothing is said of the 1916 situation and prospects, but during the debate in Parliament that followed the presentation of the committee's report it was shown that in the first quarter of 1916 there was a deficit of 80 per cent in the importation of foodstuffs as compared with January-March, 1913. Meat imports declined from 2,480 short tons to 2,314, while imports of cattle and sheep ceased altogether. Fodder declined from 71,650 short tons to 11,574; receipts of fats were 60 per cent less.

### **Grain and Sugar Imported.**

The high level of imports was reached in August, 1915, but by December the nation's supply of grain had dwindled by half, despite constantly arriving shipments at French and Italian ports. The absence of rolling stock in the latter countries was responsible for this decline, it is declared. From August, 1914, until the end of December, 1915, it is shown that the Swiss bought 117 steamer loads of wheat, 19 of oats, 18 of corn, 3 of barley, and 2,500 cars (10 tons each) of oil cakes. Until the end of December, 1915, the Swiss had paid \$48,057,000 for grain. In the interval between November, 1914, and December, 1915, the price of wheat rose from \$2.65 to \$3.30 per 100 pounds; flour, from \$3.55 to \$4; clover, from \$1.05 to \$1.40; and corn, from \$2 to \$2.25.

In the spring of 1915, 3,270 carloads of sugar were bought in Austria in anticipation of a sugar shortage in this country, but thus far only one-half has been delivered, as Austria is withholding the balance until certain goods are exchanged by Switzerland in compensation for the sugar. Owing to the unstable character of the world's sugar market and the indisposition on the part of Swiss sugar dealers to buy, the Government entered the market and bought considerable quantities in Holland, America, and the Dutch Indies.

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## **JAPANESE CAMPAIGN TO WIN RUSSIAN MARKETS.**

[American Ambassador David R. Francis, Petrograd, Russia, July 1.]

An article has been published in the *Novoe Vremya* on "Japanese goods for the Russian market," and a translation of this article has been prepared. The writer states:

Japanese merchants, adapting their merchandise to the demands of the Russian traders, are studying the Russian household in every detail. A few days ago, for instance, some boots appeared on sale, of Russian shape, for the use of the populace, accompanied by a bottle of shoe polish.

Now the Japanese are selling harmoniums of hand-made Nagasaki manufacture.

There seems nothing more remaining for the Japanese to manufacture for the Russian market.



**AMERICAN TRAINING FOR FRENCH COMMERCIAL STUDENTS.**

[Commercial Attaché C. W. A. Veditz, Paris, France, July 14.]

It is generally recognized in both France and the United States that one of the greatest needs, in the development of foreign trade, is that of providing commercial education which not only shall be sound pedagogically, but in which emphasis shall be placed upon practical usefulness. With a view to discussing, in a preliminary way, the possibility of devising a practicable scheme for the interchange of students of commerce between France and the United States, I last week called a meeting of persons (both Frenchmen and Americans) interested in the subject of commercial education. Among those present were the Paris representatives of some of the largest exporting and importing firms of the United States and the representatives of several French organizations of manufacturers and merchants and of the University of Paris and other educational institutions.

It was suggested at the conference that, while the two countries now exchange professors, possibly greater benefits would accrue from an exchange of students who intend to make foreign trade their career. A committee representing both countries was appointed to draw up a tentative plan; and this committee desires most earnestly to be placed in touch with American manufacturers or dealers actively interested in this question, and especially with trade organizations likely to give serious attention to the general subject of training young men along practical lines in connection with the promotion of foreign trade. For the present the chairman of the committee is the Commercial Attaché of the United States (address: 36 Avenue de l'Opera) at Paris.

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**DISCOVERY OF NEW DIAMOND FIELDS IN TRANSVAAL.**

[Consul Edwin N. Gunsaulus, Johannesburg, Transvaal, Union of South Africa, June 19.]

Considerable interest is manifested in a report of the discovery of a new diamond field in the Transvaal, about 6 miles distant from the famous Premier diamond mine and 18 miles from Pretoria. It is stated that the initial finds were exceptionally good, and there has been a rush of diggers to this new diamondiferous ground, which is on the farm Kamselfontein. One of the owners has cut up his section into plots 15 by 20 feet, which he lets out to diggers at \$10 per month each.

De Volkstem, published at Pretoria, states that in the course of three weeks a few diggings have sold \$1,500 worth of diamonds. It is said that one man brought to light 31 diamonds in two washings, and as far as known only one washing thus far has produced a blank. About 40 acres of ground have been wired in and given out in claims. During the week just passed 40 claim licenses have been issued.

The Government mining engineer has not yet visited the ground, and it will likely be some time before anything official can be made public. While diamonds are admitted to have been found, there are at present no data as to the extent or payability of the diamond-bearing area. The undertaking as it stands to-day is described as of a purely private and speculative character.

## AMERICAN CAPITAL SOUGHT FOR MALAY RUBBER.

[Consul Harry Campbell, detailed as Vice Consul, Singapore, Straits Settlements, June 9.]

A British mining engineer employed in tin mines of the Federated Malay States called at the American consulate to discuss the possibility of interesting American capital in the rubber industry of the Malay Peninsula. In view of the large profits that are now being earned by the rubber plantations, and the strong optimism of planters generally as to the future of the industry, the engineer mentioned earnestly desires to communicate with any persons in the United States who might be interested in a rubber-plantation project. One of the leading rubber-manufacturing companies of the United States has already invested large sums in plantations in this vicinity.

### Shows Some Recent Tendencies in Industry.

Besides seeking to get in touch with American investors, this mining engineer has sent to the American consulate a statement on the subject of rubber planting in the Malay Peninsula, in which he shows some recent tendencies in the industry. In part he stated:

Formerly as many trees as possible were crammed into an acre. It is now realized that it costs as much to tap a small tree as a large one, but that in the latter case more rubber is obtained from the expenditure. The older estates are now spending money in removing rubber trees from their overcrowded plantations. The main effect in the future of wide planting will be a diminution of producing costs.

In future estates with less than 100 trees per acre will be planted. It is anticipated that a lower number of trees per acre will not diminish the yield per acre. The yield, independent of the size and condition of the trees, is modified by the tapping. Without overtapping, this yield may be estimated as 200 pounds per acre in the fifth year, increasing considerably in subsequent years. The capital required to bring an estate into bearing is not required all at once. About 40 per cent is needed in the first year, the remainder being spread over the last three years.

The selling value of rubber in five years time is an unknown quantity and is the factor of uncertainty in the investment. A figure of 2 shillings (\$0.49) a pound seems, however, a rational one to assume, as the Brazilian supply can not, it is understood be produced for a lower figure, and this price is a sufficiently low one to increase the demand.

The engineer mentioned may be communicated with through the consulate general at Singapore.

The Federated Malay States Government Gazette of June 9, 1916, gives comparative figures of the exportation of cultivated rubber from the Federated Malay States for May, 1916, for five months of the year, and for a similar period in the preceding year. These figures are:

Destinations.	Exported during May, 1916.	Previously.	Total export during the year.	Export during similar period of previous year.
	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.
Straits Settlements.....	3,080.26	12,644.89	15,724.95	16,486.23
United Kingdom.....	585.46	4,811.76	5,397.23	5,045.24
Continent of Europe.....				8.00
Ceylon.....	31.93	304.34	336.27	264.01
Other countries.....	257.31	229.67	514.38	66.07
Total.....	3,955.96	18,021.76	22,977.73	18,767.55

**Other Products of Federated Malay States.**

Figures relating to other exports from the Federal Malay States are given in the Government Gazette for May 19, 1916. Those for tin cover the month of April and the period from January to April, compared with the corresponding period in the preceding year. Exports of gold and wolfram also are shown.

The exports of tin during April in piculs of 133½ pounds each were: Block tin, 5,629, compared with 4,743 in April, 1915; tin ore, 47,737, compared with 56,063; total tin, 53,366, compared with 60,806. The statement for January to April was: Block tin, 26,188, compared with 24,097; tin ore, 218,438, compared with 235,411; total tin, 244,626, compared with 259,508.

The exports of wolfram for April amounted to 495 piculs, and for four months to 1,899 piculs, compared with 1,106 piculs in the corresponding period last year. The exports of gold were 1,199 ounces for April, and 5,762 ounces for four months of the year.

[A comprehensive report on the rubber industry of the Malay Peninsula was published in COMMERCE REPORTS for June 21, 1916.]

**DELAY IN MAIL FROM UNITED STATES TO CHILE.**

[Consul General L. J. Keena, Valparaiso, Chile, July 8.]

There has been serious delay in the arrival of mail from New York ever since the middle of May. Letters dated in New York as late as May 16 were received in Valparaiso on June 16; the next mail, which arrived July 1, brought letters dated May 27; but to date, July 8, no letters have been received from the United States which were mailed after May 28.

A New York mail is due to arrive in Valparaiso to-morrow, and the fact that a goodly proportion of this mail has been 40 days or more in transit has given rise to many complaints on the part of local business houses trading with the United States. They suggest that if mail-carrying arrangements could be made with some of the freight steamers which are now reaching Chilean ports in 16 to 18 days from Atlantic ports of the United States American mail could be landed in Chile with a great saving of time. The present average time for mail from New York to Valparaiso is 26 to 28 days.

**COTTON SHIPMENTS.**

The cotton exported during the week ended August 5, 1916, at the 12 principal customs districts of the United States was as follows:

Districts.	Bales.	Districts.	Bales.	Districts.	Bales.
Georgia.....	1,455	Philadelphia.....	32	San Francisco.....	829
Massachusetts.....	1,049	South Carolina.....		Washington.....	20,831
Maryland.....	500	Virginia.....	6,335		
New York.....	19,902	Galveston.....	16,118	Total.....	94,309
North Carolina.....		New Orleans.....	27,258		

The export of 94,309 bales of cotton during the past week makes the total since August 1, 1915, approximately 6,138,707 bales. Exports of cotton for the corresponding periods of the preceding year were, respectively, 37,484 bales for the week, and 8,548,051 bales in the cotton year.

**MAXIMUM SHOE PRICES IN RUSSIA.**

[Commercial Attaché W. B. Huntington, Petrograd.]

The following table shows the maximum prices in Russia for the retail sale of footwear, machine and hand made. The sizes are given according to the French system. The current exchange value of the ruble is about \$0.31; at par the value is \$0.515.

Kinds of shoes.	Men's 39-45, 17½ in. high.	Boys' 35-38, 11½ in. high.	Wom- en's, 23-25.	Misses', 21-25.	Child- ren's, 27-30.	Infants.	
						22-24.	17-21.
<b>High shoes:</b>							
Of colored kid, chrome, grained calf, patent leather, chamois, black or colored, and other similarly priced materials not separately mentioned, with leather or rubber soles, laced, buttoned, clasped, etc.—	Rubles. 23.00	Rubles. 20.00	Rubles. 20.50	Rubles. 13.75	Rubles. 12.00	Rubles. 10.00	Rubles. 7.50
Welted.....	22.60	19.00	19.80	13.00			
Nailed.....							
Of black kid, chrome, grained calf, patent leather, and other similarly priced materials not separately mentioned, with leather or rubber soles, clasped, buttoned, etc.—							
Welted.....	21.00	18.25	18.80				
Nailed.....	20.00	17.50	17.80	12.50	11.00	9.80	6.80
Of morocco, calf, grained horsehide, and other similarly priced materials not separately mentioned, with leather or rubber soles, clasped, buttoned, etc.—							
Welted.....	17.00	15.25	15.75	11.50	10.00	8.00	5.80
Nailed.....	16.00	14.50					
Of canvas, tarpaulin, and other similar materials, with leather or rubber soles, laced, buttoned, clasped.....							
Welted or nailed.....	19.00	9.00	9.00	7.80	6.50	5.50	4.00
<b>Low shoes:</b>							
Of colored kid, chrome, grained calf, patent leather, chamois, and other similarly priced materials not separately mentioned, with leather or rubber soles, laced, buttoned, clasped, etc.—	21.80	18.50	19.00	13.00	11.50	9.50	7.00
Welted.....	20.50	17.50	18.00				
Nailed.....							
Of black kid, chrome, grained calf, patent leather, and other similarly priced materials not separately mentioned, with leather or rubber soles, clasped, buttoned, etc.—	19.50	16.75	17.30	11.75	10.50	8.50	6.30
Welted.....	18.50	16.00	16.80				
Nailed.....							
Of morocco, calf, grained horsehide, and other similarly priced materials not separately mentioned, with rubber or leather soles, clasped, buttoned, etc.—	15.50	13.75	12.25	10.75	9.50	7.50	5.30
Welted.....	14.50	13.00					
Nailed.....							
Of canvas, tarpaulin, prunella cloth, and similar materials, with leather or rubber soles, laced, buttoned, clasped, etc.—							
Welted or nailed.....	9.00	9.00	8.00	6.50	5.50	4.80	3.00

\* Sizes 32, 34, and 35, with high heels (not lower than 2½ centimeters), will be considered women's sizes; with lower heels, misses' sizes.

**Maximum Prices for Boots and Slippers.**

The maximum prices of boots are fixed as follows: Men's high boots, of kid, chrome, patent leather, grained kid, and other similarly priced materials not separately mentioned, 36 rubles if nailed and

38 rubles if welted; of dressed calfskin and other similarly priced materials not separately mentioned, 25 rubles if nailed and 26 rubles if welted; of cow or horse hide, welted or nailed, 14.60 rubles; of horsehide with horsehide soles, welted or nailed, 12.50 rubles; men's short boots, two-seamed, of all sorts of leather, welted or nailed, 17 rubles; boys' high boots, of kid, chrome, patent leather, grained kid, etc., 24 rubles if nailed and 26 rubles if welted; of dressed calfskin, etc., 16.50 rubles if nailed and 18 rubles if welted; boys' high boots of cow or horse hide, nailed or welted, and of horsehide, with horsehide soles, nailed or welted, and boys' short boots, two-seamed, of all sorts of leather, nailed or welted, are to be sold at prices not higher than those of shoes of corresponding qualities. Women's and children's boots are to be sold at prices not higher than those of shoes of corresponding qualities. Open slippers are to sell at 1 ruble per pair less than low shoes of corresponding qualities and sizes.

#### Details of Regulations.

The price of footwear of different materials is governed by the price of footwear of the inferior material. The regulations quoted apply both to domestic and imported footwear. The sale of footwear, of any description whatever, at prices higher than those prescribed by the regulations is prohibited, and a copy of the regulations must be posted in every establishment trading in footwear. Individuals guilty of violating these regulations are subject to penalty provided for by article 6 of the laws of October 19, 1915, and may be imprisoned for a period not exceeding one year and four months.

### PERNAMBUCO NEEDS MONEY FOR PUBLIC WORKS.

[Commercial Attaché William C. Downs, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.]

The annual message of the governor of the State of Pernambuco, Brazil, calls attention to urgent need of the employment of capital in improving the conditions of some of the suburbs of the capital. The following are extracts from his message:

This city demands improvements indispensable for its hygiene and its habitability. Large suburbs are swampy and unhealthy, and in these localities surrounded by water are innumerable houses occupied by an enormous population of poor people who live there and create a generation which from the beginning is weak and condemned to death by the unsanitary conditions in which it is born and lives. Laws must be enacted conferring on those who fill up these swamps and build on the ground favors beyond the exemption from building taxes and grants of property. Other concessions must be granted for a certain period, such as the water supply and drainage. Laws must be considered, therefore, to protect the rights of owners, to facilitate the collection of rents, dispossession of negligent tenants, and likewise protection against damage to property by careless occupants.

The realization of these material improvements will not be possible with the proceeds of the State revenue. Our present situation is as follows: The revenue we collect amounts to 14,000 contos (about \$3,360,000), out of which nearly 12,000 (about \$2,880,000) are for paying government employees and interest on the internal and external debts. The remaining 2,000 (about \$480,000) are expended in material for public works, etc., and will be totally absorbed by the small difference in exchange with which we have to count when remitting funds to Europe. This is our actual position. At the present time we collect taxes and give the money to the government employees and to the holders of our securities. The Government will have to negotiate a loan guaranteeing the interest, if it wants to make these improvements, or else it will have to levy a new tax.

**LABOR AND INDUSTRY ON VANCOUVER ISLAND.**

[Consul R. B. Mosher, Victoria, British Columbia, Canada, July 28.]

Labor conditions in the building trades and unskilled branches on Vancouver Island continue unchanged, while in nearly all the metal trades work is brisk, with fair prospects for the immediate future. All outside employees of the city will be placed on full time, and the alternative-shift system, which has been in force since last September, has been abolished. The Saanich municipal council has refused the request of the outside laborers for an increase in wages from \$2.25 to \$2.75 per eight-hour day. The latter figure was the rate paid prior to the war. Wholesale and retail merchants report business very quiet, with little demand for anything except the actual necessities of life.

The salmon-canning industry will soon be in full swing on the northern British Columbia coast, and indications are that there will be increased activity this year, as at least two canneries which have been idle for two years are to resume operations.

**Nanaimo Coal Mines Working Full Time.**

The coal mines at Nanaimo have been working full time, but elsewhere on the island conditions are less favorable, especially at Cumberland, where provision was made several years ago to increase the output. Fuel oil from California has reduced the local sales of Vancouver Island coal considerably. Less bunker coal for deep-sea vessels is sold, because fewer ships are calling and because vessels sailing through the Panama Canal can get better bunker coal at better prices on the Atlantic seaboard of the United States.

The sawmills of the district are working steadily, but not to capacity. Logging camps are for the most part running at full time. The domestic demand for lumber is better than was expected. Deep-sea orders can not be filled on account of lack of tonnage and exorbitant shipping rates.

In British Columbia agricultural districts operations are favorable on the whole, although the season was considerably later than last year. No serious shortage of labor was reported. The Prairie Provinces are calling on this Province for men to harvest the wheat crop.

**"EMPIRE-MADE GOODS" THE SLOGAN IN AUCKLAND.**

[Consul General Alfred A. Winslow, Auckland, New Zealand, July 3.]

A campaign for Empire-made goods for this country has been started in this part of New Zealand, and is likely to spread all over the Dominion. It may have far-reaching effects, if it meets with sufficient encouragement.

The Auckland Provincial Industrial Association has taken the matter in hand, and a committee has been appointed to organize the work in Auckland, with the idea of securing the cooperation of all merchants, manufacturers, storekeepers, and others in carrying into effect an attractive demonstration in favor of Empire-made products. It is proposed to distribute patriotic posters emphasizing the need for patriotic purchasing, and displaying miniature posters and advertisements in shop windows, and distributing them to the homes of the city. The financing of this scheme, which is expected to cost from \$4,000 to \$5,000, is to be taken over by the merchants and manufacturers of the city.

**PHILIPPINES TO GUARD QUALITY OF TOBACCO.**

[J. F. Boomer, correspondent, Manila, June 27.]

The collector of internal revenue for the Philippine Islands postponed until August 1, 1916, the date on which the regulations governing the inspection of tobacco in the islands should become effective. The law was passed by the last legislature and provides for an official inspection of all tobacco to be exported from the islands.

Improvement of the methods of production and the quality of tobacco in the Philippines and development of the export trade are sought by this law. The enforcement of its provisions is placed in the hands of the collector of internal revenue, but it is provided also that the Director of Agriculture shall cooperate with the collector in all that relates to the production of tobacco and the improvement of its quality.

To promote the growing of a better grade of the product and more of it, the Director of Agriculture is given the power to regulate the planting, the kind of seed to be used, and the methods of cultivation and curing.

The Director of Agriculture may, whenever he deems it necessary, order the purchase and distribution of seed from well-developed tobacco plants. This seed must be thoroughly cleaned, and must be distributed gratuitously by the agents of the Bureau of Agriculture, care being taken that the distribution is made impartially and proportionately among the growers.

All curing of the leaf must be done in a building or curing shed constructed in accordance with specifications issued by the Director of Agriculture. This provision is applicable only to growers who raise tobacco for the market, and not exclusively for their own consumption. To facilitate compliance with this provision the Director of Forestry is obliged to issue free of charge to any tobacco producer a license to cut timber of the first group for the purpose of constructing drying or curing sheds in conformity with the official specifications. This provision for gratuitous license to cut timber is to last for three years.

**Special Inspectors to be Chosen from Provinces.**

To comply with the obligations laid upon it by this act, the Bureau of Agriculture is provided with special inspectors for the tobacco Provinces. They are not to be subject to the rules of the civil service, and shall not receive more than \$50 per month, with the provision of \$1 per day for service outside the municipalities in which they may be officially stationed. Such inspectors are to be chosen, so far as possible, from the Provinces in which they are to serve, and must be persons of "great influence and proven knowledge in matters relating to the planting and production of tobacco." Their pay will also include their actual and necessary traveling expenses.

As a further means of stimulating the production of the best tobacco, the Director of Agriculture is authorized to classify planters as first and second class, and to grant diplomas to growers for the excellence of product.

In order to find means for combating the pests and diseases that afflict the growing plants and the harvested product, the collector is authorized to announce contests for the discovery of remedies for

diseases, and methods of eradicating the pests, and to pay out of a special fund rewards to discoverers of inventors of such means.

The law also provides that no leaf or manufactured tobacco shall be exported from the Philippines to the United States until it shall have been inspected by the collector of internal revenue or his agents and found to be of the standard established for export. The provisions of the law are not applicable to waste and refuse tobacco when it is invoiced and marked as such. The act seems to be directed primarily toward giving Philippine tobacco a good standing in the market of the United States, for the section prohibiting exports of tobacco that shall not have been examined and approved by the collector of internal revenue specifically mentions the United States as the place of destination, although a provision forbidding collectors of customs to permit the exportation of tobacco uninspected is general and mentions no destination.

#### **Authority Covers Tobacco for Domestic Sale.**

The collector of internal revenue also has authority to make regulations governing the classification, marking, and packing of the product for domestic sale. He may require inspection of, and the affixing of inspection labels to, tobacco before it can be removed from the Province of its origin to another Province.

To make the inspections and classifications, special agents may be employed or the ordinary agents of the bureau may be used. A schedule of fees for the work is established, and it is provided that these fees shall constitute funds for defraying the expenses of inspection, for promoting, in various ways, the production of better tobacco in the Philippines and for providing prizes and rewards to be given those who discover means of eradicating tobacco pests.

To promote trade in Philippine tobacco in and with the United States, it is provided in the law that the collector of internal revenue shall appoint not more than two agents in the United States, whose duty it shall be to inspect shipments of tobacco upon their arrival in that country, when required or requested so to do, and to assist manufacturers, exporters, and dealers in tobacco in disseminating information regarding the Philippine product. Such agents, when requested, are also to act as arbitrators between the exporters in the Philippines and the importers in the United States in disputes arising between as to quality, sizes, classes, or shapes shipped or received. When acting as arbitrators, the agents are to be governed by the law relating to arbitration and award in the locality where the dispute arises.

Whenever cigars or cigarettes bearing the standard inspection label required by the law, arrive in the United States in a worm-eaten, musty or moldy condition, or become worm-eaten within 60 days after arrival in the United States, the agent is to inspect such cigars or cigarettes at the request of the importer or dealer, and cause them to be reconditioned if practicable; if not, and the importer or dealer so desires, they are to be returned to the Philippines. The expenses incurred in reconditioning the shipment or in transporting back to the Philippine Islands is to be borne by the Insular Government out of the fund created by the fees charged for inspections.



**Classified by Provinces and Grades.**

The regulations provide that all tobacco shall be first classified according to the Province of its origin. That from the Province of Isabela shall be known as "Isabela tobacco," and so on throughout the Provinces on the Island of Luzon. The tobacco grown or produced south of the San Bernardino Strait shall be known as "tobacco of the Visayas." This classification designates the groups to which the tobacco belongs. Within each group there are six classes—first, second, third, fourth, fifth, and sixth. All except the sixth are determined by two tests—the length of the leaf and its soundness.

Leaf tobacco to be classified as first class must be not less than 41.5 centimeters in length (centimeter=0.39 inch); that of the second class not less than 32.5 centimeters; of the third class not less than 23 centimeters; and of the fourth class, not less than 16 centimeters. Leaf tobacco having a length less than 16 centimeters shall be classified as fifth or sixth class. A margin of one centimeter is allowed for each class.

From the standpoint of soundness no tobacco shall be classified as first class, no matter what the length of the leaf, if the leaf is broken or worm-eaten to the extent of more than 10 per cent; tobacco of the length for second class, if broken or worm-eaten to the extent of more than 15 per cent; that of the third class, if broken or worm-eaten more than 20 per cent. Tobacco having the requisite length for first or second class, and too much broken or worm-eaten to be passed under either first or second class may be classified under No. 4, if it be not broken or worm-eaten more than 50 per cent. Tobacco that may not be placed under any of the classes mentioned, no matter what its length of leaf, may be classified as No. 5, if it be not broken or worm-eaten more than 10 per cent. It is presumed that tobacco of the fifth class will be made up principally of suckers. Class No. 6 will include all other tobacco that may not be included in any of the higher grades. The first, second, third, and fourth classes only will be regarded as standard and permitted to be exported to the United States.

The regulations provide a procedure by which the person presenting tobacco for inspection may protest against anything that he considers injustice or error in making the inspection.

[A brief statement of the Philippine tobacco-inspection law was published in *COMMERCE REPORTS* for Feb. 14, 1916.]

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**NUMBER OF JAPANESE MERCHANT SHIPS.**

[Vice Consul M. D. Kirjasoff, Yokohama, July 6.]

The monthly report of the Imperial Japanese Department of Communications, as published in the Official Gazette of July 2, 1916, gives the number of seaworthy vessels in Japan as 2,146, with a total tonnage of 1,627,103. Of these, 431 are ocean traders of more than 1,000 tons each. The numbers according to tonnage are: Above 10,000 tons, 5; between 9,000 and 10,000, 6; between 7,000 and 9,000, 12; between 6,000 and 7,000, 12; between 5,000 and 6,000, 30; between 4,000 and 5,000, 28; between 3,000 and 4,000, 86; between 2,000 and 3,000, 126; between 1,000 and 2,000, 126; total, 431.

**CONSTRUCTION WORK IN ARGENTINA.**

[Consul William Dawson, jr., Rosario, June 7.]

**Water Supply at Catamarca.**

The Direction of Sanitary Works has approved a project for improving the water supply of the city of Catamarca.

At present the water is brought from the intake in the Arroyo del Tala at a distance of 4.7 miles by means of an intake conduit 550 millimeters (21.65 inches) in diameter and 2.5 miles in length to the mouth of the Quebrada del Tala, and from there by a direct supply conduit 175 millimeters (6.89 inches) in diameter and 2.2 miles in length. The distribution system at Catamarca consists of an open deposit with a capacity of 916 cubic yards and 17.4 miles of pipe supplying 94 blocks. This system has certain defects which make the supply irregular and maintenance costly. The principal defect is the intake, which consists of a gallery 367 feet long at a depth of 13 feet. In the river bed are two artificial filters which are usually choked up by the spring torrents, thus limiting the water supply during the summer.

The new project provides for a superficial intake from which the water is to be carried to a clearing chamber constructed of masonry with a capacity of 490 cubic yards. A new filtering plant and deposit will be constructed in the vicinity of the city. It will have three filters with 718 square yards of filtering surface, two of which will suffice to furnish 6,540 cubic yards of filtered water in 24 hours. The third will be held in reserve for use while the others are being cleaned. From the filters the water will be carried to a reservoir having a capacity of 6,540 cubic yards which will regulate the distribution and feed the existing deposit mentioned above. By forcing the filters a supply of over 10,000 cubic yards in 24 hours could be obtained. The distribution system will be extended to 70 blocks not included at present.

**Ports and Inland Waterways—Commissions of Upper and Lower Parana.**

The Minister of Public Works has approved the general plans submitted by the Director General of Hydraulic Works covering its principal activities in 1916. The plans comprise the following work in the Rosario consular district:

In addition to their usual duties as respects hydrographic studies, publication of notices, and maintenance of existing waterways and improvements, these commissions are charged with the following works:

Preparation of plans for canalizing the Victoria and San Javier Rivers and various works in the ports of Diamante, Victoria, Paraná, Villa Urquiza, Curtiembre, Pueblo Brugo, Esquina, and Corrientes. Dredging work in the ports of Bella Vista and Empedrado and at Rosario; appropriation, \$6,369. Completion of the building of the commission of the Lower Paraná and erection of a warehouse for storing iron at Paraná; appropriation, \$29,722. Additional works in port of Paraná; appropriation, \$12,738. Port of Corrientes: Completion of 25 meters (82 feet) of dock under construction and construction of 10 meters (32.8 feet) in addition; erection of a shed; execution of sanitary works and foundations of a building for the commission; purchase of a pile driver; total appropriation, \$42,460.

**Canal Piaggio and Diamante:** Maintenance of a depth of 4 feet in the entrance to Victoria; repairing docks at Diamante; appropriation, \$25,476.

**Commission of the Uruguay River.**

Owing to economies introduced in the budget, dredging work will have to be reduced. In addition to hydrographic studies of a general nature and maintenance work, the program of the commission includes the following: Port of Gualaguaychu: Purchase of a crane (for which a tender has already been accepted); laying of track for same; repairing existing tracks; paving operation, \$8,492. This will complete all port works authorized at Colon. Port of Concordia: Laying railway tracks; paving streets; miscellaneous details; appropriation, \$12,738. This will complete all port works authorized at Concordia. Port of Concepcion del Uruguay: Work on streets and power plant; putting up a warehouse (413 by 49 feet) furnished by the Ministry of Finance from the port of Buenos Aires; appropriation, \$29,722.

**Commission of the Bermejo River.**

Owing to economies introduced in the budget, the personnel under the commission of the Bermejo River has been reduced. Among other duties, this commission is regularly charged with clearing the banks of the Bermejo River and extracting from the river bed roots and logs which obstruct navigation. It maintains workshops and deposits where vessels can secure wood fuel. Of its four telegraph offices, only those at Puerto Bermejo and Kilometer 300 will be kept open this year. The new work of the commission during 1916 is practically confined to the construction of steel bodies for two lighters and the surveying necessary for an agricultural colony projected at Kilometer 467 of the Bermejo River.

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### SIAMESE GOVERNMENT SAVINGS BANK.

[Vice Consul Carl C. Hansen, Bangkok, June 5.]

Annual reports of the Siamese Treasury Savings Bank for the fiscal years 1914 and 1915 have recently been issued and show that fair progress has been made in a line of economics quite new to the people of Siam as a whole. During 1914, the year of the bank's opening, the total number of depositors was 634. By March 31, 1915, the number had risen to 1,380, with total deposits of 375,614 ticals (\$138,977), an increase of 177 per cent as compared with the previous year. During 1915 the interest paid to depositors amounted to 6,682 ticals (\$2,472). Of the 1,380 depositors, 1,113 were Government officials, 99 students, 15 traders, 4 farmers, and 3 gardeners, and of the whole number of depositors 146 were women.

The deposits are guaranteed by the Government, and interest is paid thereon at the rate of 2 per cent for money on call and 3 per cent for money at 6 months' notice. The depositor's maximum investment is fixed at \$1,110, but opportunity is given to purchase Siamese Government securities through the agency of the bank. The head office is at the Royal Treasury at Bangkok, and there is a branch office at the customhouse, with other branches at the various Government treasuries throughout the Kingdom.

## NEW ZEALAND FIXES MAXIMUM PRICE FOR SUGAR.

[Consul General Alfred A. Winslow, Auckland, June 30.]

As a result of the inquiry of the Board of Trade of New Zealand, the wholesale price of sugar in this Dominion has been fixed for the 12 months beginning July 1, 1916, at not more than \$102.20 per ton of 2,240 pounds, and this in face of the fact that freights have quite materially advanced, that a war tax of 1 per cent has been imposed upon sugar, and that an export tax of \$1.21 per ton on sugar shipped from the Fiji Islands (which is the source of practically all of the sugar consumed in New Zealand) has affected the cost. It is claimed that this is as cheap as sugar is sold anywhere else in the world at this time. It is retailed at \$0.055 per pound for granulated and \$0.07 for cube or loaf sugar.

The annual consumption of sugar in New Zealand amounts to about 60,000 tons, or about 112 pounds per capita.

The only duty collected on sugar coming into New Zealand is the 1 per cent war tax, which applies equally to sugar from all countries.

## BETTER AIDS TO NAVIGATION IN DETROIT RIVER.

The project for the improvement of the lower Detroit River under the United States Engineers is now about completed. This contemplates a straight channel after leaving the Grassy Island North Channel Range to the turn on to Grosse Isle South Channel Range, a distance of 5 miles. This will necessitate a rearrangement of the system of aids to navigation maintained by the United States Light-house Service.

The sundry civil act, approved July 1, 1916, appropriated \$25,000 for improving aids to navigation and establishing new aids in the Fighting Island Channel, Detroit River. The work contemplated consists of the establishment of separate ranges for up and down bound vessels and of two or more side lights at about the present locations, on the west side of Grassy Island South and Mamajuda Ranges. This will involve the establishment of new range lights as well as the side lights mentioned, and moving the present range lights.

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LOS ANGELES: Chamber of Commerce.  
DETROIT: Board of Commerce.  
PHILADELPHIA: Chamber of Commerce.  
CHATTANOOGA: South American Agent, Southern Ry. Co.

## Increased Exports from Fernie to United States.

Consul W. E. Alger, at Fernie, British Columbia, reports that the value of the exports invoiced at that consulate increased from \$797,392 for the first six months of 1915 to \$2,257,254 for the same period in 1916.

# AMERICAN CONSULAR OFFICERS ON LEAVE OF ABSENCE.

The following American consular officers are on leave of absence in the United States and will be glad to confer with business men and commercial organizations relative to conditions in their respective jurisdictions. The consul's time is available primarily for personal interviews. He has limited facilities for correspondence, and except in urgent cases letters should be directed to the consulate.

Name.	Post.	Expiration of leave.	Address.
West, George N.....	Kobe, Japan.....	Aug. 15	Department of State, Washington, D. C.
Cook, A. B.....	Petras, Greece.....	Aug. 10	131 West Charlotte Street, Norfolk, Va.
Hale, F. D.....	Huddersfield, England	Sept. 5	Luzenburgh, Vt.
Masterson, William W.....	Durban, Natal, South Africa.	Sept. 1	Carrollton, Ky.
Baker, E. Carlton.....	Nagasaki, Japan.....	Aug. 30	Apartment No. 75, The Brunswick, Washington, D. C.
Monaghan, J. C.....	Kingston, Jamaica.....	Sept. 1	Avenue A and Fourteenth Street, Bayonne, N. J.
Jewell, John F.....	Chasoo, China.....	Oct. 1	Department of State, Washington, D. C.
Kemper, Graham H.....	Erfurt, Germany.....	Sept. 10	Do.
Gooder, James H.....	Niagara Falls, Canada.	Sept. 1	27 South Hawk Street, Albany, N. Y.
Haseltine, Ross.....	Port Antonio, Jamaica.	Oct. 1	Department of State, Washington, D. C.
Laing, James Oliver.....	Katachi, India.....	Sept. 30	C/o University Club, Kansas City, Mo.
Leonard, Walter A.....	Colombo, Ceylon.....	Oct. 14	Essex, Iowa.

# TO IMPROVE NAVIGATION AIDS IN TOLEDO HARBOR.

Needed improvements in the aids to navigation in Toledo Harbor, Ohio, are made possible by an appropriation of \$15,000, which is to be expended under instructions from the United States Lighthouse Service.

The Manhattan Range Lights, marking the axis of the Maumee Bay straight channel leading to Toledo, should be clearly visible after passing the Maumee Bay Range Lights for a distance of about 5 miles. The present lights are too low and frequently obscured by smoke; they are also sometimes blanketed by vessels mooring in the lagoon.

The work contemplated to carry out the provisions of this appropriation consists of raising Manhattan Range Lights in order to give them greater efficiency. Steel towers on concrete foundations will be substituted for the present wooden towers which are not structurally adapted for raising.

The sundry civil act, approved July 1, 1916, appropriated the amount needed for this work.

# FERNIE MINE RESCUE STATION.

[Consul W. E. Alger, Fernie, British Columbia, Canada, Aug. 1.]

The mine rescue station at Fernie is well equipped, most of the supplies being furnished by a Pittsburgh, Pa., firm. The number of persons trained in the use of apparatus up to January 1, 1915, was 100, for the entire district. During 1915 over 700 miners attended first-aid lectures, the net results showing that 301 men passed final examinations in first-aid work. The number of men finishing the course was 450.

## FOREIGN TRADE OPPORTUNITIES.

Reserved addresses may be obtained from the Bureau and its district offices. Request for each opportunity should be on a separate sheet and state opportunity number. The Bureau does not furnish credit ratings or assume responsibility as to the standing of foreign inquirers; the usual precautions should be taken in all cases.

*Machinery*, No. 22078.—A government official in the Far East asks the Bureau to place him in touch with American manufacturers of machinery for the extraction of iodine from seaweeds, and of machinery for the manufacture of from 30,000 to 40,000 tons of Portland cement annually.

*Fireless cookers*, No. 22079.—An American consular officer in the United Kingdom reports a possible market in his district for low-priced fireless cookers.

*Paper*, No. 22080.—The Bureau is informed that a firm in Italy is in the market for 25,000 sheets of glazed pasteboard ("patinato") for chromolithography; the size to be 82 by 62 centimeters and of a weight of 240 kilograms for every 1,000 sheets. Sample of the paper may be inspected at the Bureau or its district offices. (Refer to Miscellaneous No. 141.)

*Machinery*, No. 22081.—An American consular officer in Central America writes that a manufacturer in his district wishes to receive catalogues and prices of machinery for utilizing scrap leather.

*Waterproof cloth, rubber shoes and heels, etc.*, No. 22082.—An American consular officer in Spain reports that a business man in his district desires to represent American manufactures and exporters of industrial machinery of all kinds, as well as accessories and tools; steel, iron, and metals in bars, sheets, wire, and waste metal material; iron utensils for kitchen and household use; waterproof cloth in the piece and waterproof garments; rubber shoes and heels; and woven goods of all kinds, including gloves. Correspondence may be in English. The man proposes to travel throughout Spain, Morocco, and Portugal. References.

*Glass*, No. 22083.—A firm in Brazil writes an American consular officer that it desires to receive catalogues, quotations, etc., on window and other flat glass. Deposit of purchase price in local bank, to be paid on receipt of goods. Quotations should be made in American currency c. i. f. Brazilian port if possible. Correspondence may be in Spanish or Portuguese. The consular officer transmits the names and addresses of other importers of glass and glassware in his district.

*Bottles*, No. 22084.—The commercial attaché of the Department of Commerce in France transmits the name and address of a firm in that country which desires to purchase champagne bottles.

*Thermometers*, No. 22085.—An American consular officer in Spain writes that a merchant in his district is desirous of importing guaranteed clinical thermometers. Correspondence may be in English. References.

*Iron, cement, etc.*, No. 22086.—A business man in Brazil informs an American consular officer that he wishes to form commercial relations with American manufacturers and exporters of iron, ironware, Portland cement, tin plate, zinc ware, etc. He desires sole agencies. Correspondence may be in English, preferably in Spanish. References.

*Machinery*, No. 22087.—The Bureau is in receipt of a letter from a business man in Mexico stating that he desires to receive full information relative to machinery for making bottle cases or jackets of wheat straw for the protection of bottles. He states that cash will be paid through any designated bank.

*Textile and chemicals*, No. 22088.—An American consular officer in Paraguay reports that a business man in his district desires to represent American manufacturers and exporters of cotton goods, chemicals for soap manufacture (caustic soda, soda ash, silicate of soda, and sulphate of soda). Catalogues, etc., should be in Spanish or French. References.

*Machinery*, No. 22089.—A manufacturer of paper tubes for use in spinning writes an American consular officer in Spain that he desires to import machinery and apparatus for making these tubes. Correspondence should be in Spanish. References.

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No. 187      Washington, D. C., Thursday, August 10      1916

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## EXPORTATION OF COPRA FROM AUSTRALASIA.

The Department of State has been informed by the British ambassador at Washington that the exportation of copra from the Fiji Islands, Samoa, Australia, and New Zealand to the United States is now permitted without the condition that the glycerin content of this copra be reshipped to Great Britain at the prevailing English price.

## SHIPMENT OF TOBACCO TO THE NETHERLANDS.

The Department of State is informed in a cablegram dated August 5, 1916, from the American ambassador at London that the requirement that tobacco shipped to Holland be consigned to the Netherlands Oversea Trust will not be insisted upon in the case of American tobacco now on the high seas or loaded under bona fide contracts entered into under the arrangement now suspended and awaiting shipment at the present time.

## ARGENTINE TARIFF COMMISSION.

[Commercial Attaché Albert Hale, Buenos Aires, July 6, 1916.]

On June 30, 1916, the President of the Argentine Republic signed a decree submitted by the Minister of Finance creating a commission whose function will be to study the entire tariff problem and to suggest such modifications in the way of valuations and classifications based upon the present tariff schedules as may be desirable. They are also to incorporate into the tariff whatever new articles have been introduced since the preparation of the tariff of 1906.

This commission is composed of the Director of National Statistics (Sr. Kleine Samson), the Inspector General of Revenues (Dr. Keigel Muñoz), the Chief of the Customhouse Division of the Ministry of Finance (Sr. Covache), the administrator of the customhouse at

Buenos Aires (Sr. Caprile), the chief of inspection of the custom-house at Buenos Aires (Sr. Abella), the Director of the Division of Commerce and Industry of the Department of Agriculture (Dr. Pillado), the head of the Division of Instruction of the Department of Agriculture (Dr. Amadeo), and some official from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs not yet designated.

There will be later added, in an advisory capacity, representatives from the Industrial Union, from the Argentine Rural Society, and from the Bolsa de Comercio (Chamber of Commerce of Buenos Aires). It is also proposed that experts from business circles be asked to give advice on each schedule and article under consideration.

The commission will collect trustworthy data concerning cost prices and transportation, which will allow its members to form a just basis for tariff valuations, in accordance with article 12 of Law No. 4933 (the customs law now in effect), which provides for a schedule of valuations based on the price of the merchandise as delivered at the warehouse.

Diplomatic and consular representatives abroad and other officials of the Argentine Government will from time to time transmit to this committee data which they may think of value for its studies. The commission will be empowered to seek technical information in any direction it may wish.

The commission will announce, not less than 15 days in advance, the section of the tariff which is to be taken under consideration, as well as the list of new articles which are to be included in the new tariff. When the tariff schedules and duties have been agreed on they will be published for a term of 30 days, after which all claims which may have been presented during that time will be carefully examined for any correction which may seem advisable. When any revision of this character is made the schedules will then be sent with all details to the Minister of Finance. The valuations for new articles which are not included in the present tariff will take effect three months after the date of final approval by the Executive.

A few remarks on this decree were added by the President when he signed it. He states that valuations established by the Law No. 4933 in 1906 have changed considerably during the last 10 years, while 1,500 new articles not hitherto classified have been added to the 3,700 in the original schedule. These changes have essentially modified the existing law, so that the interpretation as now put upon it does not really correspond to the law when it went into effect. In appointing this commission the President follows a resolution passed by Congress in 1915.

With the appointment of the tariff commission the subject of tariff revision will receive considerable attention. All suggestions from American exporters in regard to desirable modifications in the customs tariff of Argentina, intended to serve as a basis for diplomatic representation, should be formulated with as much detail as possible and sent either to the Department of State or to the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce of the Department of Commerce, which will be glad to transmit them to the Department of State with such recommendations and supplementary information as may be deemed advisable.



**CUBAN EGG AND BUTTER PURCHASES IN UNITED STATES.**

[Consul Henry M. Wolcott, detailed as vice consul, Habana, Cuba, June 16.]

Cuba imports annually from 5,000,000 to 6,000,000 dozens of eggs, nearly all of which come from the United States. Butter importations in the fiscal year 1915 were valued at \$408,185, compared with \$357,675 in the preceding year. Fresh butter is all imported from the United States, but there is a large consumption of tinned butter which comes principally from Denmark, Spain, and Holland. Of this product, in 1915 Denmark furnished 873,613 pounds, valued at \$241,841; Spain, 272,252 pounds, valued at \$57,131; and Holland, 149,082 pounds, valued at \$40,337. The imports of butter of all kinds from the United States in the same period were valued at \$60,264, the quantity being 206,450 pounds.

**Preferential Reductions for Products of United States.**

Eggs are classified in the Cuban import tariff under No. 252, and with the 20 per cent preferential reduction allowed to the product of the United States, are dutiable at the rate of \$5.20 the 100 kilos (220 pounds). There is an allowance of 25 per cent for tar in computing the weight. Butter is classified under No. 244 of the tariff, and deducting the preferential allowance of 30 per cent to the product of the United States, is dutiable at the rate of \$6.37 per 100 kilos. Oleomargarine, when the product of the United States, is dutiable at the rate of \$7.28 per 100 kilos. The tare allowance on butter and oleomargarine, in ordinary boxes, tierces, cans, etc., is 12 per cent; in brine or otherwise packed, with wooden, glass, or tin receptacles combined, provided this does not exceed the actual tare, is 35 per cent.

The question of credit terms with well-established houses is easily arranged at present, as money is plentiful in Cuba, and most firms are ready to take advantage of cash discounts. Shipping and banking facilities are excellent.

[A list of Importers of butter and eggs in Habana, Cuba, may be obtained from the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce or its district offices. Refer to file No. 77597. Articles on poultry and dairy products in Cuba were published in COMMERCE REPORTS for Dec. 14, 1915, and May 15, 1916.]

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**LONDON'S TRADE IN COTTON AND SILK GARTERS.**

[Consular Assistant E. Harrison Yelverton, London, England, June 29.]

The making of clip ends of garters, for both men and women, is a business almost entirely in the hands of the manufacturers of the United States. The ends and clips, however, are sent to this country and the making-up is done here. The necessary webbings to complete the garters are manufactured in Great Britain. [The addresses of several houses in London which make these garters up may be obtained from the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce or its district offices upon asking for file No. 78265.] Prior to the war, French garters were imported into this market, but this trade has now almost entirely ceased. Official statistics present no separate figures regarding the importation of garters into the United Kingdom.

**PROFITS OF SHEFFIELD CORPORATION TRAMWAYS.**

[Consul John M. Savage, Sheffield, England, July 17.]

A report dealing with the working of the Sheffield Corporation tramways and motor omnibuses discloses that during the year ended March 25, 1916, in its car section \$8,340 was written off for depreciation on account of the old horse-traction system and \$49,060 added for improvements, making the capital expenditure at the end of the year stand at \$6,910,650. The total income was \$2,217,220, the gross profit \$844,140, and the net profit \$466,110.

Out of the gross profit, in addition to interest on loans and other charges, \$229,770 was added to the sinking fund and \$56,490 was paid in allowances to dependents of employees who had joined the colors. From the net profit (which exceeded that for the preceding year by \$125,750) \$24,335 went in special grants to the Pure Science and Applied Science Departments of Sheffield University, \$39,700 was assigned for street improvements (proportion of service of debt), \$146,555 to the renewals fund, \$39,170 to the accumulated-surplus fund, \$9,735 to special-purposes fund, \$2,925 to capital account, and \$203,690 was transferred to the general district-rate account. Of the 1,800 employees in the tramway department, 700 are women, the great majority of whom serve as conductors and the others as car cleaners.

In the motor-omnibus section the total income for the year was \$134,150, the expenditure \$107,300, leaving a gross profit of \$26,850 and a net profit of \$18,570. This entire amount was transferred to a special-reserve account to meet future contingencies on the motor-omnibus account, and this fund, after deducting the cost of additional omnibuses purchased during the year, had to its credit \$17,385.

**AUTOMOBILES AND CYCLES IN THE NETHERLANDS.**

[Consul Frank W. Mahin, Amsterdam, July 8.]

The number of automobiles in the Netherlands, while still relatively small, has doubled in the last four years. It is now 7,000—not large for a population of 6,000,000, but the increase is noteworthy. It would have been still greater had not the war caused serious difficulties, especially in importing tires. Many people refrain from buying automobiles simply because no guaranty can be furnished that they will have a continuous supply of tires.

The number of motor cycles in the Netherlands is 7,500, but of bicycles there are 850,000, or practically one to every seven persons. The flat country and the general use of bicycles for delivering meat, groceries, dry goods, etc., account for the great number.

There is a promising market in the Netherlands for American automobiles. Several agencies in Amsterdam have done good business in them, and will doubtless do still better when the close of the war removes present obstacles. As to bicycles, however, it is alleged that once upon a time some very poor American machines were sold in this market, and the prejudice then created still exists. Only very skillful and persistent effort, coupled with visible demonstrations of the superior quality and durability of American machines, can remove the prejudice.

## THE PROPOSED HONGKONG SCHOOL OF LANGUAGES.

[Vice Consul A. E. Carleton, Hongkong, British China, supplementing report published June 3, 1916.]

In a previous report from the Hongkong consulate general in regard to the establishment of a school for teaching the Chinese language to Europeans employed by the British firms in this port, it was stated that the subject had been discussed at the annual meeting of the chamber of commerce and that a committee had been appointed to consider ways and means for establishing such a school. This committee has now presented its report in the form of nine suggestions, which are tentative only, but form the basis for the proposed language school.

The third suggestion is significant in that it predicts that Mandarin will be the future language of China, and that it is therefore best that the European assistants should be taught this language in preference to the Cantonese dialect. The prospective Hongkong school will, however, teach the Cantonese dialect in connection with Mandarin, the students having the privilege of electing. Hongkong firms have been circularized to ascertain whether sufficient support will be given the scheme to justify further consideration of the matter.

### Committee's Tentative Suggestions.

The preliminary conclusions reached by the committee are:

1. A working knowledge of the Chinese language is essential for the future development of business relations with China.
2. A scheme for the successful teaching of the language to European assistants must be practical, comprehensive, and assured of sufficient financial support.
3. So far as regards Hongkong the scheme should be restricted to the teaching of Mandarin, which, it is believed, will be the future language of China, and the Cantonese dialect.
4. The course should cover two or three years.
5. Each student should have individual instruction by native teachers in addition to his supervised studies and lectures in the proposed school, the native teachers to be approved by the director of the school.
6. The student should be encouraged to pursue these studies by grants of increased salary at different stages of certified proficiency, by having the school fees paid by his employer (if not his private tuition fee as well), and by being allowed to attend lectures and classes in his employer's time.
7. The students, or the firms contributing to their dues could elect to take either the Mandarin or the Cantonese course.
8. The school should be under the direction of a foreign supervisor of the highest qualifications.
9. It is known that the university can make use of the services of such a man as above indicated, and it is considered desirable that the Government should be approached with the idea of the school being administered by the University itself, but in a central position easily accessible to the European business quarter of the city.

### Dutch war relief expenditures.

The Dutch Minister of the Interior announces, reports Commercial Attaché Erwin W. Thompson, that during 1915 there were paid out by the Government of the Netherlands \$1,700,000 for refugee camps where temporary homes have been made for impoverished Belgians, \$1,770,000 for relief to Belgian refugees outside the camps, \$36,000 for the education of children of the refugees, \$98,000 for assistance in employments outside the camps, and \$44,000 for relief to the families of interned soldiers.

**INDUSTRIAL FUTURE OF LA PALLICE AND LA ROCHELLE.**

[Consul Kenneth Stuart Patton, La Rochelle, France, July 10.]

At La Pallice there is greater industrial activity than ever before. The efforts to properly equip the port [see **COMMERCE REPORTS** for July 27, 1916] are having effect, new cranes and other equipment being steadily added. The railway line between La Rochelle and La Pallice is being double-tracked, and this needed improvement will be shortly completed.

Just back of the port of La Pallice a large new chemical plant, said to have cost about \$200,000, is ready for operation. This is the largest and most modern plant of its kind in this whole section. The Delaunay-Belleville Co. of Paris has purchased the marine repair shops (Ateliers at Chantiers de La Pallice) and expects to enlarge them materially. Once this plant is modernized, it is estimated that 4,000 workmen will be employed there.

It is also expected that the sardine industry of La Rochelle will take on new life and that the sardine will become one of the important resources of the district. Recently this industry has declined from its former importance from lack of proper attention and up-to-date equipment. If the proposal to establish a modern fishing port at La Rochelle becomes a reality [see **COMMERCE REPORTS** for Jan. 25, 1916], the importance of this city will increase materially.

Well-informed persons believe that the population grouped around the port of La Pallice will increase in a few years from the present estimate of 4,000 persons to at least 20,000 inhabitants, and that La Rochelle will double its present population of 38,000 within the next half decade.

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**EXPEDITING SHIPPING DOCUMENTS IN UNITED KINGDOM.**

[British Board of Trade Journal, July 27.]

The Port and Transit Executive Committee notify that, in order to obviate the delays there have been in the removal of goods from docks, wharves, and warehouses by reason of the late delivery of shipping documents sent through the post to the United Kingdom, the following arrangements have been made by the committee with the British Postal Censors' Department:

If shipping documents that are being sent through the mail to the United Kingdom are posted in envelopes marked "Shipping documents" by means of a rubber stamp and not by handwriting, the Postal Censors' Department will endeavor to deal with such envelopes with special expedition.

The only shipping documents that may be included in an envelope thus marked are: (1) Bills of lading, with or without drafts; (2) invoices; (3) specifications; (4) manifests; (5) parcels receipts; (6) certificates of origin, destination, inspection, weight, or analysis; (7) insurance policies or certificates; (8) schedules of instructions, subject to the information contained in such schedules being limited to an identification of the other documents inclosed in the envelope, and to the instructions being limited to ordinary instructions as to the delivery of such other documents as against acceptance or cash. (Note: Instructions or letters of advice as to delivery out of the ordinary course must not be inclosed in an envelope marked "Shipping documents.")

The inclosure of any letters or documents other than those above specified in an envelope marked as above is forbidden, and it is essential that this direction should be strictly obeyed. Any departure from this rule will assuredly cause greater delay. The envelope containing shipping documents should be posted at the earliest possible date.

**RUSSIAN TO BE TAUGHT IN ENGLISH SCHOOLS.**

[Commercial Attaché Pierce C. Williams, London, July 21.]

British efforts to increase trade with Russia after the war are taking the extremely practical shape of encouraging the study of the Russian language by young men training for commercial life. At Leeds University a chair for the study of Russian has recently been created through the generosity of Sir James Roberts, Bart. In his letter to the university offering £10,000 (\$48,700) for the foundation and maintenance of a professorship of Russian language and literature the donor said: "It would be an illusion to expect that adequate advantage could be taken of Russia as an outlet for British manufactures unless we can be represented there by our own countrymen, equipped with a knowledge of the Russian language."

Stirred, apparently, by the success of Leeds University, Manchester University recently made an appeal for £15,000 (\$73,000) for the establishment of a chair in Russian, and it is to-day announced that £6,000 (\$29,200) of the required sum has been contributed. It is hardly possible that the appeal will fail in a community where the business imagination is so highly developed as in Manchester. The suggestion that exchange professorships be established between Great Britain and Russia has also been warmly received.

**Progress Already Made—Study Suggested for United States.**

That there is much popular appreciation of the value of a knowledge of Russian is evidenced by the prompt and enthusiastic acceptance of the opportunity offered by the London County Council. In its school in Bolt Court, London, classes in Russian are being eagerly attended by young journalists. In the City of London College Russian has been taught with success in the evening classes for some time, and it is to be taught next session in the technical schools at Newport (Monmouthshire). [For earlier mention of Russian language study in England see *COMMERCE REPORTS* for May 12, 1915, and July 21, 1916.]

The time is ripe for introducing the study of the Russian language into the commercial life of the United States. If this be done promptly there will be available within a few years a corps of young Americans speaking some Russian and capable of taking important positions as representatives of American houses in Russia.

[The need for a knowledge of the Russian language on the part of those who are to represent American commerce in Russia when a return to normal conditions makes possible a resumption of trade propaganda was clearly set forth by Commercial Attaché Henry D. Baker in *COMMERCE REPORTS* for June 26, 1915, and was also brought out in an article on "Methods of extending Russian-American trade" in the issue for May 5, 1915.]

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**CHATTANOOGA:** South American Agent, Southern Ry. Co.

## IMPORTS AND EXPORTS BY GRAND DIVISIONS AND COUNTRIES.

The total values of merchandise imported from and exported to each of the principal countries during June and the 12 months ended with June, 1916, compared with corresponding periods of the preceding year, have just been made public by the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce of the Department of Commerce, as follows:

Grand divisions and countries.	Month of June—		12 months ended with June—	
	1916	1915	1916	1915
<b>IMPORTS FROM—</b>				
<b>Grand divisions—</b>				
Europe.....	\$67,303,806	\$44,613,923	\$616,252,749	\$614,354,645
North America.....	60,280,542	50,061,885	501,995,543	478,079,795
South America.....	42,753,919	26,210,339	301,562,018	261,480,563
Asia.....	55,442,463	26,715,195	437,181,484	247,770,103
Oceania.....	6,655,808	5,516,429	86,225,961	52,522,552
Africa.....	4,358,750	4,577,319	64,763,745	24,963,081
<b>Total.....</b>	<b>245,795,438</b>	<b>157,695,140</b>	<b>2,197,883,510</b>	<b>1,674,160,740</b>
<b>Principal countries:</b>				
Austria-Hungary.....	42,328	226,233	1,431,570	9,794,418
Belgium.....	152,454	51,717	1,478,579	10,222,860
France.....	10,125,890	5,350,919	102,077,620	77,158,740
Germany.....	800,315	1,827,880	15,945,745	91,372,710
Italy.....	6,578,733	5,300,992	57,432,436	54,973,726
Netherlands.....	7,368,061	2,610,206	38,534,509	32,518,890
Norway.....	399,446	462,871	6,851,714	10,668,864
Russia in Europe.....	342,519	148,180	3,613,064	2,512,331
Spain.....	3,295,837	1,761,462	27,864,130	18,027,492
Sweden.....	1,174,291	845,269	11,846,881	11,061,337
Switzerland.....	2,373,290	1,373,679	21,775,413	19,335,483
United Kingdom.....	32,749,050	23,134,111	308,443,268	266,351,675
Canada.....	18,669,819	14,862,880	204,018,327	180,571,712
Mexico.....	9,039,144	8,326,338	97,676,444	77,612,001
Cuba.....	34,378,079	22,136,364	228,977,667	185,760,801
Argentina.....	11,411,972	7,639,905	112,512,420	73,776,266
Brazil.....	11,804,100	8,605,678	132,063,661	99,178,728
Chile.....	10,016,235	3,961,090	64,154,459	27,680,760
China.....	8,114,493	4,196,276	71,655,045	40,156,139
British East Indies.....	28,022,946	12,003,789	177,423,246	87,177,237
Japan.....	15,875,860	7,505,792	117,644,298	98,869,638
Australia and New Zealand.....	3,581,205	3,060,935	64,553,441	27,944,089
Philippine Islands.....	2,645,480	2,222,311	28,232,240	24,080,169
Egypt.....	906,416	1,517,696	33,254,943	17,371,982
<b>EXPORTS TO.</b>				
<b>Grand divisions—</b>				
Europe.....	312,661,127	181,487,090	2,996,183,420	1,971,434,667
North America.....	75,045,538	46,637,965	732,906,628	477,075,721
South America.....	20,792,445	13,744,090	180,356,555	99,323,967
Asia.....	42,196,442	18,043,403	378,479,228	114,470,493
Oceania.....	7,727,481	9,534,777	99,241,555	77,764,725
Africa.....	6,361,315	3,495,065	43,517,070	20,519,751
<b>Total.....</b>	<b>464,784,318</b>	<b>266,547,416</b>	<b>4,333,658,865</b>	<b>2,766,589,240</b>
<b>Principal countries—</b>				
Austria-Hungary.....			152,920	1,266,080
Belgium.....	3,110,720	1,583,746	21,848,638	20,682,315
Denmark.....	4,212,780	4,338,687	55,662,411	79,524,478
France.....	76,222,824	43,107,426	630,672,504	266,287,170
Germany.....	5,406	1,767	288,851	25,886,864
Greece.....	1,496,314	935,035	4,333,292	3,499,975
Italy.....	25,669,750	15,182,873	270,489,622	184,519,688
Netherlands.....	9,642,248	7,651,762	99,232,930	142,267,019
Norway.....	5,328,019	1,197,316	53,678,126	86,074,791
Russia in Europe.....	8,141,562	13,914,312	183,259,605	87,474,289
Spain.....	6,779,180	2,024,397	52,771,652	36,112,699
Sweden.....	3,449,149	2,019,443	51,939,182	37,167,262
United Kingdom.....	165,761,621	88,181,045	1,518,046,263	911,700,262
Canada.....	51,069,831	29,561,783	466,884,415	308,286,682
Central America.....	3,270,788	3,212,455	41,752,081	21,784,267
Mexico.....	3,584,429	3,904,174	48,308,542	27,784,127
Cuba.....	11,957,283	6,935,267	127,040,067	95,524,492
Argentina.....	7,523,871	5,250,300	65,993,611	32,156,262
Brazil.....	5,172,714	3,213,078	41,202,277	25,629,553

Grand divisions and countries.	Month of June—		12 months ended with June—	
	1916	1915	1916	1915
<b>EXPORTS TO—continued.</b>				
<b>Principal countries—Continued.</b>				
Chile .....	\$2,766,165	\$1,686,598	\$24,289,633	\$11,377,181
China .....	3,468,887	1,879,800	26,120,896	16,402,475
British East Indies .....	2,342,749	1,649,491	24,696,035	15,980,734
Japan .....	9,932,147	4,510,360	75,098,183	41,517,780
Russia in Asia .....	23,925,348	3,598,365	130,255,759	23,353,151
Australia and New Zealand .....	5,560,300	6,828,948	74,464,108	51,986,649
Philippine Islands .....	2,063,713	2,630,979	23,426,009	24,755,320
British Africa .....	4,091,636	2,372,180	28,340,948	18,271,085

### TO ESTABLISH AID TO PUGET SOUND-ALASKA SHIPPING.

The greater part of the commerce between Puget Sound and Alaska, and between Cape Flattery and points on Georgia Strait, will be benefited by the establishing of a light and fog-signal station for which the sundry civil act, approved July 1, 1916, appropriated \$40,000. The act provides that the station shall be at or near Kellett Bluff, Henry Island, Wash., or at some point on the west coast of San Juan Island, Wash. It has been shown that the best location for the proposed light is at the Lime Kiln, on the west coast of San Juan Island.

Vessels proceeding to the northward after leaving Point Wilson have a run of about 32 miles before reaching the proposed location, with no fog signal on the American side. The depths are too great for soundings, and there are strong tidal currents of uncertain direction to contend with.

The work contemplated by the United States Lighthouse Service to carry out the provisions of this appropriation consists of erecting the light tower, fog-signal building, and dwellings for two keepers, the installation of the illuminating apparatus which will produce a flashing light, and the fog-signal apparatus of the reed-horn variety. A derrick and hoisting engine are also needed, and the construction of an oil house, out buildings, walk, purchase of boat, etc., will complete the station.

There is a reservation of land for lighthouse purposes on the west coast of San Juan Island at the point where it is proposed to establish this station.

### GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS FOR SALE.

The following were among the publications received in stock for sale by the Superintendent of Documents, at Washington, during the week ended August 5:

**Tariff Systems of South American Countries** (Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, Tariff Series 84).—Supplies information that will serve as a basis for understanding the tariffs and methods of customs procedure, actual practice of entering goods and penalties imposed. Price, 25 cents.

**Meat Situation in the United States, Part I** (Agriculture Department Report 160).—Statistics of live stock, meat production and consumption, prices, and international trade for many countries. Price, 35 cents.

**RECENT CHANGES IN JAPANESE MARKETS.**

[Consul General George H. Scidmore, Yokohama, July 10.]

**Large Increase in Exports of Raw Silk.**

The volume of exports of raw silk during the season ended June 30 amounted to 198,159 bales (foreign), against 156,491 bales in the preceding season, a gain of 41,668 bales, or 27 per cent. Even compared with the season prior to the outbreak of the war in Europe, the decrease is only 3,114 bales. This has been brought about principally by a very large increase in demand from the United States during the season just concluded, the Japan Daily Mail says. According to the returns available, purchases by the United States for the season reached a total of 169,808 bales, while shipments to Europe amounted to only 28,351 bales. Compared with the preceding season, America's buying shows a gain of 39,282 bales, or fully 30 per cent, while the purchases for Europe present an improvement by 10 per cent—2,386 bales. In comparison with the season prior to the outbreak of the war, Europe's share in the trade shows a decrease of more than 50 per cent, while America's has increased 17 per cent.

The trade results for the past three years, as given by the Daily Mail, to show the ruling tendency in the market, are:

Years.	Exports to United States.	Exports to Europe.	Total.
	<i>Bales.</i>	<i>Bales.</i>	<i>Bales.</i>
1913-14.....	143,929	57,344	201,273
1914-15.....	130,528	25,965	156,491
1915-16.....	169,808	28,351	198,159

"The striking record for 1914 and 1915," says the paper, "is obviously due to the European war. The output of raw silk in Italy, France, and other European countries showed a grave falling off, and Japan was the only country that could meet all the increase in American demands. At the beginning of the new season, standard goods changed hands at 750 yen (\$374) per picul of 133½ pounds. In the beginning of November, last year, a level of 1,000 yen (\$498.50) per picul was reached. In the middle of March, this year, the level of 1,350 yen (\$673) per picul was attained, that figure being the highest point reached since 1911. Since then the level of 1,000 yen (\$498.50) per picul has been very well maintained, though sometimes there have been sporadic relapses."

**Increase in Supply of Chlorate of Potash.**

War conditions have caused the manufacture of chlorate of potash in Japan to undergo a rapid development. There are about 33 factories, and the total output is put by the Japan Chronicle at 7,000 barrels a month, the list being headed by the Nihon Kagaku Kokyo Kaisha, which turns out 3,000 barrels a month. The domestic consumption is about 7,000 barrels in normal times; but, at present, owing to a general decrease in demands, it is not expected to exceed 6,000 barrels. The supply of chlorate of potash is thus in excess of the demand by about 1,000 barrels, and a further increase in the output is expected. When the present extension of the operations of



the factories are completed, it is expected that the total monthly output will exceed 10,000 barrels.

Stocks now on the market, both of imports and home products, and also including the holdings of the Nihon Kagaku Kokyo Kaisha, are estimated at 30,000 barrels, a quantity which, the Chronicle says, is large enough to meet all the domestic consumption for about 5 months. It is, therefore, likely that the oversupply will rather increase than decrease for some time to come. The Chronicle continues:

The increase in supply has naturally led to a decline in price. It is true that an improvement has set in, but it is argued that, irrespective of the length of the war, it will not be long before the price of chlorate of potash is in the neighborhood of 40 yen (\$19.94), which represents the cost of production. If this is the case, the majority of manufacturers will not be able to continue the business. It is, therefore, expected that even before the end of the war the less substantial of the Japanese manufacturers of chlorate of potash will have to close down.

#### **Growing Demand for Oriental Matches.**

The demand for Japanese matches has risen in India and in the South Pacific countries, which hitherto have been importing Swedish matches. The exports of Japanese matches during the first half of this year, according to the Japan Advertiser, amounted to 8,665,000 yen (\$4,319,503), an increase of 1,368,000 yen (\$681,948) as compared with the corresponding period of last year. India is the principal market.

The amounts exported to various countries were: India, 3,000,000 yen (\$1,495,500); China, 2,200,000 yen (\$1,096,700); Hongkong, 1,700,000 yen (\$847,450).

The South Pacific countries, Straits Settlements, Dutch Indies, Kwangtung, and the Philippines are also importing Japanese matches.

#### **Large Decrease in Demand for Paper Pulp.**

With a weak market for paper, the demand for pulp has largely decreased, and holders are apparently trying to dispose of their holdings, the Japan Chronicle says. While all the paper mills have ready sufficient stocks of pulp to last this year, those offered on the market amount to about 8,000 tons. When the pulp market was very strong, some time ago, orders were sent to Sweden and America, and shipments are now arriving. The Toyo Shokai has imported about 1,000 tons a month since the end of last year, while about 5,000 tons have been imported by the Mitsui Bussan Kaisha in the first half of the year. In Japan pulp is produced to the quantity of about 20,000 tons in Saghalien, and the output is expected to undergo a considerable increase next year on the completion of extensions now being undertaken by pulp manufacturers. In these circumstances it is not expected that the pulp market will improve very rapidly.

The production of glass sand in this country in 1915 was 1,884,044 short tons, valued at \$1,606,640. This is the largest quantity ever reported by the United States Geological Survey, which has just issued a report on sand and gravel. Molding sand also was produced in very much greater quantity in 1915 than in 1914.

**PARAGUAYAN MARKET FOR COTTON GOODS.**

[Consul Samuel Hamilton Wiley, Asuncion, June 14.]

The value of Paraguay's purchases of foreign textiles generally exceeds that of any other line of imports. In 1912 Paraguay imported \$1,462,367 worth of textiles; in 1913, \$2,183,714 worth; in 1914, \$980,838 worth, and in 1915, \$771,267 worth, and cotton manufactures formed fully 80 per cent of these cargoes.

The great drop in imports during the past two years from the values in 1913 perhaps needs a word of explanation. During 1913 the importers, anticipating a season of prosperity and influenced by the long-credit terms allowed by European exporters, laid in large stocks of textiles. When the expected season of prosperity turned out to be one of crisis, with buying at the lowest possible ebb, Asuncion merchants found themselves with large stocks of goods and few calls for them. The result has been that practically no textiles have been imported for two years.

As there are no textiles manufactured in Paraguay, and as this line is one for which there is always a demand, there is a shortage now of practically all kinds of fabrics. In cotton goods this shortage is especially noticeable.

**Opening for American Fabrics.**

The countries which have supplied the greater part of the cotton goods imported into the Asuncion district in the past were Great Britain, Germany, and France. There is some difficulty in securing certain lines of cotton goods from Great Britain at present; red and black prints and khaki (for which there is a considerable demand here) can not now be had at all from this source. Prices have risen sharply—from 25 per cent on some goods to 75 per cent on others—the increase on the whole line of British cotton goods averaging about 40 per cent. It is impossible to obtain goods from Germany, and practically impossible to obtain any textiles from France.

Asuncion importers are beginning to turn their attention to the United States as a market for the purchase of cotton manufactures. If an earnest and intelligent effort is made at this time by American exporters, there appear to be no serious obstacles in the way of securing a large part of the Paraguayan cotton-goods trade. It must always be borne in mind, however, that European exporters have been supplying cotton goods in a manner most satisfactory to the importers for a long while. To make permanent customers out of those Asuncion dealers who now buy from the United States through necessity, it will be necessary for American manufacturers to cater to local tastes and customs.

**Classes of Goods in Demand.**

It may be said in general that there is a considerable call in the Asuncion district for cotton goods of all kinds, but the greatest and steadiest demand is for such staples as percales, unbleached white shirtings, prints of all kinds, unfinished gray cloth, ducks, calicoes, ginghams, oxfords, drills, khakis, and muslins. There is also an important trade in cotton cashmeres, trouserings, crêpe, cretonne, bombazine, and mercerized dress goods. The importers here like to have percales in bolts of 30 yards, unbleached white shirtings in bolts of 20 yards, drill in bolts of 30 to 40 yards, and muslins and other fabrics for women's garments in bolts of 40 yards. Most white goods are preferred in book fold.

There should be a fair demand for the various classes of wash suitings for men now so extensively used in the United States. Suitings of this kind have not as yet been introduced here. The cheap and medium-priced grades would find the most ready acceptance in Asuncion. Wash clothing is worn by all classes for the greater part of the year, and by the poorer people during the entire year. As the duty on ready-made clothing is high, the material for clothing is imported and made up here.

There is a large demand for cotton blankets here, especially in cheap grades. These blankets are used by the poorer people as both bed covering and wearing apparel. As most of these blankets sold here are of the cheapest possible material, many of them being made from cotton waste, there is a constant demand for new blankets, the wearing qualities not being their strong point. The favorite sizes are from 125 by 175 centimeters (49 by 69 inches) to 140 by 200 centimeters (55 by 79 inches).

#### **Trading Through Export Commission Houses.**

As regards methods of introducing cotton goods, Paraguay is a market for export commission houses and manufacturers' agents rather than for the manufacturers. In the first place, an importer here can buy from an export commission house his whole line of cotton goods. There is then but one order to make out, one payment to arrange for, and one shipment to attend to. When buying from the manufacturer who specializes in a single article, the importer is obliged to place a great number of small orders and attend to a great number of shipments. Further, the expense is increased to a considerable extent. Importers here also have an idea that in ordering a large supply of goods through an export commission house they will receive better terms than in ordering small lots from manufacturers.

Among other reasons that incline importers here to favor buying through export commission houses rather than direct from manufacturers is the general reluctance of manufacturers to allow credit, while export commission houses in many cases give credit or at least do not demand cash with order. Most of the large importing firms here are also exporters, their trade in a measure being a barter of commodities. Export commission houses are prepared to dispose of the commodities exported by merchants here and arrange settlement for goods imported. While cotton goods constitute the principal line of many of the Asuncion import houses, all engage in general importing, and they purchase their stocks of other commodities through the export commission houses that handle their cotton-goods orders.

#### **Introductory Methods.**

There are three general methods of getting in touch with the cotton-goods importers of this district: through traveling salesmen sent from the United States, through local representatives, and through correspondence. The best way to obtain and then hold the Paraguayan trade in cotton goods would be by a combination of the first two methods—that is, introduction of the goods by a traveling salesman who would appoint a local representative here.

If a traveling salesman is sent to this district there should be a clear understanding between the salesman and his principal as to

the extent of the salesman's authority. This is mentioned here in view of the fact that a salesman representing American cotton-goods houses recently visited this market and succeeded in booking orders for a considerable amount of goods. In several cases he allowed terms of 30 to 60 days to large and reliable firms. These firms have since received notice from this salesman's principals that they are unwilling to comply with the terms allowed by their representative and request cash in advance. Incidents like this cause very unfavorable criticism of American business methods.

Great care should be exercised in the choice of a local agent, as the selection of the wrong man will be harmful to his principal and to American business in general. Cases have come to the attention of this consulate of agencies offered to persons here where no investigation of their standing or ability had been made.

#### **The Need for Samples.**

In regard to the introduction of cotton goods through correspondence direct with Asuncion importing firms, one fact should be borne in mind—it is absolutely necessary to send samples of the goods whose sale is desired. The importers here buy European goods, with which they are familiar, only from sample. It is therefore more essential to supply them with samples of American goods, with which they are wholly unacquainted. Local merchants are also unfamiliar, in most cases, with the trade names used to designate cotton fabrics in the United States. A letter giving a list of names of fabrics with prices thereof, unaccompanied by samples, would only bewilder its recipient.

Samples for importers here should have attached a card or "sticker" giving the following information: Number, for reference to accompanying letter or price list; width (in terms of the metric system, or the metric equivalents of American measurements should be given); length (should also be given in metric terms or the metric equivalents should be stated); weight (in kilos of 2.2046 pounds) per piece; price; minimum number of pieces which will be sold; and weight in grams per square meter. This last is very important to the importer here, as the rate of import duty varies with the weight per square meter. (Gram=0.03527 avoirdupois ounce; square meter=1.196 square yards.) The rate of import duty on some goods weighing less than a certain number of grams per square meter is nearly double that on the same kind of goods weighing more than the specified number of grams per square meter.

In the case of pattern goods it is the custom of European exporting houses to send one sample full width of each fabric, with smaller samples attached showing the different designs of the fabric. When an importer here buys goods of a certain design from an exporting house he expects that no goods of that design will be sold by that house to other importers in this market.

#### **Terms and Packing—Case Lots.**

Before the outbreak of the war importing firms here received very long terms on cotton goods from European exporting houses—ranging from 60 days after arrival of goods to 6 months after acceptance of draft. Most of the large importing firms bought on open account. These long credits have been cut off entirely or greatly restricted. While importers do not regard the terms of "cash with

order" favorably, "cash against shipping documents on arrival of goods" will be acceptable to most of the strong importing firms in this district.

In the absence of specific instructions to the contrary, it is not advisable to pack cases of cotton goods for shipment to Asuncion to weigh more than 500 pounds. Transshipment in Buenos Aires or Montevideo is necessary, and the facilities for unloading heavy cases are inadequate at Paraguayan ports. Besides, the importer often wishes to deliver an entire case of goods to a customer in the rural districts, and the transportation facilities of the rural districts are not equal to handling cases heavier than 400 or 500 pounds.

One reason given by importers in this district against buying American cotton goods is the custom of American exporters of offering assortments of case lots only. The importers here prefer to make up their own assortments, many of the goods which must be taken in the case lots offered by exporting firms being unsalable in this market.

[A list of Asuncion importers of cotton goods and of manufacturers' representatives in that city may be had, upon request, from the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce or its district offices. Refer to file No. 77463.]

### AMERICAN CONSULAR OFFICERS ON LEAVE OF ABSENCE.

The following American consular officers are on leave of absence in the United States and will be glad to confer with business men and commercial organizations relative to conditions in their respective jurisdictions. The consul's time is available primarily for personal interviews. He has limited facilities for correspondence, and except in urgent cases letters should be directed to the consulate.

Name.	Post.	Expiration of leave.	Address.
West, George N. ....	Kobe, Japan. ....	Aug. 15	Department of State, Washington, D. C.
Hale, F. D. ....	Huddersfield, England	Sept. 5	Lunenburg, Vt.
Masterson, William W. ....	Durban, Natal, South Africa.	Sept. 1	Carrollton, Ky.
Baker, E. Carlton. ....	Nagasaki, Japan. ....	Aug. 30	Apartment No. 75, The Brunswick, Washington, D. C.
Monaghan, J. C. ....	Kingston, Jamaica. ....	Sept. 1	Avenue A and Fourteenth Street, Bayonne, N. J.
Jewell, John F. ....	Chefoo, China. ....	Oct. 1	Galena, Ill.
Kemper, Graham H. ....	Erfurt, Germany. ....	Sept. 10	Department of State, Washington, D. C.
Gooder, James H. ....	Niagara Falls, Canada.	Sept. 1	27 South Hawk Street, Albany, N. Y.
Hazeltine, Ross. ....	Port Antonio, Jamaica.	Oct. 1	Department of State, Washington, D. C.
Laing, James Oliver. ....	Karachi, India. ....	Sept. 30	C/o University Club, Kansas City, Mo.
Leonard, Walter A. ....	Colombo, Ceylon. ....	Oct. 14	Essax, Iowa.
Osborne, John Ball. ....	Havre, France. ....	Oct. 21	Department of State, Washington, D. C.

### PORTO RICO TO HAVE NEW PASSENGER SERVICE.

[Commercial Agent Harwood Hull, San Juan, Aug. 2.]

Beginning with August 10 the Brazilian Steamship Line (Lloyd Brasileiro) announces a passenger service between San Juan and Para, Pernambuco, Bahia, Rio de Janeiro, and Santos. There will be two sailings each month, on the 10th and 25th. For the present no arrangement has been made for accepting mail.

Four steamers of this line plying between Brazil and New York have been stopping at San Juan for coal and supplies for several months. The southbound passenger service, however, is just announced.

## FOREIGN TRADE OPPORTUNITIES.

Reserved addresses may be obtained from the Bureau and its district offices. Request for each opportunity should be on a separate sheet and state opportunity number. The Bureau does not furnish credit ratings or assume responsibility as to the standing of foreign inquirers; the usual precautions should be taken in all cases.

*Sporting goods*, No. 22090.—An American consular officer in Brazil writes that the physical culture instructor of a Government institution in that country wishes to receive catalogues, prices, lists, etc., of athletic and sporting goods, such as baseballs, footballs, gloves, clothes, tennis rackets, light gymnasium equipment, etc. It is desired to transact business on a "cash with order" basis.

*General representation*, No. 22091.—An American consular officer in Venezuela reports the organization of a firm of manufacturers' agents in his district for the purpose of importing American manufactured goods. Correspondence may be in English.

*Tires and rims*, No. 22092.—A manufacturer of athletic goods and traveler's supplies in Spain informs an American consular officer that he is desirous of importing tires for bicycles and wooden finished rims. Correspondence should be in Spanish. Reference is given.

*Casings*, No. 22093.—The commercial attaché of the Department of Commerce in France transmits the name and address of an abattoir in Switzerland who desires to purchase fresh and dried intestines of beef, sheep, and hogs.

*Clothing, glassware, hardware, etc.*, No. 22094.—An American consular officer in Canada reports that an exporting and importing firm in his district wishes to secure selling agencies from American manufacturers and exporters of clothing, silver-plated and glass ware, canes, umbrellas, cordage, hardware, etc. References.

*Fiber, copper thread, etc.*, No. 22095.—A firm of manufacturers of electric medical apparatus advises an American consular officer that it wishes to import electric measuring apparatus, sheets and bars of fiber, copper thread covered with silk, X-ray accessories, etc. Correspondence in Spanish.

*Buttons, thread, etc.*, No. 22096.—An American consular officer in Argentina writes that an importing firm in his district wishes to communicate with American manufacturers of buttons, buckles, sewing thread, etc. Correspondence in English. Reference.

*Stoves*, No. 22097.—A business man in Canada informs an American consular officer that he wishes to correspond with manufacturers of coal-oil stoves.

*Vacuum cleaners*, No. 22098.—An American consular officer in Spain forwards the name and address of a business woman in his district who would like to purchase vacuum cleaners. Reference.

*Machinery*, No. 22099.—A man in Brazil informs an American consular officer that he is interested in obtaining catalogues and price lists of machinery for quarrying granite and cutting stone into blocks for paving streets.

*Dyestuffs, hair oils, etc.*, No. 22100.—A firm in East Africa informs an American consular officer that it wishes catalogues, price lists, etc., on dyestuffs, confectionery, hair oils, scissors, and velvet cloth. The cheaper grades are desired. Correspondence in English.

*Lubricants, packing materials, etc.*, No. 22101.—An American consular officer in Spain reports that an importer and exporter in his district wishes to import lubricants, packing materials, etc. Correspondence in English. References.

*Ornamental fencing*, No. 22102.—A business man in Canada informs an American consular officer of his desire to correspond with manufacturers of ornamental fencing and gates.

*Grains, cereals, cotton, chemicals, etc.*, No. 22103.—An American consular officer in Europe reports that a neutral Government desires to make connections with American firms with a view to getting quotations on grains, cereals, flour, meat, lard, oils for foods and industries, alcohol, dried fruit, wool, cotton, linseed cake, metals, and chemicals. Prices should include agent's commissions and be quoted c. i. f. port of entry. Quantity available for immediate shipment should be stated, also shipping space obtainable and charter prices. Metric system should be used. Correspondence should be in French or German.

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No. 188

Washington, D. C., Friday, August 11

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### INCREASED DUTY ON AUTOMOBILES IN CEYLON.

[Cablegram from the American vice consul, Colombo, Aug. 10.]

The duty on automobiles (excluding trucks) imported into Ceylon has been increased to 33½ per cent ad valorem, the increase being effective August 2.

[The former rate on automobiles imported into Ceylon was 5½ per cent ad valorem.]

### FRENCH RESTRICTION OF TOBACCO EXPORTS.

[Cablegram from American consulate general, Paris, Aug. 9.]

A decree of August 7 published to-day prohibits the exportation of tobacco. A subsequent order of the Minister of Finance, dated August 7, modifies the decree by allowing exportation to England, British dominions and protectorates, Belgium, Japan, Russia, and the United States, without special authorization.

### LIGHTHOUSE SERVICE CHANGES IN OREGON.

Improvement of aids to navigation at or near the entrance to Coquille River, Oreg., is planned by the United States Lighthouse Service. The sundry civil act approved July 1, 1916, appropriated \$6,000 for this work.

Maritime interests have petitioned for the removal of the present station to a more advantageous locality, as it is now of no great benefit to commerce, and the fog signal would serve its purpose better if on the other side of the river at or near the end of the south jetty. Moreover, the station is on a point of land which is being encroached upon by the Coquille River.

The work contemplated to carry out the provisions of this appropriation consists of establishing an occulting electric light and a fog bell operated by an electric motor. This will require the erection of a tower, fog-signal building, and keeper's dwelling and the installation of the necessary illuminating and fog-signal building, electric wiring, with poles, etc. These improvements will effect an economy in maintenance, as only one keeper will be required instead of the present number of two.

**CANADA'S MERCHANDISE TRADE GROWING RAPIDLY.**

[Consul General John G. Foster, Ottawa, Aug. 8.]

The total merchandise trade of Canada for the year ended June 30, 1916, amounted to \$1,469,241,986, an increase of more than 68 per cent over the preceding year. The imports increased nearly 40 per cent, but the domestic exports were more than 95 per cent in excess of the domestic exports of the preceding 12 months.

The merchandise entered for consumption amounted to \$595,828,534. The domestic merchandise exported was \$873,413,452. Coin and bullion imported amounted to \$34,058,309, and coin and bullion exported to \$80,287,037. The foreign merchandise exported amounted to \$96,101,389. The grand total of Canadian trade was \$1,679,639,721.

The dutiable goods exported were valued at \$337,669,044. Goods imported free of duty amounted to \$258,159,490. The amount of customs duty collected during the year was \$118,266,847, or nearly \$40,000,000 increase as compared with the preceding year.

The following is a classification of domestic merchandise exported during the years ended June 30, 1915 and 1916:

Classification.	1915	1916	Classification.	1915	1916
Mineral products.....	\$53,526,602	\$71,334,835	Manufactures.....	\$108,817,957	\$284,465,047
Fishery products.....	19,624,268	23,246,778	Miscellaneous.....	1,300,768	9,417,802
Forest products.....	43,288,935	53,259,354			
Animals and products.....	79,107,718	108,147,106	Total.....	447,238,151	873,413,452
Agriculture.....	141,611,903	222,510,520			

[Canadian trade figures for the year ended March 31, 1916, were published in **COMMERCE REPORTS** for May 4, 1916.]

**PINEAPPLE EXPORTS FROM HABANA.**

[Consul Henry M. Wolcott, detailed as vice consul, Habana, Cuba, Aug. 4.]

The total exports of pineapples from this port to the United States during the shipping season, which is at its height in the months of April, May, and June, were 892,505 crates, the declared value being at the rate of \$1 a crate.

The exports for 1915 were 1,674,249 crates, the decrease in the present year being attributed to the extreme drought of the winter months and the increased cane plantings on lands formerly devoted to pineapples.

While the declared value of the pineapple for export to the United States is placed at the uniform figure of \$1 a crate for the entire season, the actual average value in this market is estimated at about \$1.60 a crate, which would make the total received by the exporters for the crop of 1916 approximately \$1,500,000. As there is a large local consumption of this fruit, it is probable that the total value of the crop produced in western Cuba was in excess of \$2,000,000.

Now that the pineapple growers in Cuba are coming to realize the importance of cooperation in the marketing of their product, and of more modern methods of culture, including proper fertilization, the financial returns are much better than heretofore. It has been proven that proper fertilization has the greatest influence on the flavor of the fruit and its shipping qualities, and under favorable conditions it has been demonstrated that as fine a quality of fruit may be grown in Cuba as is produced anywhere in the world.



**ALMOND AND RAISIN CROP PROSPECTS IN SPAIN.**

[Consul Percival Gassett, Malaga, July 15.]

**Almonds.**

Reports recently received from the chief almond-producing districts of the south of Spain state that the Jordan crop will be much smaller this year than was expected. Adverse weather conditions in March and April practically destroyed the yield in some exposed sections; a short output is noted in most places.

**Abundant Crop of Valencias Assured.**

No damage was done to Valencias, and an abundant crop of this sort is assured in all southern districts. In some places in northern Spain the estimate is for a yield a little less than last year.

Prices have not yet been spoken of, and probably several weeks will pass before quotations are made for new-crop goods of either variety. Jordans remain and probably will continue on a level of high values throughout the coming season, as the diminished production, in connection with the practical certainty of heavy American and British consumption, will hold up the market. In the face of Italy's abundant crop and the large Spanish yield it is expected that Valencias may be cheaper than last year. Exports of almonds from Malaga have, as is usual from March to June, diminished from month to month, and this market is now practically bare of old-crop goods.

**Larger Muscatel Raisin Crop Expected.**

At this writing (July 15) prospects are that the new crop of muscatel raisins will be somewhat larger than the production of 1915, which was estimated at 1,000,000 boxes. Practically all of last year's crop has been shipped, and there is very little, if any, old stock to be carried over into the new season. Stocks in London, however, are much larger than for many years past and will undoubtedly have some adverse effect on this year's sales to that market.

Prices for new-crop muscatels have not yet been made, but it seems to be generally believed that they will be about the same as those of previous years. Packing boxes and dressing materials (fancy papers and ribbon) have greatly advanced in value, but notwithstanding this, exporters will hardly ask higher figures for their goods. Exports to certain European countries may be curtailed on account of the blockade, and shipping facilities are so irregular and uncertain that most shippers here will probably take the opportunity to sell whenever possible at reasonable prices rather than attempt to uphold prices in expectation of a rising market.

**NEW BUDGET IN VENEZUELA.**

The Venezuelan budget for the year beginning July 1, 1916, has been passed by the Congress, and appears in the *Gaceta Oficial* for July 1. The total estimated expenditures of 44,180,000 bolivars (\$8,526,740) are fully covered by the estimated revenues. The chief source of revenue is the tariff on imports, estimated at \$2,026,500 for the coming year. The next largest revenue items are profits from the salt monopoly, and taxes on cigarettes and liquors. The sum of \$1,500,000 is assigned to the payment of interest and amortization on the six national debts. The appropriations for public works cover only the amounts required for salaries and maintenance.

**JAPAN'S MARKET FOR IMPORTS GROWS UNFAVORABLE.**

[Extract from Japan Chronicle, forwarded by Consul General George H. Scidmore, Yokohama, July 7.]

The market for imports has been increasingly unfavorable lately. This is generally attributed in part to the subsidence of the speculation fever that was responsible for the recent abnormal boom, but there seems to be another cause. When the market was unreasonably high it was impossible to get sufficient imports owing to the pressure on freight space, scarcely a tithe of the quantity ordered being imported. Japanese importers therefore sent orders abroad for quantities far greater than were actually wanted. It was not long, however, before the pressure on shipping was relaxed and conditions became favorable for European and American exporters to make shipments to Japan. The result has been a great influx of imports into the country.

To cite an instance, stocks of pulp, of which there was such a dearth some time ago, now amount to as much as 8,000 tons in Osaka, Kobe, Tokyo, and Yokohama. In addition, imports are arriving to the quantity of about 3,000 tons a month. As the price has fallen, the loss to importers must be very considerable.

Of more serious consequence is the fact that as importers ordered larger quantities than were actually necessary, which are now arriving, they are compelled in not a few cases to convert their holdings into cash. This conversion naturally takes the form of dumping, which has been necessary not only with pulp but with all other commodities which recently underwent an abnormal boom, such as iron, chemicals and medicines, etc.

[Articles on the pulp situation in Japan were published in *COMMERCE REPORTS* for Feb. 9 and June 14, 1916.]

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**AUSTRIAN SHIPS IN SHANGHAI IN DEMAND.**

[Consul General Thomas Sammons, Shanghai, China, July 14.]

A number of offers have been made during the course of the European war for the purchase of three Austrian steamers that are tied up at Shanghai. The chief difficulty arising has been that the owners have based their prices on war-time conditions, whereas it has generally been accepted that the vessels were not to be delivered until after peace is declared and the valuation thereby reduced.

The latest offer has been made to the China Mail Steamship Co., \$500,000 gold being asked for each ship. This company has but one steamer, the *China*, formerly of the Pacific Mail, and every effort is being made to secure additional tonnage. On the last trip of the *China* to this port Capt. T. D. Dobson and Mr. G. J. Petrocelli, the local agent of the line, made a thorough examination of the Austrian Lloyd steamers and reported favorably in regard to the *Bohemia* to the San Francisco office. The local office is now awaiting further instructions, and, should the owners of the *Bohemia* be inclined to consider a reasonable price, negotiations will no doubt be entered into for the purchase of the boat.

As this ship and the two other interned steamers are part of the Austrian naval reserve, the consent of the Government would have to be obtained before the sale could be made.

**LATIN-AMERICAN TRADE IN COTTONSEED OIL.****COSTA RICA.**

[Consul C. Donaldson, Port Limon, June 22.]

The quantity of cottonseed oil consumed per annum in the Port Limon district gives the best proof that there is no strong prejudice against its use. To the contrary, the working people, both white and black, composing over 90 per cent of the population, use no other table or cooking oil. The other 10 per cent, composed of natives and white foreigners, use it for cooking, but use olive oil for the table. In fact, it might be safely stated that every house in this district uses cottonseed oil for some purpose.

The seven principal importers of cottonseed oil in the district receive about 37,200 gallons per annum.

The duty on refined cottonseed oil is \$0.042 per pound, and on crude cottonseed oil \$0.006 per pound.

[A list of the importers referred to above can be obtained at the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce or its district and cooperative offices. Refer to file No. 78252.]

[Consul Samuel T. Lee, San Jose, June 20.]

American cottonseed oil has been well and favorably known in this market for years, and is used extensively as an article of food. It is sold under its correct name and is used mostly for cooking. A considerable amount is used for floating-wick lamps by the churches and the poorer people.

There are no official statistics covering amounts imported, for the reason that until now the statistical office has combined entries of this article with industrial oils. However, a leading importer estimates the consumption to be 60,000 gallons per year for the entire country, which has some 400,000 inhabitants. Many native families never use lard for cooking and prefer cottonseed oil for this purpose.

[A list of importers of cottonseed oil in the San Jose consular district can be obtained at the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce or its district and cooperative offices. Refer to file No. 78054.]

**CUBA.**

[Consul R. M. Bartleman, Cienfuegos, June 21.]

The following information has been secured from local importers regarding the market for cottonseed oil in the Cienfuegos district:

Olive oil is preferred to cottonseed oil even at a slight increase of cost. It can hardly be claimed there is a prejudice against the latter, rather a preference for the former, and while it may be fostered by its long and accustomed use, there seems to be a settled belief in its superiority. However, it is an understood fact among the trade that when the price of cottonseed oil is well below that of olive oil the two are mixed and sold as olive. At present prices are about equal, notwithstanding the preferential duty in favor of the United States, and the writer is informed there is little importation of the cottonseed oil for that reason.

Imports for the calendar year 1915 were: Cottonseed oil, 2,150 cases; olive oil, 8,133 cases.

[A list of importers of oils in Cienfuegos can be obtained at the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce or its district and cooperative offices. Refer to file No. 77868.]

**SUBSIDY FOR BRAZILIAN COASTWISE NAVIGATION.**

[Commercial Attaché William C. Downs, Rio de Janeiro, July 6.]

According to the new contract between the Federal Government of Brazil and the State of Bahia, approved by the President of the Republic on May 31, 1916, an annual subsidy of 270,000 paper milreis (about \$67,500 United States gold) is granted for the maintenance of coastwise steamer services from the port of Bahia. This subsidy is divided as follows:

(1) For two round voyages per month between Bahia and Pernambuco, with stops at Estancia, Aracaju, Villa Nova, Penedo, and Maceio, 131,588 milreis (\$32,897) for 22,224 miles.

(2) For one round voyage per month between Bahia and Belmonte, stopping at Marahu, Rio das Contas, Ilheos, and Cannavieiras, 31,832 milreis (\$7,958) for 5,376 miles.

(3) For two round voyages per month between Bahia and Mucury, stopping at Ilheos, Cannavieiras, Porto Seguro, and other small ports, 106,580 milreis (\$26,645) for 18,000 miles.

This service will be maintained by seven steamers. Freight and passenger rates are subject to the approval of the Federal Government.

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**CONCESSIONS FOR PAPER FACTORIES IN SALVADOR.**

[Vice Consul Lynn W. Franklin, San Salvador, July 15.]

Concessions have recently been granted in Salvador for the establishment of a paper factory by Juan Bonilla, José Tomas Miron, Wenceslao Alarcia, Carlos Quehl, and Alfredo Aguilar, and for a paper and novelty factory by José March Reuss. The second concession is for the manufacture not only of paper but of paper goods, cardboard, boxes, toys, waterproof and fireproof tiles, besides horn and rubber wares, such as combs, buttons, and various articles of imitation ivory and tortoise shell.

Each factory is to use only native raw materials for the manufacture of its products. The concession in each case is for a term of 15 years, and the privileges granted can not be transferred to others without the approval of the Government. A reduction of 25 per cent from regular market prices must be made on all Government orders for the products manufactured under these concessions. The factories must be established within one year from July 3, 1916, or the concessions will be forfeited.

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**FROZEN-MEAT EXPORTS OF BRAZIL.**

[Commercial Attaché William C. Downs, Rio de Janeiro, July 13.]

The volume of exports of frozen meat from Brazil continues to show a large increase, the total quantity for the first six months of 1916 being 27,259,000 pounds, as compared with 2,100,000 pounds in January-June, 1915, and 18,730,700 pounds for the entire calendar year.

Of this total of 27,259,000 pounds there were shipped from Rio de Janeiro about 9,000,000 pounds and from Santos about 18,200,000 pounds, the destinations being: United States, 5,100,000 pounds; France, 5,400,000 pounds; Great Britain, 6,500,000 pounds; and Italy, 10,200,000 pounds.

**TRADE IN PAPER AND PAPER GOODS.****FRENCH INDO-CHINA.**

[Consul Lawrence P. Briggs, Saigon, Mar. 30.]

Paper and paper goods constitute one of the leading imports of French Indo-China. Besides books and printed matter, playing cards, fans, and similar articles, the paper in use here may be considered as of four kinds: (1) Paper used in religious worship; (2) paper used in Chinese and native commerce; (3) paper used in European commerce; and (4) printing and correspondence paper.

A large quantity of colored paper is burned by natives and Chinese at the altars of their ancestors and in forms of religious worship. This paper comes mainly from China, and there is little chance for European or American competition. There has been a gradual decline in imports of this class.

Chinese and native commercial paper is the most important item in the list of these imports. It is impossible to tell how much of it is correspondence paper and how much is coarse wrapping paper of the kind used by the Chinese and natives. It comes from China and there is little chance for American competition.

**Village Devoted to Paper Making.**

In some parts of Indo-China the natives employ various fibers in the attempt to supply their own paper. The Village du Papier, a suburb of Hanoi, owes its name to the fact that most of its 2,000 or 3,000 inhabitants make paper from the bark of a small "paper-tree," a species of mulberry, found on the Black River in upper Tonkin. This bark is soaked in lime made from the limestone of the village, heated by crude furnaces fashioned by hand under natural limestone vats, pounded by pestle into a fine mash, then dissolved in water until a thin paste is reached. This paste is dipped by bamboo-screen sieves, about 12 by 24 inches in dimensions, until a slight film covers the screen. This film is spread on top of others and each is taken separately or several together and spread with a brush on cement radiators to dry. A single sheet of paper is almost as thin as tissue; but the desired thickness may be obtained by spreading several films on the radiator and drying them together, or by pasting the requisite number of sheets together, after drying.

**Prices of Wrapping Paper and Cardboard Rising.**

The paper used in European commerce, in addition to correspondence and printing paper, includes packing and wrapping paper, cartons, and all kinds of cardboard. Paper of this group is very difficult to obtain, and the price is rapidly rising. Ordinary cardboard for binding and white cardboard for printing have doubled, while colored cardboard for printing has tripled in price since the beginning of the war. The present wholesale prices of these three grades of paper are about 35 francs (\$6.75), 100 francs (\$19.30), and 200 francs (\$38.60), respectively, per 100 kilos (220.46 pounds). The new paper mill at Dap Cau, in Tonkin, is doing its best to supply the demand for cardboard as well as for all kinds of wrapping paper. This mill, established late in 1914, has been making paper at the rate of about 100 tons per month. It manufactures several grades of

cardboard and coarse paper out of rice and other straws, mulberry bark, mulberry branches, bamboo, rags, and combinations of two or more of these materials. The plant makes a somewhat brittle, but serviceable, light cardboard, and is attempting to meet the demand for heavy cardboard by pasting together at the mill several sheets of light cardboard or heavy paper. The cheapness of native hand labor makes it possible to supply this cardboard for 40 francs per 100 kilos. (A franc is worth nominally 19.3 cents; a kilogram is 2.2 pounds.)

**Produces Low and Medium Grade Wrapping Papers.**

The Dap Cau mill makes several grades of wrapping paper, which it sells locally at prices varying from 30 to 60 francs per 100 kilos. During the early days of the war the price of caustic soda threatened to interfere with the operations of this mill, but a cheap substitute was found in native quicklime. The products are low and medium grade wrapping papers.

The mill at Vietri, in Tonkin, which for several years had been engaged in the manufacture of a good grade of paper pulp out of bamboo, closed late in 1914, partly because of the high price of caustic soda. There are reports that this mill is to be purchased, refitted with machinery for the manufacture of paper, and put in operation soon. The capital of the Vietri mill is partly English, and it is fitted with English machinery.

The leading Chinese merchants are beginning to import baled American newspapers for use as wrapping paper. So far these shipments have come from Hongkong and Singapore, but Chinese importers wish to receive quotations direct from America.

**Better Grades Imported from France.**

European correspondence paper and envelopes, writing tablets, printing paper, carbon paper, blotting paper, and other paper of the better grades have been imported from France. Since the outbreak of the war these classes of paper have been very difficult to obtain. The attempt of Japan to supply this trade has not been at all satisfactory, and most of the paper of this class is still obtained from France, though at a greatly increased price. Correspondence paper, envelopes, and carbon paper have risen at least 50 per cent, while printing paper, which before the war was purchased at wholesale at 40, 55, and 75 francs per 100 kilos, now costs 95, 110 and 160 francs, respectively. There is almost a famine here in paper of the better grades.

Local dealers desire to receive quotations from American exporters of these classes of paper, especially colored printing paper, cardboard, correspondence paper in boxes and tablets, and envelopes. French envelopes are generally larger than those of American manufacture. They are nearly square and always double. The thin inner envelope is almost invariably colored, and the outer one is often slightly colored or checkered. The ordinary American style of envelopes could not be sold in this market.

**Typewriter Paper of American Manufacture.**

Typewriting paper, although imported from France, is principally of American manufacture. The price has more than doubled. The

leading importers quote their wholesale purchase rates at 70 to 90 francs per 100 kilos in July, 1914, and 170 to 190 francs in March, 1916.

The chief users of high-grade paper are the printers and the Government. The largest printing company, which handles most of the Government publications, maintains at Hanoi one of the largest printing presses in the Far East. The plant employs about 300 native workmen and has installed the most modern machinery, so far as it is adapted to the native labor of Tonkin. This company maintains, in connection with its plant at Hanoi, the largest retail book and stationery store in French Indo-China. It has also a similar but smaller establishment at Haiphong.

The newspapers, *L'Opinion* and *Le Courrier Saigonnais* of Saigon; *Le Courrier d'Haiphong*, and *L'Avenir du Tonkin*, Hanoi, sometimes buy of local dealers and sometimes import for themselves.

#### **Chief Obstacles to American Trade.**

The Government purchases by sealed bids at public auction from time to time. The chief obstacles to American trade in paper are the usual ones of price, due to high freight rates; high rates of exchange, due to lack of direct commerce; delay, due to insufficient tonnage and lack of direct transportation; unfamiliarity with the market; unsatisfactory terms, especially in matters of shipment and credit; and import duties.

In the matter of import duties, America is handicapped, in competition with such nations as Great Britain and Japan, by the fact that these nations are entitled to the minimum tariff, while paper from the United States is subject to intermediate rates, which are higher than the minimum, although not so high as the general rates.

[Lists of the leading Chinese merchants in French Indo-China, of printers, stationers, and book dealers, and other importers of paper may be obtained from the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce or its district offices. Refer to file No. 75089.]

#### **SIAM.**

[Vice Consul Carl C. Hansen, Bangkok, May 4.]

#### **Bulk of Imports from United Kingdom and China.**

There are no paper or pulp mills in Siam and the quantity of paper produced by hand is insignificant. The total value of Siam's imports of paper and manufactures, books, etc., for the fiscal year ended March 31, 1915, was \$336,228, against \$424,396 for the preceding year. The bulk of these imports came from the United Kingdom and China. The share of the United States was \$3,942 worth for 1914 and \$2,533 for 1915.

Roughly estimated, about 150 tons of news-print paper, medium finish, weighing about 50 pounds to the ream, is used yearly by the Bangkok newspapers, which in general are issued as 22 by 32 inch single or double sheets. The newspaper printing presses require that the paper should be packed in flat bales. Daily newspapers issued in Bangkok are the Bangkok Times, the Siam Observer, the Bangkok Daily Mail, the Chino-Siamese Daily News, and the Nang-sue Phim Thai.

It is estimated that only about 350 tons of book paper is needed yearly, as book printing is practically confined to schoolbooks and

a few of the cheaper classes of magazines. Writing and typewriting paper of the usual size may be required yearly to the amount of about 400 tons. Wrapping, tissue, and cardboard papers are required in moderate quantities, principally because the local industries are undeveloped.

### ITALY.

[Consul John H. Grout, Milan, May 9.]

#### **Good Market if Requirements are Met.**

Provided American manufactureres can meet the requirements, there ought to be a good market in Italy, and especially in the Milan consular district, for American cellulose, ruled and unruled paper, manufactured stationery, card and box stock, and certain grades of wrapping paper. There has been a rapid and continual decrease in paper stocks of all classes, and as war conditions continue, this state of affairs is not being relieved by imports. It is stated that the present stocks on hand are only one-third of the normal supply. Prices have been increased several times, and now range from 60 to 75 per cent above those of peace times. The demand for stationery of the highest quality is comparatively small. Medium grades are sold extensively. Although the paper-making industry is well developed in Italy, only inferior grades are produced, because these can be manufactured so cheaply that competition is almost out of the question. Among manufacturers here there is a demand for cellulose, most of which before the war came from Sweden. Lack of this material is seriously interfering with production. Most of the medium grades of stationery, card and box stock, and wrapping paper, before the war came from Germany and Austria.

#### **Imports of Various Classes for Three Years.**

Imports of unruled paper for three years up to the beginning of the war, in quintals of 220 pounds each, and their values were: Year 1913, total of 35,615 quintals valued at \$481,158; 1914, 36,806 quintals, \$518,559; 1915, 13,571 quintals, \$191,201. These figures include wrapping paper, but statistics of imports of card and box stock are not available. Imports of ruled paper, principally stationery, during 1913 were 463 quintals, valued at \$5,184; in 1914, 340 quintals, valued at \$6,758, and in 1915, 217 quintals, valued at \$4,352.

A prominent dealer in Milan states that American dealers make it hard for Italian business men to deal with them. The American house demands payment with order. The German, French, and often the English seller, will give credit, while German sellers before the war frequently gave six months, a discount of 3 per cent being allowed on payments made 30 days after receipt of the goods. The Italian dealer has to find the market and distribute the goods, besides attending to collections.

At the end of the war there is likely to be a great demand for paper stocks of all kinds, including cellulose, and unless we are willing to compete with Germany, Austria-Hungary, and other countries in the matter of terms, they are likely to regain their old trade. This is a market worth studying and should be investigated by personal representatives on the spot. One dealer here believes



it might be possible to introduce American high-grade stationery here.

[A list of firms in the Milan consular district interested in manufacturing or dealing in paper may be obtained from the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce or its district offices. Refer to file No. 76840.]

#### DUTCH WEST INDIES.

[Vice Consul C. S. Gorsira, Curaçao, June 11.]

##### War Conditions Have Affected Imports.

The war has affected Curaçao's imports of paper bags. Gradually the facilities for obtaining them have been curtailed. Formerly all groceries and some drug stores imported paper bags from Germany. Holland has been sending a good substitute, and the prices quoted in Holland vary little from those previously prevailing in Germany.

The material that was used in Germany for bags is described as fine yellow paper, very strong. Samples of German and Dutch bags accompany this report. The principal sizes used here are marked on these exhibits. Larger and intermediate sizes are also used.

The prices quoted per thousand for German bags by the lot of 10,000, in marks of \$0.24, are: Size 1, 1.50 marks; size 2, 1.70 marks; size 3, 1.80 marks; size 4, 1.95 marks; size 5, 2.25 marks; size 6, 2.50 marks; size 7, 2.90 marks; size 8, 3.10 marks; size 9, 4 marks; size 11, 5.25 marks; size 12, 6.29 marks.

A sheet indicating these sizes accompanies this report [and with the exhibits already mentioned may be inspected at Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce or its district offices, by referring to file No. 77718]. Orders for less than 10,000 bags are quoted about 7 per cent higher if for 5,000 bags or more, and about 12 per cent higher if for less than 5,000 bags.

Names are usually printed on bags, as in the case of the samples that are forwarded. The printing charges for a thousand bags are: Sizes 1 to 4, 1.50 marks; sizes 5 to 8, 1.70 marks; sizes 9 to 10, 2 marks; size 11, 2.30 marks; size 12, 2.60 marks. Charges on larger bags are in proportion.

If printing is done on a large scale, the charges are reduced by 33.3 per cent on 3,000 bags or more, 40 per cent on 5,000 or more, and 50 per cent on 10,000 or more.

The import duty paid here on paper bags is 3 per cent of the value at port of shipment; the same duty applies to bags from all countries, as there is no conventional or preferential tariff on any kind of goods.

In groceries and retail shops bags of larger sizes are used. They are of American manufacture.

[A list of firms at Curacao which might be interested in imports of paper bags may be obtained from the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce or its district offices. Refer to file No. 77718.]

#### CUBA.

[Consul H. M. Wolcott, Habana, June 10.]

##### American Standard Stock Sizes and Weights Used.

Book papers commonly used in Cuba are the American standard stock sizes and weights. Those in most general use are: Size 25 by

36, weight 40 pounds; size 28 by 42, weight 50 pounds; size 25 by 38, weight 60 pounds; size 32 by 44, weight 70 pounds. The units of measure are the same as in the United States.

Paper pulp and books and similar printed matter are dutiable on the gross weight, including coverings and receptacles. Other paper of all kinds is dutiable on the gross weight, less an allowance of 10 per cent for tare when packed in cases, and 3 per cent when packed in other receptacles or in bales. Packing should, therefore, be as light as possible consistent with safety in carriage. All special instructions given by the customer should be closely followed, even though there may not be an apparent reason therefor.

The paper trade in Cuba is well established. Stationers and printers buy, in some instances, direct from foreign mills, but more generally from branches of large foreign houses and manufacturers' agencies in Habana.

#### **Some Schoolbooks from Europe and United States.**

Many of the schoolbooks used in the lower-grade schools of Cuba are printed locally. Books for use in the higher grades and the University of Habana are imported from the United States and Europe. About 70 daily and weekly publications are issued in the city of Habana, 17 of which are dailies, including 1 in the Chinese language.

Electrotypes used here are generally imported from the United States, but there are a few local photo-engraving plants. In general, the attitude of Cuba inclines toward the American graphic arts.

The quantities and values of various kinds of paper imported into Cuba in 1914 were: Paper in sheets, 5,488,283 pounds, \$304,348; wrapping paper, paper sacks, etc., 3,411,720 pounds, \$105,102; wall paper, 12,194 pounds, \$1,121; other paper, 17,813,973 pounds, \$872,654; blank books, 306,030 pounds, \$43,974; headed paper, 381,171 pounds, \$105,413; books and other printed matter, \$120,813; lithographs, stamps, maps, etc., \$116,278. The quantities and values from the United States were: Paper in sheets, 4,570,806 pounds, \$241,414; wrapping paper, paper sacks, etc., 2,855,798 pounds, \$91,309; wall paper, 4,129 pounds, \$462; other paper, 7,798,853 pounds, \$408,779; blank books, 202,646 pounds, \$27,840; headed paper, 267,650 pounds, \$77,656; books and other printed matter, \$36,691; lithographs, stamps, maps, etc., \$12,162.

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#### **SURPLUS-PROFITS TAX IN RUSSIA.**

A Russian imperial decree, dated May 13/26, imposes for 1916 and 1917 a temporary tax upon the surplus profits of commercial and industrial undertakings and personal industrial emoluments. The tax on surplus profits, which amounts to more than 8 per cent of the authorized capital in respect of undertakings which are subject to publication of accounts, and for those subject to the supplementary industrial tax, is a progressive one, ranging, according to the Board of Trade Journal, from 20 per cent on profits between 8 and 9 per cent, to 40 per cent on profits exceeding 20 per cent. Other undertakings, personal industrial avocations, and emoluments of company directors, etc., will be taxed at the rate of 20 per cent on all increase that exceeds 500 rubles (\$257.50 at normal exchange).

# **BRITAIN'S FIRST GOVERNMENT MODEL TAVERN.**

[Consul Augustus E. Ingram, Bradford, July 17.]

The Central Control (Liquor Traffic) Board has opened at Carlisle the first Government model refreshment room. It is called the Gretna Tavern and Coffee House and is located in the building formerly used as the Carlisle post office. Lord D'Abernon stated at the opening that the board's object was the reduction of the number of taverns and the replacing of small and unsuitable premises where a large trade in liquor was done, necessarily without adequate supervision, by more commodious premises where refreshment might be obtained amid healthful surroundings. The managers of the board's taverns will be given a commission on the sales of food and nonalcoholic drinks but not on alcohol. Beer, but no spirits, will be sold at the Gretna.

According to the Daily Chronicle, the Government has decided to purchase all the breweries and public houses—the latter some 800 in number—in the city of Carlisle and its immediate neighborhood. Carlisle is an important railway center 100 miles from Glasgow or Edinburgh, 60 miles (by rail) from Newcastle-on-Tyne, and 105 miles from Bradford. Its industries include engineering works, iron foundries, textile, printing, and biscuit factories, etc. Its cattle markets are also important.

# **PROPOSED MUNICIPAL LOAN FOR SPANISH CITY.**

[Consul Wilbur T. Gracey, Seville, Spain, June 8.]

It is reported that the city of Cordoba is projecting the issuance of a municipal loan for certain contemplated improvements. The first proposals covered only a small, unimportant loan, but it is now suggested that the amount of the loan be increased to 10,000,000 pesetas (at the present exchange about \$1,900,000), to be floated at an interest of 5 per cent.

With the present tightness of money in Spain there seems to be some doubt whether this is an auspicious time to float the loan and undertake the proposed public works. If floated, the loan is to be used for the municipalization of the public services, 1,800,000 pesetas to be devoted to the acquiring of the gas-lighting system, 1,392,750 pesetas for the electric lighting installation, 424,125 pesetas for improvements in the water system and a further 2,697,000 pesetas for enlarging the water system, 2,610,500 for the drainage and sewage system, 925,000 for a tramway to the Cordoba necropolis, and 150,000 pesetas for school buildings.

# **OFFICES OF THE BUREAU OF FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC COMMERCE.**

## **DISTRICT OFFICES.**

NEW YORK: Room 409, Customhouse.  
 BOSTON: 18th floor, Customhouse.  
 CHICAGO: 504 Federal Building.  
 ST. LOUIS: 402 Third National Bank Building.  
 ATLANTA: 521 Post Office Building.  
 NEW ORLEANS: 1020 Hibernia Bank Building.  
 SAN FRANCISCO: 807 Customhouse.  
 SEATTLE: 648 Henry Building.

## **COOPERATIVE OFFICES.**

CLEVELAND: Chamber of Commerce.  
 CINCINNATI: Chamber of Commerce.  
 CINCINNATI: C., N. O. & T. P. Ry. Co.  
 LOS ANGELES: Chamber of Commerce.  
 DETROIT: Board of Commerce.  
 PHILADELPHIA: Chamber of Commerce.  
 CHATTANOOGA: South American Agent, Southern Ry. Co.

**PROPOSALS FOR GOVERNMENT SUPPLIES AND CONSTRUCTION.**

[Correspondence should be direct with the offices named, and specifications can usually be obtained at the points where the goods are to be delivered or the work is to be performed. In cases where the time limit is too short to permit firms to submit tenders, they should ask to be placed on the mailing lists of such offices to receive notices calling for future supplies or work of a similar nature.]

**Brass tubes and ferrules, No. 3483.**—Sealed proposals will be received by the Lighthouse Inspector, Tompkinsville, N. Y., until August 21, 1916, for furnishing 700 seamless drawn brass condenser tubes and 1,400 brass ferrules for the tubes. Further information may be obtained from the above-named office.

**Construction work, etc., No. 3484.**—Sealed proposals will be received at the office of the United States Coast and Geodetic Survey, 205 New Jersey Avenue SE., Washington, D. C., until August 14, 1916, for erecting steel smokestack, coal bunker, and removal of old heating equipment. Specifications and full details may be obtained on application to the Superintendent, United States Coast and Geodetic Survey.

**Wire, No. 3485.**—Sealed proposals will be received at the office of the Chief Signal Officer, War Department, Washington, D. C., until August 15, 1916, for furnishing outside distributing wire in accordance with specification 557 and such parts of specifications 403-A and 430-H as may apply. Further information may be had on application to the Washington office.

**Air-compressing outfits, No. 3486.**—Sealed proposals will be received by the Lighthouse Inspector, Boston, Mass., for furnishing and delivering two air-compressing outfits. Further information may be had on application to the Boston office.

**Dredging, No. 3487.**—Sealed proposals will be received at the office of the United States Engineer, Jacksonville, Fla., until September 5, 1916, for dredging and rock removal at Miami Harbor, Fla. Further information may be had on application to the Jacksonville office.

**Lance-pole tips and nails, No. 3488.**—Sealed proposals will be received at the office of the Chief Signal Officer, War Department, Washington, D. C., until August 18, 1916, for furnishing 10,000 lance-pole tips and 25,000 nails. Drawings and specifications may be obtained on application to the above-named office.

**Structural shop, No. 3489.**—Sealed proposals, indorsed "Proposals for structural shop," will be received at the Bureau of Yards and Docks, Navy Department, Washington, D. C., until September 2, 1916, for a steel-frame building on wood piles and concrete foundations, with reinforced-concrete roof and mold-loft floor slabs, concrete and plastered hollow terra-cotta tile curtain walls, and approximately 60 per cent of steel sash for wall areas, at the navy yard, Norfolk, Va. Plans and specifications may be obtained on application to the Bureau of Yards and Docks or to the commandant of the navy yard named.

**Motor boat, No. 3490.**—Sealed proposals will be received by the Lighthouse Inspector, New Orleans, La., until August 31, 1916, for the purchase of a gasoline motor boat of light draft, 60 to 80 feet long. Further information may be had on application to the New Orleans office.

**Projectiles, No. 3491.**—Sealed proposals will be received at the office of the Chief of Ordnance, United States Army, War Department, Washington, D. C., until August 20, 1916, for furnishing and delivering, f. o. b. contractor's works, 960 6-inch A. P. shell, model of 1911; 1,750 12-inch A. P. shell, model of 1915; and 14,500 12-inch D. P. shell (700 pound), model of 1911. Specifications, etc., may be had on application to the Chief of Ordnance, Washington, D. C.

**Shelving, No. 3492.**—Sealed proposals will be received at the office of the Chief Clerk, Department of Commerce, Washington, D. C., until August 21, 1916, for furnishing library shelving, steel or cast iron type. Blanks for proposals, with specifications, will be furnished on application to the Chief Clerk, Department of Commerce.

**Metal lath and plastering material, No. 3493.**—Sealed proposals will be received at the office of the Superintendent of Prisons, Department of Justice, Wash-

ington, D. C., until September 8, 1916, for furnishing and delivering at the United States Penitentiary, Atlanta, Ga., metal lath and plastering material for ceiling of the west main cell wing, in accordance with specifications, copies of which may be had on application to the Washington office.

**Dredging, No. 3494.**—Sealed proposals will be received by the Lighthouse Inspector, Boston, Mass., for dredging channel and basin, Little Woods Hole Harbor, Mass. Further information may be had on application to the Boston office.

### SPEEDING UP CHINA'S TELEGRAPH SERVICE.

[Consul General Thomas Sammons, Shanghai, July 11.]

Great improvement has recently been made in the service of the Chinese Telegraph Administration. New territory has been reached and new offices opened in fields already covered. In order to insure speed in the transmission of telegrams the Wheatstone automatic system has been adopted on all trunk lines. In order further to accelerate the transmission of telegrams, three years ago the Administration began the installation of the automatic duplex system on its more important lines, the first installation being made on the Peking-Tientsin line. In May and June this system was put into use between Peking and Hankow and Hankow and Shanghai.

The average working speed attained on the 85-mile Peking-Tientsin line is 110 words a minute, while 70 words a minute is the average speed attained on the 750-mile Peking-Hankow line and the 720-mile Hankow-Shanghai line. Taking into consideration the interruptions caused by climatic conditions and the great length of some lines, the speed of transmission compares favorably with that of European and American lines under similar conditions.

It is the intention of the Administration gradually to extend the duplex system, and no doubt in the near future it will have been established on all important trunk lines in China, thereby doubling the capacity and reducing the delays to which the traffic would otherwise be subject.

### AMERICAN CONSULAR OFFICERS ON LEAVE OF ABSENCE.

The following American consular officers are on leave of absence in the United States and will be glad to confer with business men and commercial organizations relative to conditions in their respective jurisdictions. The consul's time is available primarily for personal interviews. He has limited facilities for correspondence, and except in urgent cases letters should be directed to the consulate.

Name.	Post.	Expiration of leave.	Address
West, George N.	Kobe, Japan.	Aug. 15	Department of State, Washington, D. C.
Hale, F. D.	Huddersfield, England	Sept. 5	Lunenburg, Vt.
Masterson, William W.	Durban, Natal, South Africa.	Sept. 1	Carrollton, Ky.
Baker, E. Carlton.	Nagasaki, Japan.	Aug. 30	Apartment No. 75, The Brunswick, Washington, D. C.
Memaghan, J. C.	Kington, Jamaica.	Sept. 1	Avenue A and Fourteenth Street, Bayonne, N. J.
Sawell, John F.	Chefoo, China.	Oct. 1	Department of State, Washington, D. C.
Kemper, Graham H.	Erfurt, Germany.	Sept. 10	Do.
Goodier, James H.	Niagara Falls, Canada.	Sept. 1	27 South Hawk Street, Albany, N. Y.
Hazeltine, Ross.	Port Antonio, Jamaica.	Oct. 1	Department of State, Washington, D. C.
Ling, James Oliver.	Karachi, India.	Sept. 30	C/o University Club, Kansas City, Mo.
Leonard, Walter A.	Colombo, Ceylon.	Oct. 14	Essex, Iowa.
Osterna, John Hall.	Bayre, France.	Oct. 21	Department of State, Washington, D. C.

## FOREIGN TRADE OPPORTUNITIES.

Reserved addresses may be obtained from the Bureau and its district offices. Request for each opportunity should be on a separate sheet and state opportunity number. The Bureau does not furnish credit ratings or assume responsibility as to the standing of foreign inquirers; the usual precautions should be taken in all cases.

*Textiles*, No. 22104.—The Commercial Attaché of the Department of Commerce in France reports that a firm in that country wishes to buy calico, shirtings, dress goods, mosquito netting, table linen, etc.

*Septic tanks*, No. 22105.—An American consular officer in Canada writes that a firm in his district desires to communicate with manufacturers of septic tanks.

*Haberdashery, etc.*, No. 22106.—The Bureau is informed by one of its commercial agents in Japan of a possible market for the sale of toilet articles, haberdashery, shoes, and clothing of all kinds.

*Cotton goods, machinery, etc.*, No. 22107.—A business man from Argentina is now in the United States for the purpose of forming commercial relations with American manufacturers and exporters of cotton goods; drills; khaki; thread; machinery for spinning cotton and wool; metal and bone buttons for military and civilian clothing; and general supplies for firemen. Cash will be paid in New York City. References.

*Rings*, No. 22108.—An American consular officer in Canada reports that a company in his district wishes to receive price lists and full information from American manufacturers of small metal rings suitable for furnace draft chains.

*Machinery*, No. 22109.—The Bureau is in receipt of a letter from a man in Cuba who desires to receive descriptive catalogues and full information relative to machinery for extracting and preparing castor oil. He also wishes literature, information, etc., relative to the cultivation of the castor-oil plant.

*Brass*, No. 22110.—A merchant in Spain informs an American consular officer that he desires to import wholesale quantities of annealed brass in sheets for the manufacture of electric-lamp sockets. Correspondence in English. References.

*Razors, soaps, etc.*, No. 22111.—The commercial attaché of the Department of Commerce in France writes that a firm in Egypt wants to buy razors, perfumed soaps, pocketbooks, velvets, etc.

*Enamelware*, No. 22112.—An American consular officer in Canada writes that a company in his district wishes to correspond with American manufacturers of old English enamelware.

*Machinery*, No. 22113.—A manufacturing corporation in the United States writes that one of its Brazilian representatives desires to secure information relative to machinery for making small blocks of coke either round or square, to be used in stoves or ranges. Information is also desired relative to processes for making the blocks.

*Presses and boilers*, No. 22114.—A hardware company in Canada informs an American consular officer that it would like to correspond with manufacturers of cheese presses and boilers.

*Machinery, etc.*, No. 22115.—A young Ecuadorian, who is a graduate of one of the leading engineering schools of America, and who has had extensive experience in construction work and development enterprises in South America, is now in the United States with a view to forming connections with large engineering and construction companies which may be interested in some of the proposed development projects in Ecuador. He also wishes to meet American manufacturers and exporters of supplies of machinery, etc., for constructing and equipping railways, waterworks, electric tramway and lighting plants, hydroelectric plants; tools and construction materials for drainage systems, street paving, public and private buildings, etc. References.

# COMMERCE REPORTS



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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

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No. 189      Washington, D. C., Saturday, August 12      1916

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## SPANISH BOND ISSUES.

[Consul General Carl Bailey Hurst, Barcelona, July 10.]

On February 24, 1916, the Spanish treasury was authorized by royal order to issue bonds until July 1 to the amount of \$18,000,000 at an annual rate of interest of 3 per cent. The time of subscription was extended until October, and now by a royal order, published July 9, the issue has been increased by \$27,000,000. The new bonds are to be sold at par and under the same conditions and guaranties as those already taken up.

[Consul Robertson Honey, Madrid, July 11.]

### Madrid's New Bonds Oversubscribed.

Madrid's new bond issue of 8,650,000 pesetas (about \$1,750,000) was oversubscribed yesterday, the offers amounting to 39,958,500 pesetas (nearly \$8,000,000). The bonds bear interest at 4.75 per cent, but, as they were offered at 88, they will net 5.40 per cent. The proceeds will be used for completing the abattoir, cemetery, and markets. The loan is municipal and not national.

## LIGHT AND FOG-SIGNAL STATION FOR PACIFIC COAST.

The sundry civil act, approved July 1, 1916, appropriated \$80,000 for establishing a light and fog-signal station at Point Vicente, Cal. Point Vicente is the most prominent point on the California coast between Point Loma and Point Conception, a distance of 220 nautical miles. There is at present an unlighted gap of 32 nautical miles on the usual course of coasting vessels, between Point Huneneme and Point Fermin light stations, which will be broken up by the proposed station. This light will serve the increased traffic due to the opening of the Panama Canal.

The work contemplated to carry out the provisions of this appropriation consists of the erection of a tower, including the acquisition of a site and providing a water supply, the installation of illuminating and fog-signal apparatus (the latter in a separate building), the construction of dwellings for three keepers, and the construction of outbuildings, fences, oil storage, piping, and necessary accessories.

Instructions have been given by the United States Lighthouse Service that the work be proceeded with as promptly as possible.

**GRANITE INDUSTRY OF NORWAY.**

[Consul General E. Haldeman Dennison, Christiania, Norway, July 17.]

Although granite has been used in Norway for many centuries, it is only within the last 40 years that the industry has assumed important dimensions and a large export trade been established. The growth of the export trade has been steady and continuous, reaching in 1913 a total of 233,439 tons, valued at \$867,516.

Indirectly, too, the granite industry plays an important part in the economy of the State, giving, as the export does, a considerable profit to shipping. The importance to shipping will be seen when it is stated that in 1913 71,000 tons were exported to Argentina alone, the freight charges being in excess of the value of the goods f. o. b. steamer in Norway.

Up to 1904 Great Britain had been the one great foreign market for Norwegian granite, exports to this country having increased from 69,289 tons in 1900 to 149,078 tons in 1904. From the latter date exports to Great Britain began to decrease rapidly, until by 1913 they had declined to only 37,301 tons. During this period, however, other markets had been found for Norway's granite, especially in Argentina and Belgium. These two countries took in 1913 a total of 71,215 tons and 45,171 tons, respectively.

**Chief Centers of Production.**

The Norwegian granite industry depends largely upon the export trade for its prosperity, and for this reason is confined chiefly to the district near the entrance of the Christianiafjord, between this and the Swedish frontier. Export to a less extent takes place also from the Drammen district and from Larvik of the so-called larvikite, or "labrador." The most important quarries are situated at Iddefjord, near the Swedish frontier, known as the Smaalenene district, where 70 to 80 per cent of Norway's granite is produced. Hvaler, the group of islands at the entrance of the fjord, form also an important district, in which many quarries are found, the largest being the Sand quarry on Skjaeren.

The Norwegian quarries are worked, on the whole, in the same manner as in other countries, although modern improvements in the way of machinery, transport rails, etc., are not so far advanced as in other places. The quarries are generally quite close to tidewater, and the granite lies near the surface and, in large tracts, entirely exposed and free from foreign material. They are consequently easily worked and require little machinery and less handling than in other parts of the world. Only such stone as is easily accessible is worked, and it is so near the surface that deep cuttings are not required. The quarries generally are small, and it is therefore not convenient to employ much machinery.

As regards its quality, a series of tests have been made which prove that it is a very solid material with an extremely high resistance to pressure, exceeding that for granites in general. The investigations also show that Norwegian stone belongs to the best classes for quality and stands high in its resistance to frost and surface disintegration.

The polishing branch of the industry is still in a rather primitive state. Methods that were discarded in the United States many years



ago are still used here. None of the excellent machinery with which American granite is polished is known in this country, and until it is introduced and this part of the industry brought up to date, Norwegian exporters will be unable to compete with American manufacturers in the United States market.

#### **Wages and Working Conditions.**

The working days in the quarries during the summer months consist of 10 hours, except on Saturdays, when they are only 6½ hours, making for the week 56½ hours. During the winter months, when there are so few hours of daylight, the hours of employment are only 7 per day, or a total of 42 for the week.

Quarrymen and journeymen are paid on the average 13.40 cents per hour and granite cutters from 16 cents to 20 cents per hour. These rates, however, are very seldom used, as practically all work is paid for by the piece. Quarrymen apprentices are unknown in Norway, except in cases where a boy sometimes helps his father when doing piecework. Granite cutters' and paving cutters' apprentices receive from \$2.70 to \$4 per week.

Paving cutters work entirely on the piecework system. It is impossible to state the rate of earnings per hour, as there is no supervision of the workmen and no account kept of the time consumed on each job.

#### **Cost of Working Granite.**

The cost of transportation from the quarry to tidewater depends entirely upon the location of the quarry. In many cases there is no cost whatever, as the quarries are often situated right on the water and a crane is all that is necessary to load the granite into the boat.

The cost per cubic foot on rough granite as quarried is as follows: Gray granite, \$0.80; red granite, \$0.94; black granite, \$1.34. The cost per linear foot on dressed curbstone is about 54 cents, including the material. Cost per square foot of dressed granite surfaces is 36 cents for dressing 1 superficial foot (10 cut). Paving blocks of an average size and finish cost 48 cents per 1,000.

#### **Effect of War on Industry.**

Steel used in the manufacture of tools for quarrying and cutting has about trebled in price since the war, and now costs 8½ cents per pound. The powder used costs 17 cents per pound, which is about double the price in normal times.

While most other industries in Norway are enjoying the greatest prosperity, the granite industry has been severely hit by the war. With the increased cost of building materials and labor, building operations have practically ceased. Very few building contracts are being made and therefore the demand for building stones is small compared with what it was in former years. The export trade has been greatly hindered by the high freights which have prevailed since the breaking out of the war. Only about 10 per cent of the workmen normally employed in this industry are at present occupied.

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A list of automobile agents in Bergen, Norway, may be obtained from the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce or its district and cooperative offices. Refer to file 78,500.

**AUSTRALASIAN WOOL CLIP AND SALES.**

[Consul General J. I. Brittain, Sydney, New South Wales, July 11.]

Statistics just published showing the wool production and prices realized for the fiscal year closing June 30, 1916, are most encouraging to wool producers of Australia. The prices are record ones for Australasia. Over-sea shipments from Australia and New Zealand for the years 1914-15 and 1915-16 were as follows:

States.	1914-15	1915-16
	<i>Bales.</i>	<i>Bales.</i>
New South Wales.....	731,213	848,515
Victoria.....	302,630	302,476
Queensland.....	268,120	258,122
South Australia.....	104,530	92,654
Western Australia.....	65,306	23,594
Tasmania.....	17,802	11,908
Commonwealth.....	1,575,686	1,639,269
New Zealand.....	562,094	530,656
Total.....	2,137,780	2,169,925

**Sheep Returns.**

There has been a falling off of over 12,000,000 sheep in the Australasian flocks since the last annual returns were published, the principal sufferers being New South Wales, Victoria, and Queensland. Details given in the last official returns are:

States.	1914	1915
New South Wales.....	36,287,000	33,089,003
Victoria.....	12,061,085	10,545,652
Queensland.....	23,129,910	16,107,225
South Australia.....	4,208,461	3,674,547
Western Australia.....	4,471,941	4,932,727
Tasmania.....	1,862,609	1,613,130
Commonwealth.....	82,011,606	69,781,303
New Zealand.....	24,465,536	24,607,806
Total.....	106,477,132	94,389,171

**High Prices Received.**

The gross proceeds realized from the sale of wool in Australia and New Zealand during the past two seasons were: 1915-16, value, \$145,525,537, average per bale, \$80.50; 1914-15, value, \$96,077,100, average per bale, \$62.19. The average is the highest yet realized in the colonial market, the next highest being \$69.08, realized for the 1906-7 clip.

The general opinion is that instead of the Commonwealth taking over the wool clip, as has been done by the British Government, auction sales will continue but be restricted to Great Britain and her allies.

**House Flag and Funnel Marks Registered.**

The United States Bureau of Navigation reports the registration, pursuant to section 7 of the act of May 28, 1908, of the following described house flag and funnel marks of the Petroleum Transport Co., 120 Broadway, New York, N. Y.: House flag—triangular green pennant with red circle inclosing monogram P. T. in white on a blue field; funnel marks—a red circle inclosing monogram P. T. in white on a blue field.

**SOUTH AFRICA'S DEMAND FOR SILK RIBBONS.**

[Consul Edwin N. Gunsaulus, Johannesburg, June 27.]

Various merchants in Johannesburg state that there is a large demand for silk ribbons, and that one or two firms in the Transvaal order sufficiently large quantities to make this market an important one for a firm endeavoring to extend its trade relations and build up an export business.

There are no separate statistics for the imports of ribbons, but silks are imported from the following countries, which are given in the order of their importance: Japan, India, China, France, Switzerland, and the United Kingdom. Competition among manufacturers of ribbons is very keen, and while sales depend largely upon the quality and design of the silk, prices play no less a part in determining individual sales.

Retail prices on silk ribbons imported from Great Britain seem to be somewhat lower than those coming from the United States. Samples of varying degrees of fineness were contrasted with certain American samples, and although the goods were not exactly the same, the prices of practically the same grades were somewhat lower for the British goods.

Importations of American goods into this consular district are made through Cape Town, Port Elizabeth, East London, Durban, and Lourenço Marques.

The customs tariff for the Union of South Africa provides an ad valorem duty of 20 per cent upon silk and manufactures of silk, with a rebate of 3 per cent upon goods manufactured in the United Kingdom or reciprocating British colonies.

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**AMERICAN CLOTH FOR JAPANESE DRAWN WORK.**

[Vice Consul M. D. Kirjasoff, Yokohama, July 19.]

According to the report of the declared exports from Japan to the United States during the year ended December 31, 1915, \$1,412,976 worth of drawn work, renaissance, etc., made of cotton, was exported from Yokohama to the United States. This represents practically the entire export of this class of goods from Japan to the United States.

It is estimated that the value of the cotton cloth used in the manufacture of such goods amounts to about 40 per cent of the total value of the goods, or approximately \$565,000. Before the present European war little, if any, of the cotton cloth to be manufactured into this kind of goods was imported from the United States, most of it coming from the United Kingdom, on account of the comparatively low price in the latter country. The war, by raising the price of cotton cloth in England, is forcing manufacturers to purchase from the United States, as Japanese cloth, according to dealers here, is of inferior quality.

[A discussion of the Japanese imports of cloth for use in the manufacture of drawn work appeared in "Cotton Goods in Japan," Special Agents' Series No. 86, of the publications of the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce. Copies of this publication may be obtained at 30 cents each from the Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington, D. C., or from the district or cooperative offices of the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce.]

**DYEING MATERIALS IN THE PHILIPPINES STUDIED.**

(J. F. Boomer, correspondent, Manila, June 17.)

Many inquiries have been received regarding plants in the Philippine Islands yielding products suitable for dyeing purposes. In response to this demand for information, a review of the subject has been prepared by the Bureau of Science.

There are sources of natural dyestuffs in the Philippine Islands, yet it is doubtful, the bureau states, if they will attain much commercial prominence. Probably more than 100 species of plants containing valuable color principles are found in the Philippines, and many more undoubtedly could be readily cultivated. In many cases the colors produced are inferior in quality, being either fugitive or not clear. As the plants that yield dyeing materials grow wild and often are widely scattered, the supply is unreliable and insufficient. Little has been done toward developing the manufacture of local coloring materials, and until there is an intensive cultivation of the necessary plants, and the capital necessary for the enterprise can be secured, there is little prospect of commercial success.

**Only Two Plants Commercially Important.**

Only two Philippine dye plants are commercially important. These are indigo and sappan or sibucao. Others are used locally, but scarcely enter into domestic commerce, much less into the external commerce of the archipelago.

Indigo (*Indigofera tinctoria* Linn. and *I. suffruticosa* Mill.), locally known as tayum, tayom, tagum, pauay, tayum-tayum, and tagung-tagung, has been in the past extensively cultivated in some parts of the Philippines, and the prepared product entered extensively into the export trade. With the development of the coal-tar dye industry and the manufacture of artificial indigo, however, the cultivation of indigo as a commercial crop in the islands practically ceased. Indigo is still cultivated on a small scale in some parts of northern Luzon, but only to supply a limited local demand for blue coloring matter. It is possible that the extraction of natural indigo might be profitable at present, but the rehabilitation of the indigo industry would take time and a considerable investment of capital in extraction vats, with the practical certainty that at the close of the war the industry would suffer from the competition of coal-tar products.

**Exported in Considerable Quantities to Southern China.**

Sappan or sibucao (*Caesalpinia sappan* Linn.) is a shrub or small tree, and is widely distributed in the settled areas of the Philippines, at low and medium altitudes. It is not systematically cultivated, yet in a few districts, such as Guimaras Island and parts of Panay, it is found in great abundance. In general, it appears only as a widely scattered tree. It has valuable properties and yields a red dye. The wood is annually exported in considerable quantities to southern China.

Exports of sappan wood from the Philippines to China, exclusive of Hongkong, in 1914 amounted to 1,515,756 pounds, valued at \$6,537, and to Hongkong amounted to 621,597 pounds, valued at \$2,857. During 1913 the exports to China, exclusive of Hongkong, amounted to 1,173,036 pounds, valued at \$4,417, and to Hongkong,

1,358,258 pounds, valued at \$4,707. No sales to other countries are on record.

This wood yields about 2 per cent of coloring material by extraction with water. For the export trade, the color should be extracted from the wood and the water evaporated, thus reducing freight charges. A former member of the Bureau of Science has shown that this wood contains brazilin, the coloring matter found in brazilwood. Brazilin is not a fast dye, and an objection to it is that it is very sensitive to acids and alkalis.

#### Various Sources for Brown Dyes.

Brown dyes are obtained from numerous plants, chiefly from the shrub or small tree known as bancudo, or nino (*Morinda indica* Linn.), certain of the mangrove trees, such as ceriops and bruguiera, the bark of xylocarpus (tabigue or nigui), and from numerous others less important. Many of these barks are useful in tanning as well as in dyeing.

Bancudo is the well-known al dye of India. It requires the use of a mordant, since it does not dye cotton directly. Cotton mordanted with tannin is colored dark red by bancudo.

Black dyes are secured from *Heritiera litoralis* Dry. (dungen late), a common coastal tree; and from some species of *Hibiscus*, *Semecarpus*, *Terminalia*, and *Diospyros*. The determining character in most cases is the presence of tannin in large quantities.

Yellow dyes of minor importance are secured from the seeds of *Bixa orellana* Linn. (achuete); from the wood of *Nauclea* (bancal); from *Carthamus tinctorius* Linn., which is occasionally cultivated as a dye plant; from the bark of the common mango; from some species of *Vitex* (molave); and from ligtang, a woody vine having yellow wood rich in berberine.

Berberine is found in several plants of the Philippine Islands. Cloth dyed with it does not show as bright a yellow as that dyed with turmeric, but it has the virtue of being much faster to light than the latter.

#### Cultivation of Turmeric May Become Important.

Turmeric (*Curcuma longa* Lam.), locally known as dilao, is an herbaceous plant of the ginger family. The yellow fleshy rootstocks are utilized for dyeing yellow, but the color soon fades. The plant does not occur in sufficient quantities in the Philippines to yield a useful supply of the rhizomes. However, its cultivation is a simple matter, and it can be propagated very readily. It is extensively cultivated in parts of India, but chiefly for its value as a constituent part of curry powder. In the Philippines it needs cultivation and exploitation to become of commercial importance.

*Peristrophe tinctoria* Nees, an herbaceous plant widely scattered in the settled areas in the Visayan Islands and sometimes cultivated on a small scale, yields a beautiful red dye, which is locally utilized in the Philippines. The parts used are the tender shoots and young leaves. This material can be crushed in a mortar and the resulting pulp dried and preserved for future use. It is very doubtful that the plant can be obtained in sufficient quantities or that its commercial utilization is possible. It is known as deora, taoda, and calaora in Mindanao and Negros.

It is declared evident that the known dye plants of the Philippine Islands do not occur in sufficient quantity greatly to relieve the shortage in the dye supply. A study of the conditions in the United States under which the manufacture of synthetic dyestuffs has been attempted, the lack of available raw materials, the large amount of capital necessary to start the industry, and the assured competition of European products after the close of the war all are believed unfavorable to the development of the natural dyestuff industry in the Philippine Islands.

### **SMALL-POLICY LIFE INSURANCE IN JAPAN.**

[Consul General George H. Scidmore, Yokohama, July 11.]

In the Japanese Government Official Gazette of July 10, 1916, the elementary or small-policy life insurance law is promulgated. The date of the enforcement of the law, kinds of policies to be issued, limitations as to the age of the insured, rate of premiums, regulations relating to reserve fund for the benefit of the insured and for the payment of the insurance, and law concerning the organization and administration of the small-policy life insurance examining board are to be promulgated by later ordinances. Although no official announcement has been made, it is reported that these regulations and ordinances will be promulgated before and become operative on October 1, 1916, when it is expected the Government will begin underwriting.

The new law makes the elementary or small-policy life insurance business a Government monopoly, the maximum amount of insurance on a person being 250 yen (\$124). No physical examination of the applicant is to be made, but if the insured dies within two years from the date of the insurance contract, from a cause other than "a natural calamity, or a contagious disease, such as cholera, smallpox, dysentery, typhoid fever, typhus fever, scarlet fever, diphtheria, or plague," a portion of the amount insured may not be paid.

#### **Loans May be Made by Government.**

Loans may be made by the Government to the insured for a sum not exceeding the amount refundable if the insurance contract at the time of making the loan were to be rescinded. No civil proceeding may be instituted against the Government unless the matter has first been placed before the small-policy life insurance examining board. The revenue-stamp law will not be applicable to documents relating to the small-policy life insurance business.

The director of the Central Post Office Savings Bank (under the Minister of State for Communications) will be placed in charge of the new Government insurance business, and, as in the case of Post Office Savings Bank business, all the mail matter in connection with the Government insurance business will be dispatched or delivered free of postage. The number of commissioners and clerks assigned to his office will be increased by 139, and several hundred clerks are to be added in the local post offices throughout the Empire.

[A brief description of Japan's postal-insurance plan was published in **COMMERCE REPORTS** for Apr. 5, 1916. The development of insurance in that country was the subject of an article in the issue of July 1, 1916. Translations of the small-policy life insurance law, of a portion of the law relating to the prevention of contagious diseases, and of the commercial code of articles mentioned in the insurance law will be loaned on application to the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce. Refer to file No. 79103.]

### PROPOSALS TO ADVANCE BRITISH ENGINEERING.

The Council of the Institution of Electrical Engineers of Great Britain has adopted resolutions stating several measures which it advocates as a means of advancement for British engineering. It is in favor of a broader recognition of high technical attainments, and among the changes it advocates is that the use of the metric system be made compulsory after a reasonable period, and that during this period all trade catalogues make use of both the British and metric systems. The resolutions, which are printed in the Journal of the Institution of Electrical Engineers in its issue of June, 1916, are:

Some combination of British electrical firms, especially with regard to over-sea trade, is desirable.

A Government tribunal of the most independent character that can be devised, to be appointed to control the electricity-supply industry of the country, and also to prevent indiscriminate addition or extension of power stations or systems undesirable from the point of view of size, locality, or system.

In view of the necessity of securing the home market and that none other than British electrical apparatus be purchased in the United Kingdom, a protective tariff to be set up, notwithstanding such benefits as will in any case result from patriotism.

A permanent advisory committee to be appointed to insure that, as far as possible, raw materials and parts as well as whole apparatus necessary to the trade of the British Empire shall be produced within the Empire.

British-born electrical attachés to help in the consular service, and trade commissioners (scientific and technical commissioners) to be appointed.

British engineering standards to be adopted throughout the Empire.

The use of the metric system to be made compulsory after a reasonable period, and during this period all trade catalogues to make use of both the British and metric systems.

The institution to be granted a charter so as to improve the status and training of electrical engineers.

A central engineering board, consisting of representatives nominated by all the important institutions, to be established whom all engineers (other than mechanics) would be required to satisfy as to the sufficiency of their technical training and general education before they could be recognized as proficient, so as to insure that every engineer shall qualify for his profession in the same manner as a doctor or solicitor.

Closer cooperation of manufacturers and other employers of electrical engineers with the technical colleges is desirable to insure that students are trained to meet the future needs of the industry.

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### AMERICAN DEMAND INCREASES FORMOSA TEA PLANTING.

[Consul Edwin L. Neville, Taihoku, Taiwan, July 11.]

The Taiwan Nichi Nichi Shinpo has published several articles showing the increased attention being given here to tea growing. It states that there are more than 30,250 acres of land planted in tea in Taihoku Prefecture (comprising the northern end of the island) and that it is estimated that there are still some 6,810 acres of unused land which might, with proper encouragement, be utilized for tea growing.

"With this object in view," it says, "the Taihoku Agricultural Association, a Government-controlled organization, plans to spend about 190,000 yen (\$94,715) during a period of 5 years for tea plants and cuttings to be distributed among tea growers, particularly those who open new land. It is anticipated that the tea output will, if this policy be kept up, be increased by about 3,000,000 pounds per year at the end of 9 or 10 years. The cause of this activity is to be found in the enhanced prices and increased sale of oolong tea in the United States during 1915."

**ECONOMIC POSITION OF MINAS GERAES.**

[Commercial Attaché William C. Downs, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, June 21.]

The annual message of Dr. Delfim Moreira da Costa Ribeiro, president of Minas Geraes, presents interesting data regarding the economic development of the fifth largest State of Brazil. The policy of retrenchment initiated to meet the abnormal situation created by the war appears to have effected gratifying economies, while on the other hand an increased demand for the principal products of the State has resulted in revenues in excess of those contemplated in the budget for the fiscal year 1915. The revenues for that period were estimated at the equivalent of \$6,964,530 United States gold, whereas the money actually collected amounted to \$9,328,500, as compared with \$6,682,945 for 1914.

This increase was due to the fact that at the end of 1914 large stocks of products for export could not be moved owing to lack of transportation and to other difficulties created by the disturbed financial and economic conditions of the entire world. In 1915 these difficulties were to a great extent removed, and it was found that the war not only did not check the export of the principal product of the State—coffee—but opened markets for other products such as meat and manganese ore.

**State's Assets and Liabilities.**

The Treasury of the State shows a surplus of \$25,975,925, the assets and liabilities being:

Items.	Amount.*	Items.	Amount.
<b>ASSETS.</b>		<b>LIABILITIES.</b>	
State properties.....	\$47,753,720	Consolidated foreign debt.....*	\$24,579,830
Goods, etc.....	1,607,275	Consolidated internal debt.....	13,052,246
Active general debt.....	14,671,340	Floating debt.....	2,986,880
Loans to municipalities.....	4,101,185	Converted debt.....	578,140
Balance in banks.....	2,645,260	Administration of 1916.....	647,200
Other balances (collector's, etc.).....	949,325	Various securities.....	11,490,360
Various accounts.....	7,591,475		
Total assets.....	79,319,580	Total liabilities.....	53,343,655

**Consolidation of Foreign Debt.**

The consolidated foreign debt is thus explained by the President:

In 1910 the State, by contract made with Perier & Co., converted its former loans, making itself responsible to these bankers for 120,000,000 francs (approximately \$24,000,000). In 1911 there was negotiated another loan for 50,000,000 francs (\$10,000,000—municipalities loan). In all, 170,000,000 francs (\$34,000,000) is the foreign debt.

With respect to this debt a new agreement was made, as follows:

Among the measures contemplated to relieve the financial difficulties was an agreement with our creditors toward suspending for a certain lapse of time the interest service of our foreign debt. This was a step which would not only ease our budgets, giving the administration a margin to settle the large floating debt, but also save our Treasury from the effects of the depression in the exchange.

The State, therefore, consolidated the interest on its debt by means of securities. The Secretary of the Treasury was intrusted with this mission. He left for Europe in September of last year in order to negotiate this transaction, and signed the agreement with Perier & Co. on November 19.



During three years, beginning in July of last year, the payment of interest on our foreign debt will be made as follows: The first year, all in consolidation securities; the second year, 25 per cent in specie; the third year, 50 per cent in specie. The securities will bear  $5\frac{1}{2}$  per cent interest and will be redeemed in 25 years from December 15, 1918.

#### **Development of Meat and Cotton Industries.**

Among the factors that have contributed largely to the economic prosperity of the State, the President calls attention to the extraordinary development of the frozen-meat industry of Brazil since the outbreak of the European war. The exports were initiated in September, 1914, with a shipment from Santos of about 3,100 pounds, valued at about \$270. During the calendar year 1915 the shipments amounted to nearly \$1,500,000, and for the first four months of 1916 aggregated \$1,177,000. The cattle that have contributed to this total were drawn in large measure from the broad pastures of Minas Geraes. It is recommended that the State Government undertake the importation of blooded stock for breeding purposes in order to improve the quality of the Minas Geraes herds. The Government has already lent its aid to the industry by establishing cattle fairs in Tres Corações, Sitio, Bemfica, Lavras, and Campo Bello, at which 192,336 head were sold in 1915. Many Minas Geraes animals also cross the borders into the neighboring States of São Paulo and Bahia.

The cotton-growing industry is likewise receiving the protection of the State, and to further its development the services of J. W. Haddon have been engaged for the practical teaching of cotton culture. It is proposed to establish demonstration fields in suitable zones where there will be taught the processes of planting and cultivation, the preparation of the product, and the use of implements and machines. Machines are provided by the Government at cost price. The cotton production of the State in 1915 was 22,368,000 pounds. This was not sufficient to satisfy the requirements of the State, and it was necessary to import about 4,400,000 pounds.

There are 60 textile factories in operation in the State of Minas Geraes, with a capital of about \$6,055,000, employing 8,577 operatives. The value of the cotton cloth produced in 1915 was about \$5,700,000.

#### **Mining Industry—Railway Mileage.**

Another industry that has prospered during the European war is manganese mining and exportation, there having been 303,060 tons exported in 1915, against 246,198 in 1914, 158,945 in 1913, 120,775 in 1912, and 165,100 in 1911.

The President calls attention to the very rich deposits of iron ore and regrets that present conditions render it impossible to obtain the capital necessary for their exploitation.

The gold-mining industry of the State continues to prosper, the production having slightly increased during 1915. On the other hand, the commerce in precious and semiprecious stones, which was principally with Germany before the war, has suffered, although the exportation for the United States is now being organized.

There are at the present time about 3,750 miles of railways in operation in Minas Geraes and 777 miles under construction.

**ROPE AND CORDAGE MARKET AT SHANGHAI.**

[Vice Consul George F. Bickford, Shanghai, China, May 24.]

As Shanghai is one of the leading seaports and commercial centers of the world, it furnishes a substantial demand for rope and twine of various kinds. It is also the leading point for distribution of imports to the greater part of North China and a manufacturing center of considerable importance.

The Chinese maritime customs returns for 1914, the latest year for which statistics by ports for the whole of China are available, and partial statistics for 1915 showed the following importation of "cordage," the general heading under which rope, twine, etc., are classified, with the values given in gold dollars: In 1914, gross imports from foreign countries, 4,065,334 pounds, valued at \$225,393; reexported to foreign countries, 56,667 pounds, valued at \$3,725; in 1915, net imports from foreign countries, 3,877,333 pounds, valued at \$235,555.

**Shanghai's Share in Imports of Rope.**

In these totals Shanghai shared to the extent of 758,134 pounds, valued at \$70,063, and 703,067 pounds, valued at \$62,532, in 1914 and 1915, respectively. The figures are exceeded only by those credited to Dairen (Dalny), which during 1914 had imports of 1,684,133 pounds, valued at \$82,856. This large amount for Dairen is doubtless explained by the fact that as chief entrepôt for Manchuria it took a good portion of the imports into China credited as originating in Japan.

The weights and values of imports into Dairen for the entire period, by countries of origin, were: Imports from Japan, 2,409,200 pounds, valued at \$101,703; from Hongkong, 577,467 pounds, valued at \$48,663; from Philippine Islands, 111,600 pounds, valued at \$10,260.

While the weight of the imports into Dairen is more than twice that for Shanghai, the total values for the two ports are nearly the same, and although the imports from Japan are more than 4 times those from Hongkong and about 20 times those from the Philippine Islands, the value is only about 2 and 10 times, respectively. In other words, the valuation placed on Japanese goods is about half of that for similar goods from other sources of supply. A fairly safe deduction may therefore be made that most of the cordage imported into Dairen was of Japanese origin, while probably the greater part of that entering Shanghai was from Hongkong and countries other than Japan. This has been further corroborated by an investigation which has revealed the fact that, of the large number of native chandlers doing business in Shanghai, very few sell Japanese rope, while practically all of them handle that made in Hongkong, and a few, to a limited extent, that made in Manila. It is stated that thus far the only real competition the Hongkong product has had in the local market was from a factory in Manila.

**Direct Imports from the United States.**

It is learned from the customs statistics that during 1914 there were direct importations from the United States of but 4,400 pounds of cordage, with a total value of \$1,025.

Figures in greater detail are obtainable as regards the imports into Shanghai than there are for the rest of China. Rope and

cordage were imported during 1915 as follows: Rope—Coir, \$1,960; cotton, \$3,881; hemp, \$23,674; manila, \$26,769; unclassified, \$4,073; cordage, \$2,175; total, \$62,532.

There are several Japanese ship chandlers' establishments in Shanghai which import rope made in Japan. Eight regular qualities of Japanese rope are on the market. The "Rising Sun" trade-mark is sold in five qualities. Present prices are: Special quality, \$39.76 per 100 pounds; first quality, \$30.42 per 100 pounds; second quality, \$27.82 per 100 pounds; third quality, \$20.16 per 100 pounds; fourth quality, \$15.28 per 100 pounds. The "Star" trade-mark is made in three grades, the prices of which are: One star (first quality), \$21.93 per 100 pounds; two star (second quality), \$16.48 per 100 pounds; three star (third quality), \$13.44 per 100 pounds.

Several inferior qualities are also obtainable, the prices for which are, approximately: Fifth quality, \$12 per 100 pounds; sixth quality, \$11 per 100 pounds; inferior quality, no quotations obtainable. These prices are c. i. f. Shanghai. It is stated that the greatest demand is for rope of the third and fourth grades.

#### Hongkong Rope in the Shanghai Market.

The Hongkong rope in this market is of two grades, marketed under the "Phoenix" chop (trade-mark). The approximate current local wholesale prices, ex godown (warehouse), monthly account, are: Hongkong, first quality, one-half to 1 inch, \$0.19 per pound; 1½ to 6 inches, \$0.18 per pound; Hongkong, second quality, three-fourths to 6 inches, \$0.16 per pound. The regular lengths are 720 feet.

Manila rope on this market is also of two grades. The approximate wholesale prices at present, subject to the same conditions as the Hongkong rope, are: First quality, one-half to 6 inches, \$0.16 per pound; second quality, one-half to 6 inches, \$0.14 per pound.

All of the regular sizes are three ply. There is a limited call for four-ply rope for transmission purposes, with cotton rope largely used.

It has been noticed that there is a small amount of American and British wrapping twine and cord on the local market, but the quantity is very limited on account of the almost exclusive use of native twine, the comparative cheapness of which shuts out the foreign article. The same conditions govern the trade in sewing and sacking twine.

Indian coir rope is imported to some extent, and is sold for rigging junks and making coir mats. There is no market for sash cord, as all buildings in Shanghai are constructed with French windows. A large quantity of native rope is used for various purposes, such as the rigging of junks and other native craft, but because of its cheapness, competition would be impossible.

#### Hongkong and Japanese Products Have Advantage.

In normal times, the Hongkong and Japanese products have one decided advantage over those from America and other foreign countries in that, on account of the proximity of those places of production to the Chinese market, freights and other expenses are much lower. Another point to be taken into consideration is that of exchange. Prices for Hongkong and Japanese ropes are quoted in

silver in this market, while it is of course impossible for American exporters to make such quotations. Normally, when silver is cheap, all other things being equal, the products of Hongkong and Japan, quoted in that medium, would have an advantage over those the prices of which are quoted in gold; while, with the prevailing high price of silver compared with gold, it would be expected that American concerns could place their goods on the local market to an advantage. The fact is, however, that any advantages accruing from such a state of affairs are nullified by the present high freight and insurance rates and by the lack of adequate shipping facilities growing out of the European war.

The Chinese customs duty on rope and twine is 5 per cent ad valorem.

[Samples of five grades of Rising Sun rope, three grades of Star rope, two grades of Phoenix rope from Hongkong, and two grades from Manila may be inspected at the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce or its district offices. A list of Shanghai importing firms, with the addresses of their branches in the United States, may also be obtained from those offices. Refer in each case to file No. 77839.]

### AMERICAN CONSULAR OFFICERS ON LEAVE OF ABSENCE.

The following American consular officers are on leave of absence in the United States and will be glad to confer with business men and commercial organizations relative to conditions in their respective jurisdictions. The consul's time is available primarily for personal interviews. He has limited facilities for correspondence, and except in urgent cases letters should be directed to the consulate.

Name.	Post.	Expiration of venue.	Address.
West, George N. ....	Kobé, Japan. ....	Aug. 15	Department of State, Washington, D. C.
Hale, F. D. ....	Huddersfield, England	Sept. 5	Lunenburg, Vt.
Masterson, William W. ....	Durban, Natal, South Africa.	Sept. 1	Carrollton, Ky.
Baker, E. Carlton. ....	Nagasaki, Japan. ....	Aug. 30	Apartment No. 75, The Brunswick, Washington, D. C.
Monaghan, J. C. ....	Kingston, Jamaica. ....	Sept. 1	Avenue A and Fourteenth Street, Bayonne, N. J.
Jewell, John F. ....	Chefoo, China. ....	Oct. 1	Department of State, Washington, D. C.
Kemper, Graham H. ....	Erfurt, Germany. ....	Sept. 10	Do.
Goodier, James H. ....	Niagara Falls, Canada.	Sept. 1	27 South Hawk Street, Albany, N. Y.
Hazeltine, Ross. ....	Port Antonio, Jamaica.	Oct. 1	Department of State, Washington, D. C.
Laing James Oliver. ....	Karachi, India. ....	Sept. 30	C/o University Club, Kansas City, Mo.
Leonard, Walter A. ....	Colombo, Ceylon. ....	Oct. 14	Essex, Iowa.
Osborne, John Ball. ....	Havre, France. ....	Oct. 21	Department of State, Washington, D. C.

### NEW FREIGHT LINE TO SPAIN.

[Consul General Carl Bailey Hurst, Barcelona, July 3.]

The urgent demand for greater freight facilities in over-seas transportation has brought about the formation of a new line to run regularly between Barcelona and the United States, with New York and New Orleans as ports of preference according to cargo. There are five vessels in the new service ranging from 2,500 to 3,000 tons each. Sailings are scheduled for every 15 days from points of departure. The name of the line is that of the owners, viz, Hijos de José Tayá, who will have an office in New York besides headquarters in Barcelona.

**JAPAN'S METAL INDUSTRIES PROSPEROUS.**

[Extract from Japan Times forwarded by Consul General George H. Seidmore, Yokohama, July 7.]

A survey of the Japanese mineral industry during the past year, as influenced by the war, is given by Mr. Isobe, Director of the Mining Bureau in the Department of Agriculture and Commerce. He states that the total value of the mineral output during the year amounted to 175,950,000 yen (\$87,711,075), exclusive of the production at the Government Iron Works. This is a gain of 20,920,000 yen (\$10,428,620) over the preceding year. Metals increased enormously as a result of the sustained activity in the market due to war influences. The total value of metals produced amounted to 35,730,000 yen (\$17,811,405), or 57 per cent above the previous year's figures. Non-metallic minerals, on the other hand, fell off by 15,280,000 yen (\$7,617,080), mainly because coal was very inactive.

**Increases in Gold, Silver, Copper, and Antimony.**

Gold and silver showed an increase by 16 per cent and 5 per cent, respectively, over the preceding year, because of the more active work at some mines. Copper was hard hit at the time of the outbreak of the war, and for a time all mines were compelled to stop operations; but in March, 1915, trade was resumed as a result of the demand by munition workers, and prices began to rise. All through the year the activity continued and caused a heavy increase in the output. Though the increase in production amounted to less than 7 per cent, the increase in the total value is a gain of more than 37 per cent, which reflects the intensity of the new demand for the metal. Antimony showed an extraordinary boom in price on account of the ever-increasing demand from munition workers. The volume of the output increased by 200 per cent, while the value gained 8,750 per cent.

**Large Increase in Zinc—Coal Output Decreased.**

Zinc, at the close of the year showed an increase in output of 206 per cent, and in value of 804 per cent. The completion of the plants of the Osaka Zinc Industry Co. and the Miike Zinc Refining Works during the year was largely responsible for this increase in the output. Coal was hard hit by the war and restriction of production was attempted by Kyushu mines. The output decreased by 8 per cent, and the value 19 per cent. Petroleum witnessed an increase by 11 per cent in output, but the gain in value was only 5 per cent. Sulphur decreased by 3 per cent in output, and by 5 per cent in value, though toward the close of the year the market displayed a sudden activity, because earlier in the year production was heavily cut down at Hokkaido on account of the dullness of the market.

[A previous review of the mineral production of Japan was published in COMMERCE REPORTS for Jan. 19, 1916.]

**OFFICES OF THE BUREAU OF FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC COMMERCE.****DISTRICT OFFICES.**

**NEW YORK:** Room 499, Customhouse.  
**BOSTON:** 18th floor, Customhouse.  
**CHICAGO:** 504 Federal Building.  
**ST. LOUIS:** 402 Third National Bank Building.  
**ATLANTA:** 521 Post Office Building.  
**NEW ORLEANS:** 1020 Hibernia Bank Building.  
**SAN FRANCISCO:** 307 Customhouse.  
**SEATTLE:** 848 Henry Building.

**COOPERATIVE OFFICES.**

**CLEVELAND:** Chamber of Commerce.  
**CINCINNATI:** Chamber of Commerce.  
**CINCINNATI:** C., N. O. & T. P. Ry. Co.  
**LOS ANGELES:** Chamber of Commerce.  
**DETROIT:** Board of Commerce.  
**PHILADELPHIA:** Chamber of Commerce.  
**CHATTANOOGA:** South American Agent, Southern Ry. Co.

## FOREIGN TRADE OPPORTUNITIES.

Reserved addresses may be obtained from the Bureau and its district offices. Request for each opportunity should be on a separate sheet and state opportunity number. The Bureau does not furnish credit ratings or assume responsibility as to the standing of foreign inquirers; the usual precautions should be taken in all cases.

*Machinery*, No. 22116.—An American consular officer in South Africa reports that a man in his district desires to receive complete catalogues and price lists regarding machinery for the manufacture of feather dusters.

*Hats and umbrellas*, No. 22117.—Supplementing foreign trade opportunity No. 21928, a commission merchant in the West Indies writes that he desires to enter into commercial relations with American manufacturers of all kinds of hats for men and children, and umbrellas. References.

*Cocoa butter*, No. 22118.—A firm in Canada informs an American consular officer of its desire to communicate with American manufacturers and exporters of cocoa butter for the confectioners' trade. References.

*Electric motors, chemicals, etc.*, No. 22119.—A firm in the United States writes the Bureau that one of its clients in South America, with offices in Argentina, Brazil, Uruguay, Paraguay, and Chile, purchasing goods for its own account, desires to enter into commercial relations with American manufacturers and exporters of the following lines not already represented in those countries: Electric motors, appliances, and supplies; sanitary appliances for kitchens, bathrooms, etc.; building construction material; arms and ammunition; chemical products; agricultural implements; shoes; textiles; hats for men and women; notions; fancy goods; and cutlery.

*Apples*, No. 22120.—A firm in Denmark advises an American consular officer that it is in the market for American green apples in cases and barrels.

*Textiles, etc.*, No. 22121.—A manufacturer's agent in Spain desires to communicate with American manufacturers of woolen goods for men's and women's clothing, cotton piece goods, cambrics, white fabrics, etc. Reference.

*Linoleum, oilcloth, etc.*, No. 22122.—The commercial attaché of the Department of Commerce in Australia writes that a firm in that commonwealth desires to represent, on a commission basis, American manufacturers of printed oilcloth for floor covering, linoleum, and American leather for table and furniture covering.

*Machinery*, No. 22123.—An American consular officer in China reports that a firm in his district is in the market for machinery for drying eggs, including what is termed the "spray" process and the "vacuum" process. The firm is also in the market for an egg separator.

*Sugar, textiles, etc.*, No. 22124.—Supplementing foreign-trade opportunity No. 21989, a man in a foreign insular possession writes that he desires to enter into commercial relations with American manufacturers and exporters of cotton and woolen goods, toys and Christmas novelties, and sugar. Prices on sugar should be quoted on bags of 100 kilos (220.462 pounds) gross, otherwise quotations should state weight of each bag in kilograms. References.

*Skins, rugs, wool, etc.*, No. 22125.—A firm in Persia informs the American legation in that country of its desire to be placed in touch with American exporters and importers of lamb-skins, goat-skins, fox-skins, raw wool, tragacanth, oriental rugs, etc.

*Electrical equipment*, No. 22126.—An American consular officer in South America writes that a firm in his district contemplates the installation of an electric-lighting plant and desires quotations on the following equipment: 1 Diesel engine coupled direct to a 35-kilowatt, 220-volt, 2-wire generator, and 1 spare generator; 2,500 lamps, from 16 to 50 candle power; insulators; wire; and meters.

# COMMERCE REPORTS



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No. 190      Washington, D. C., Monday, August 14      1916

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## FEDERAL INCOME-TAX RETURNS IN AUSTRALIA.

[Commercial Attaché Philip B. Kennedy, Melbourne.]

The Commonwealth Treasurer announces that income-tax returns for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1916, will be due before August 31, 1916. This early date is to facilitate the administration of the tax. American firms represented by agents are required to pay an income tax on their profits (profits are reckoned at 5 per cent of gross sales).

## RESTRICTIONS ON COTTON MANUFACTURING IN NETHERLANDS.

[Commercial Attaché Erwin W. Thompson, The Hague, July 18.]

For the past year and a half the British regulations have not permitted the Netherlands to import cotton from America or elsewhere except under the strictest regulations. No cotton could be imported by middlemen of any kind. The Dutch cotton spinners have been obliged to obtain licenses from the Netherlands Oversea Trust in their own name, and these licenses would be granted only for restricted quantities as determined by inspectors of the British Government, who examine the books of the cotton spinners to determine the amount of cotton normally required and to determine where manufactured goods were being shipped.

One of the standard regulations of the Netherlands Oversea Trust with regard to any and all goods imported under their license is that such goods must be primarily for Dutch consumption, or, under certain conditions, for transshipment to other neutral countries, provided this shipment did not pass through the territories belonging to or occupied by the enemies of the allies.

Recently there were reports that some Dutch cotton mills had been exporting goods through forbidden territories, and it was announced in the Dutch press that the British legation in The Hague had arranged to make it impossible for any further export of manufactured cotton goods from the Netherlands to any country whatever. As the Netherlands has a considerable foreign trade in cotton manufactures, this ruling caused great dissatisfaction, and after vigorous protest on the part of interested manufacturers, the importing

rules have now been so modified that cotton goods may be exported to the Dutch East Indies and British India and some other important countries where, in the opinion of the British Government, the goods would be safe from their enemies.

The following table shows recent imports of cotton into the Netherlands and exports of manufactured goods (metric ton=2,204.6 pounds) :

Article.	1913	1914	1915	1 <sup>st</sup> 16, 5 months.
<b>IMPORTS.</b>				
Cotton (net imports).....	<i>Met. tons.</i> 37,419	<i>Met. tons.</i> 28,409	<i>Met. tons.</i> 33,268	<i>Met. tons.</i> 16,238
Cotton yarns (for consumption) .....	42,118	34,412	35,087	16,590
<b>EXPORTS.</b>				
Cotton cloth:				
To Dutch East Indies.....	21,489	20,320	18,252	5,370
To United Kingdom.....	3,570	4,025	6,034	1,361
To British India.....	896	594	712	1,700
To other countries.....	11,412	8,380	8,366	4,992
Total.....	37,367	34,220	33,394	12,323
Cotton yarn.....	5,930	3,921	1,398	503

### BOLIVIAN STEAMSHIP SERVICE TO ROSARIO.

[Consul William Dawson, jr., Rosario, Argentina, June 28.]

The firm of Lara y Cía., Santa Cruz de la Sierra, Bolivia, has inaugurated a monthly steamship service between Puerto Suarez, Bolivia, and Rosario. The first vessel, the Bolivian steamer *Maria*, of 200 tons, with accommodations for 45 first and 45 second cabin passengers, arrived at Rosario about the middle of June.

The firm proposes to receive merchandise transshipped at Rosario for Bolivia. La Nacion points out that heretofore Bolivian imports have been transshipped at Montevideo and again at Corumba, Brazil, and that the new service will prove considerably cheaper, in addition to making Rosario the chief port of transit for eastern and southern Bolivia. The construction of the La Quiaca-Tupiza line connecting with the Argentine State Railways will also facilitate Bolivian imports by way of Rosario.

The steamers of Lara y Cía. will navigate the Parana, Paraguay, and Upper Paraguay Rivers. Merchandise will be transported from Puerto Suarez to Santa Cruz de la Sierra by mechanical tractors. In addition to the transit trade, it is anticipated that the line will give a new impulse to commerce between Argentina and the eastern part of Bolivia, which is said to offer a good market for Argentine grains and manufactures in exchange for Bolivian raw products.

### SHIPMENT OF ORANGES TO GREAT BRITAIN.

[Cablegram from American consul general, London, Aug. 11.]

To representations that American oranges are seldom shipped in full cargo lots, the controller (department of import restrictions) replies that he is prepared to consider applications for ships to carry small shipments to the United Kingdom. [This refers to the provision that oranges may be imported into the United Kingdom only in specially licensed vessels.]



**MANUFACTURE OF WOOLEN AND WORSTED GOODS.**

The 1914 census of manufactures for woollen and worsted goods shows a decrease in total value of products as compared with the figures of 1909. The production of worsted (combed wool) goods is confined almost entirely, and the production of woollen (carded wool) goods very largely, to the New England and North Atlantic States. Of the total value of products in these industries, \$379,484,379, Massachusetts reported products valued at \$127,351,434, Pennsylvania \$63,113,060, Rhode Island \$60,888,755, New Jersey \$35,738,853, Maine \$17,531,470, Connecticut \$16,577,549, New York \$15,857,635, New Hampshire \$15,039,284, and Vermont \$3,629,869. The New England States produced \$241,018,361, or 63.5 per cent of the total, and the North Atlantic States \$114,709,548, or 30.2 per cent.

The woollen and worsted goods industries are the most important branches of wool manufactures. The remaining industries in this group are the carpet and rug industry, the felt-goods industry, and the wool-felt hat industry. The remanufacture of wool fiber from rags, tailors' clippings, and all kinds of mill waste, constituting the shoddy industry, is not included in wool manufactures, since the product is only in a partially finished form and is used as a material in the woollen, carpet, and other industries.

The total output of wool manufactures for the United States in 1914 was valued at \$464,249,813, of which amount the value of goods made by woollen and worsted mills constituted 81.7 per cent.

In the woollen and worsted industries there was a decrease from 1909 to 1914 in the total amount of wool used, the consumption of domestic wool (in condition in which purchased) decreasing from 310,602,279 pounds to 266,634,390 pounds, or by 14.2 per cent, while that of foreign wool increased from 164,153,087 pounds to 168,093,685 pounds, or by 2.4 per cent. The amount of scoured wool, equivalent to the foregoing items, decreased from 290,706,970 pounds to 257,448,746 pounds, or by 11.4 per cent.

**Consumption of Wool in Partially Manufactured Form.**

The decrease in the amount of raw and scoured wool used was to some extent offset by an increase in the consumption of wool in partially manufactured form. The purchased noils and wool waste used in 1914, 38,881,960 pounds, exceeded that in 1909 by 49.1 per cent; the purchased wool shoddy used in 1914, 26,276,924 pounds, represented an increase of 22.5 per cent over the corresponding figure for 1909; and the purchased rags, clippings, etc., used in 1914, 59,425,149 pounds, was greater by 47.1 per cent than the amount of these materials used in 1909. These rags, clippings, etc., were made into 40,080,255 pounds of reclaimed wool fiber (shoddy).

The quantity of purchased tops used in 1914 also showed a decided increase over that consumed in 1909; for the earlier year 20,828,245 pounds were reported, while 29,106,307 pounds were used in the later year, the increase amounting to 39.7 per cent. Worsted yarn, however, showed a decrease from 59,148,771 pounds to 53,626,797 pounds, or of 9.3 per cent, during the five-year period. Of these two materials, practically all is consumed by the worsted industry. Small

amounts of woolen and of merino (cotton mixed) yarn were also purchased as such for use in these industries.

Of materials other than wool which are used in the woolen and worsted industries, cotton forms the largest portion. The quantity of raw cotton consumed increased from 20,024,061 pounds in 1909 to 28,387,022 pounds in 1914, or by 41.8 per cent. The purchased cotton yarn used, on the other hand, decreased during the same period from 39,169,388 pounds to 32,105,412 pounds, or by 18 per cent.

Raw wool, raw cotton, noils, shoddy, hair, etc., were spun in the mills either for sale as yarn or for further use in the weaving of fabrics. In 1914 the mills made for their own consumption 128,710,245 pounds of woolen yarn, 75,901,071 pounds of worsted, 39,361,200 pounds of merino (cotton mixed), and 7,575,057 pounds of cotton yarn.

The other industries included in wool manufactures, viz, carpets and rugs, felt goods, and wool-felt hats, consumed 68,129,258 pounds of wool (in condition in which purchased), amounting when scoured to 50,257,186 pounds. These figures represent decreases of 12.4 per cent and 18.6 per cent, respectively, as compared with the corresponding ones for 1909.

#### Products of Industry Manufactured for Sale.

The various products of the branches of woolen and worsted manufacture in 1909 and 1914, in quantity and value, were:

Products.	1914	1909	Per cent of increase, <sup>a</sup> 1909-1914.	1914	1909	Per cent of increase, <sup>a</sup> 1909-1914.
	Quantity.			Value.		
Total value <sup>b</sup> .....				\$379,484,379	\$419,743,531	- 9.6
All-wool woolen fabrics, square yards.....	90,950,381	84,641,705	7.4	55,660,503	156,907,413	- 2.2
All-wool worsted fabrics, square yards.....	222,327,115	226,110,822	-1.7	141,778,035	156,755,217	- 9.6
Cotton-warp woolen fabrics, square yards.....	47,398,299	60,236,428	-21.3	13,598,607	15,621,015	-13.0
Cotton-warp worsted fabrics, square yards.....	54,067,018	94,333,233	-42.7	14,897,757	29,806,046	-50.0
Cotton-mixed fabrics, square yards.....	81,400,082	27,518,756	14.1	11,710,610	11,920,956	- 1.8
Flannels for underwear, all wool, square yards.....	2,176,264	3,856,353	-43.6	880,494	1,257,271	-30.0
Flannels for underwear, cotton mixed, square yards.....	4,995,575	7,063,572	-29.3	1,089,661	1,306,369	-16.7
Domest flannels and shirtings, square yards.....	c 16,092,266	4,571,765	252.0	c 2,814,054	911,967	208.6
Linings, Italian cloths, and lastings, square yards.....	36,196,243	28,928,148	25.1	c 9,804,661	9,008,799	8.8
Satinets and linseys, square yards.....	c 8,415,079	5,102,460	64.9	c 1,535,291	912,182	68.3
Blankets:						
All wool, square yards.....	6,489,699	5,137,903	26.3	c 4,186,754	3,228,797	29.7
Cotton mixed, square yards.....	3,937,463	1,717,758	129.2	c 2,067,934	650,714	217.8
Cotton warp, square yards.....	c 17,973,821	9,746,841	84.4	c 3,610,070	2,684,919	12.1
Horse blankets:						
All wool, square yards.....	102,205	247,395	-58.7	82,396	185,430	-55.6
Cotton mixed, square yards.....	c 2,231,162	694,176	221.4	c 395,858	186,238	112.6
Cotton warp, square yards.....	5,831,305	4,210,098	38.5	1,539,526	1,676,942	- 8.2
Carriage cloths, square yards.....	c 514,226	1,782,855	-71.2	c 443,223	947,862	-53.2
Carriage robes:						
All wool, square yards.....	c 132,399	85,179	55.4	c 158,900	17,642	800.7
Cotton mixed, square yards.....	c 354,049	459,089	-22.9	c 137,968	261,696	-47.3
Cotton warp, square yards.....	1,172,417	2,889,444	-59.4	936,687	1,396,595	-32.9

a A minus sign (-) indicates a decrease.

b In addition, woolen and worsted goods to the value of \$2,945,973 in 1914 and \$3,862,340 in 1909 were made by establishments engaged primarily in the manufacture of other products.

c Figures for 1914 apply to goods made in woolen mills only; the output of these goods by worsted mills is included in "All other woven goods made in worsted mills."

Products.	1914	1909	Per cent of increase, 1909-1914.	1914	1909	Per cent of increase, 1909-1914.
	Quantity.			Value.		
Woven shawls, square yards.....	121,213	704,153	-82.8	\$66,365	\$404,583	-83.6
Upholstery goods, square yards....	1,351,262	1,176,542	14.8	1,539,381	1,528,648	0.7
All other woven goods made in worsted mills, square yards.....	3,569,709	701,403	.....	1,219,382	391,519	.....
Woolen yarn, pounds.....	26,125,575	28,520,493	-8.4	8,783,020	7,505,412	17.0
Worsted yarn, pounds.....	66,412,067	88,323,953	-2.2	69,801,271	80,395,543	13.2
Merino yarn (cotton mixed), pounds.....	10,522,363	14,011,362	-24.9	4,862,564	5,666,228	-14.2
Mohair and similar yarn, pounds.....	8,844,234	869,967	.....	2,279,162	652,643	.....
Cotton yarn, pounds.....	517,945	2,325,586	-77.7	109,308	321,927	-66.0
Wool card, rolls, pounds.....	362,749	142,067	155.3	219,803	86,764	153.3
Wools and wool waste, pounds.....	51,165,844	51,869,737	-1.4	10,155,552	12,473,350	-18.6
Tops and slubbing, pounds.....	8,965,170	11,321,279	-20.6	4,926,929	8,027,231	-38.6
All other products.....	.....	.....	.....	5,356,615	3,615,348	48.2
Contract work.....	.....	.....	.....	3,436,636	3,026,255	13.6

\* Figures for 1914 apply to goods made in woolen mills only; the output of these goods by worsted mills is included in "All other woven goods made in worsted mills."

### SPANISH EXCESS-PROFITS TAX.

[Consul General Carl Bailey Hurst, Barcelona, June 27.]

In connection with Spain's 1917 budget, now under discussion by the Cortes, a bill has been introduced for taxing extra profits of companies and individuals. The provisions of the law when enacted will apply equally to Spaniards and foreigners doing business in Spain. This law regards as "extra profits" the difference between the profit which was normally obtained and that obtained since January 1, 1915, and places the "normal profit" at 7 per cent annually on the capital invested.

The bill fixes the amount of the tax as follows: 25 per cent on that portion of the profits exceeding the normal profit and not exceeding 20 per cent of the capital employed; 30 per cent on that portion of profits exceeding 20 per cent but not exceeding 35 per cent of the capital employed; 35 per cent on that portion of profits exceeding 35 per cent but not exceeding 50 per cent of the capital employed; 40 per cent on that portion of profits exceeding 50 per cent of the capital employed.

#### Enforced Pending Passage—Foreign-Securities Decree.

The law provides that the legal administrators of the companies will be responsible for the amounts due under this tax, and liquidators will be obliged to inform the proper authorities of the financial situation of the companies whose business they are liquidating and reserve such sum as may be necessary for the payment of the tax in question. A royal order published on June 23 authorizes the enforcement of the provisions mentioned pending the passage of the law.

Another royal decree published on the same date makes valid the provisions of the law prohibiting the introduction and sale of foreign securities in Spain pending its enactment by the Cortes. Exception is made for foreign securities now held in Spain and for foreign securities deposited outside the Kingdom by Spanish citizens, if they request permission for the introduction of such securities into the country. [The proposed law was referred to in *COMMERCE REPORTS* for July 13, 1916.]

**PROSPEROUS YEAR FOR CUBA FRUIT EXCHANGE.**

[Consul H. M. Wolcott, detailed as vice consul at Habana, July 26.]

The Cuba Fruit Exchange is a cooperative association of growers and shippers of fruits and vegetables, the majority of the members being American colonists resident in western Cuba. It has just closed a very successful year, the reports of the secretary and treasurer presented at the annual meeting held July 17 showing the exchange to be in excellent financial condition and to have done an unexpectedly heavy business during the twelvemonth. Beginning the year with a deficit of nearly \$1,000, it ended with a surplus on hand of almost \$2,000, thus indicating a profit of some \$3,000. As the exchange is a cooperative institution, seeking not profits but merely the good of its members and greater economy in the handling of their wares, the surplus will be applied toward the formation of a \$5,000 working fund and will, after this is amassed, be distributed among the shippers.

The statement of business handled during the year shows shipments totaling 81,120 boxes, these coming from as far east as Omaja, in Oriente Province, and from as far west as San Juan y Martinez, in Pinar del Rio. This quantity contrasts more than favorably with the 21,000 and 27,000 crates of produce handled for members in the two preceding years. Throughout the year there was apparent a growing desire on the part of the Cuban vegetable shipper to become associated with an organization of this character.

**Amalgamation Effected—Scope of Work.**

The exchange was founded in 1911 as a stock company [its organization being duly reported in Daily Consular and Trade Reports for Oct. 10 of that year], with the object of uniting the growers, principally of citrus fruits, and of introducing more economical methods of marketing the produce of its members. In August of last year an amalgamation was effected with the Cuba Growers' and Shippers' Association, a cooperative body organized for the same purpose as was the old exchange. Upon amalgamation the Cuba Fruit Exchange surrendered its charter as a stock corporation, taking on a cooperative character. Concerning the past year's work, the secretary's report says:

The exchange has utilized during the season just ended four main points of entry into the United States through which to distribute its products. These have been Boston, New York, Key West, and New Orleans. By far the largest quantity of products has been sent to New York, where the exchange has had a representative whose work has been truly effective. Very prompt and complete cable reports have been received, showing the condition upon arrival and the selling price of the products of the various exchange members, and returns have been received, with only a few exceptions, in 12 to 14 days after the shipment left Habana. It has frequently happened that information concerning goods arriving one afternoon and selling the following morning would be in our hands by noon of the day of sale, this information giving details of prices received, condition of goods, and state of the market. This information was then passed along to our members by mail, telephone, telegraph, or market letter, as seemed most desirable.

The exchange is doing splendid work in uniting the agriculturists in this Republic and in pointing the way to greater prosperity and general betterment.

**DELAY IN FAR EAST RAND DEVELOPMENT.**

[Consul Edwin N. Gunsaulus, Johannesburg, Union of South Africa, June 20.]

Under date of May 17, 1916 [see COMMERCE REPORTS for June 27, 1916], a report was transmitted by the Johannesburg consulate concerning the potentialities and proposed development of the gold areas of the Far East Rand; also the likelihood of the investment of a large amount of American capital in this enterprise. It had been hoped and confidently expected by many interested in the early development of these gold fields that Parliament would pass a bill empowering this work to be proceeded with at a very early date; but just before adjournment it was decided that the matter should go over until the next session, and that in the meantime a commission should be appointed to take evidence on certain points at issue.

Within the last month or two there has been considerable agitation in favor of the development and operation of the Far East Rand gold areas being undertaken by the Government rather than by private means, and the postponement of definite action until the next session is obviously for the purpose of going more thoroughly into the question of state mining, which is considered to be one of great importance and deserving of further inquiry.

**Commission to Consider Government Operation of the Mines.**

As the matter now stands, a commission will be appointed to take evidence and make recommendations as to the methods that should be employed to most effectively develop the Far East Rand gold-bearing areas, at the same time having proper regard for the Government's interest. This commission will, of course, give due consideration to the question of state mining—a plan that, while having many adherents, is strongly opposed by a large number of people who are of the opinion that gold-mining operations, which as a rule are speculative in character and uncertain as to outcome, should be left to private capital and enterprise under such regulations and conditions as will insure due protection of the Government's interests.

All seem to be in agreement as to the desirability and advisability of opening up these gold areas at the earliest practicable date; and while considerable disappointment is felt on the Rand that definite action looking to this development was not taken at the parliamentary session just closed, there is little doubt that at the next session the necessary legislative steps for the early working of these important fields will be taken.

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**REQUIREMENTS FOR DENTISTS' DIPLOMAS IN CHILE.**

Dentists desiring to practice in Chile must present their diplomas to the University of Chile, with application for examination, accompanied by a fee of \$70, according to a recent law published in the *Diario Oficial*. If the applicant presents a diploma from a university recognized by the Chilean University, he will be given a practical and theoretical examination and issued a certificate if successful. If his diploma is from an unrecognized university, he must take a complete third year course in the Chilean School of Dentistry and pay a fee of \$140.

**WRAPPING PAPER AND TWINE IN SOUTH AMERICA.**

[Consul Edwin N. Gonsaulus, Johannesburg, June 6.]

The demand in the Johannesburg consular district for twine and wrapping paper at present is large. Previous to the war the greater proportion of twine and cordage imported into the district came from Great Britain. Local importers have favored the British article on account of its great strength. Under existing conditions British manufacturers have been unable to supply this market, and the consequence is a great shortage. The local dealer is turning to the American manufacturer to supply his urgent needs. Merchants here state that they have large outstanding orders for both twine and wrapping paper, but are unable to quote prices, as they have no certainty that their supplies will be increased. The following table shows the imports of twine and cordage and rope (not wire rope) into the Union of South Africa:

Countries.	1914	1915	Countries.	1914	1915
<b>Binding twine:</b>			<b>Cordage and rope:</b>		
United Kingdom.....	\$3,240	\$3,431	United Kingdom.....	\$162,726	\$222,472
Canada.....	86,191	32,518	Norway.....	25,042	45,779
United States.....	18,629	47,322	United States.....	7,061	10,658
Other countries.....	521	122	Other countries.....	14,852	6,024
<b>Total.....</b>	<b>109,287</b>	<b>83,393</b>	<b>Total.....</b>	<b>209,681</b>	<b>294,933</b>

The customs tariff for the Union of South Africa provides the following rates of duty: Item 137 (class 4): Thread—boot and shoe-makers' and seaming twine, binding twine, and harvest twine, an ad valorem duty of 3 per cent. Item 193 (class 6): All goods, wares, and merchandise not elsewhere charged with duty, and not enumerated in the free list, and not prohibited to be imported into the Union, shall be charged with a duty of 20 per cent ad valorem, with a rebate of 3 per cent on goods of British manufacture or from reciprocating British colonies. Paper in its original mill ream wrapper or reels, of a size not less than 16 by 15 inches, is dutiable at 3 per cent ad valorem.

Cordage and wrapping paper, printed upon, are also classified under item 193 (class 6).

**Imports of Paper from Various Countries.**

Statistics of wrapping paper imported are as follows:

Countries	1914	1915	Countries.	1914	1915
United Kingdom.....	\$80,817	\$105,792	Sweden.....	\$110,888	\$165,222
Canada.....	2,540	12,453	United States.....	5,289	20,746
Germany.....	35,116	1,114	Other countries.....	904	2,796
Belgium.....	9,655	4,642			
Holland.....	919	8,642	<b>Total.....</b>	<b>303,267</b>	<b>398,612</b>
Norway.....	57,069	67,206			

A shortage similar to that in twine exists in this market in all classes and grades of paper. Great Britain, the largest supplier, is likewise unable to furnish the quantities which are demanded. Norway and Sweden are affected by lack of shipping facilities, as there is no regular line of steamers running between South Africa

and these countries. Even the visits of the occasional tramp steamers are becoming more infrequent.

Although American goods are becoming more popular in South Africa, the importer partly favors the British product on account of the readiness with which the British manufacturer fills orders and the prices he charges as well as on account of the superiority of shipping facilities. Freight rates between Great Britain and South Africa are considerably higher than usual, but the service is fast and, as a rule, regular. Not all shippers are able to secure space, however, and they are compelled to pay higher rates, besides having to wait longer now for their goods than formerly.

#### Ports Through Which American Goods are Received.

Imports of American goods into this consular district come through Port Elizabeth, East London, Durban, and Lourenço Marques. The last-mentioned port is especially favorable for the importation of heavy goods.

An American exporter, in order to secure a footing in this market, should either open a branch in South Africa, or send a representative who will travel throughout this district, or grant an exclusive agency to some established firm. The representative should be prepared to advertise the goods, and in that way clearly put before the buying public an article for which there is a comparatively large demand.

In extending trade relations in South Africa, it would be well to bear in mind that not only the submitting of samples with prices is an important step toward effecting concrete results, but also the stating of terms upon which the exporter is willing to do business.

[A list of individuals and firms in Johannesburg with whom American exporters of paper and twine might correspond directly may be obtained from the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, its district, or cooperative offices. Refer to file No. 78545.]

#### AMERICAN CONSULAR OFFICERS ON LEAVE OF ABSENCE.

The following American consular officers are on leave of absence in the United States and will be glad to confer with business men and commercial organizations relative to conditions in their respective jurisdictions. The consul's time is available primarily for personal interviews. He has limited facilities for correspondence, and except in urgent cases letters should be directed to the consulate.

Name.	Post.	Exp- ri- ation of venue.	Address.
West, George N.....	Kobé, Japan.....	Aug. 15	Department of State, Washington, D. C.
Hale, F. D.....	Huddersfield, England.....	Sept. 5	Lunenburg, Vt.
Masterson, William W.....	Durban, Natal, South Africa.....	Sept. 1	Carrollton, Ky.
Baker, E. Carlton.....	Nagasaki, Japan.....	Aug. 30	Apartment No. 75, The Brunswick, Washington, D. C.
Monaghan, J. C.....	Kingston, Jamaica.....	Sept. 1	Avenue A and Fourteenth Street, Bayonne, N. J.
Jewell, John F.....	Chefoo, China.....	Oct. 1	Galena, Ill.
Kemper, Graham H.....	Erfurt, Germany.....	Sept. 10	Department of State, Washington, D. C.
Goodier, James H.....	Niagara Falls, Canada.....	Sept. 1	27 South Hawk Street, Albany, N. Y.
Hazeltine, Ross.....	Port Antonio, Jamaica.....	Oct. 1	Department of State, Washington, D. C.
Laing, James Oliver.....	Karachi, India.....	Sept. 30	C/o University Club, Kansas City, Mo.
Leonard, Walter A.....	Colombo, Ceylon.....	Oct. 14	Essex, Iowa.
Osborne, John Ball.....	Havre, France.....	Oct. 21	Department of State, Washington, D. C.

**VLADIVOSTOK A FIELD FOR AMERICAN EXPORTS.**

[Commercial Agent Stanhope Sams, June 21.]

Vladivostok seems to offer an attractive field for American exports. Almost everything that is produced in American mills and factories and on American farms is needed and would be eagerly bought in this city and its vicinity, if it could be placed there at reasonable cost. Merchants and importers, buyers in the shops, people in the hotels and in the streets inquire about American goods and American plans to take advantage of the great opportunity offered by the European war to supply goods that can not now be produced in Europe.

The port is now open the entire year, ice-breakers keeping a free channel to the high sea. Vladivostok is becoming increasingly important as a great entrepôt for European and Asiatic Russia, as well as for central Asia and southeastern Europe.

It is thought by the best informed men in this part of Siberia that years must elapse, after the conclusion of the present war, before Russian manufactured goods can compete with those from foreign countries. Ample time will be allowed in which American manufacturers and exporters, if they are alert and aggressive, can occupy and hold a large portion of this rich and expanding territory.

**Presents Opportunity for an American Bank.**

As banking facilities are not advanced, the best Russian firms are willing at present to pay cash for all purchases, although the Germans and English were very accommodating in granting credit. It would seem to be an excellent field for the establishment of an American bank. A good system of finance and credit here, in the hands of Americans, would probably prove profitable in itself and of great value to American trade.

Vladivostok is a city of some 100,000 population and is growing rapidly. It is thoroughly modern and progressive, and is the distributing point for a large and rich territory.

Things needed at present in Vladivostok are many. A few may be mentioned. Gloves of leather or cloth are in great demand. There are few or none in most of the large shops. It is not advisable to send silk or embroidered gloves. Hosiery for men and women is needed. There is particular demand for the fine grades. Japan is sending some hosiery, but it is not gaining a wide market.

Ready-made suits for men and women are in demand. The prices of Russian goods, inflated by war taxes, are very much above the prices for which equal goods from the United States could be sold in Vladivostok. Since the Russian depends for warmth upon fur outer clothing, light weights are preferred—about the weight used in the United States in the autumn and early spring.

Overalls, etc., meet with favor. Very cheap American goods are now being sold to the fishermen and common laborers, and a large trade could be worked up. American shoes are in favor in this part of the Far East.

**American Machinery Improperly Packed.**

Machinery, especially motors and farm implements, is eagerly sought. Every ship from the west brings in some of this cargo for Vladivostok, and the docks at this city and at Tsugura are crowded



with shipments from the United States for the factories and farms of Siberia. Much of this machinery was so insecurely packed that it was likely to be broken or injured on the voyage, and so exposed as to be liable to rust on the way from the United States to eastern Siberia. It was packed as if for a journey between the factory at home and some near suburb, instead of an ocean voyage of thousands of miles during which it is subjected to as rough usage as is possible even on the high seas.

Among the demands of the Vladivostok field are those for salesmen and samples of American articles of clothing and clothing materials. In every shop the inquiry has been made: "Will your exporters send us samples? We can do nothing without samples. The Germans and English sent us all the samples we needed." In the Far East, the United States supplies the styles, while other countries supply the material. They take American fashion plates, and make clothes of British or German cloth. The United States could furnish the material, also, and the ready-made clothes, if it went after the business as others have gone after it. Salesmen, also, would find Vladivostok a profitable field. Agents, importing houses, branch houses, etc., are needed.

#### **Shops Transact Large Volume of Business.**

There are many prosperous shops in Vladivostok, which would repay the investigations of salesmen on the spot, and the volume of business transacted is remarkably large, even in time of war. The demand is so great and so rapidly increasing that traffic continues even under the most unfavorable conditions. The war has already advanced prices by 10 to 100 per cent, but this has not seriously affected the growth and prosperity of the city.

The principal stores in Vladivostok handling wearing apparel are eager to receive samples and information concerning prices, styles, terms, etc.

[A list of the stores in Vladivostok can be obtained at the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce or its district or cooperative offices. Refer to file No. 950.]

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#### **FIRM IN CHINA SEEKS HEATING-PLANT AGENCY.**

A firm in Hankow, China, has stated to the American consul general, Edwin S. Cunningham, its desire to obtain an agency for American plumbing and heating plants. In accepting such an agency it would expect the manufacturer to send out a competent and reliable American thoroughly acquainted with the work. "We would be prepared," it states in a letter, "to pay half his salary while he was out here, on a time contract of say three or five years, as well as a small interest in the business in the way of a commission on all his sales and on all orders taken by the firm in this particular line. We would expect the agency firm in America to pay for his passage out to China, in consideration of our placing all our orders for materials, etc., through them, and on the termination of his contract would agree to pay his passage back to the States."

The name of the firm in Hankow mentioned may be obtained from the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, its district or cooperative offices. Refer to file No. 78706.

**BANK CLEARINGS, GOLD HOLDINGS, AND SAVINGS IN JAPAN.**

[Consul General George H. Scidmore, Yokohama, July 6.]

**New Record for Increase of Clearings.**

The reports of the 11 clearing houses for the first six months of 1916, says the Japan Advertiser, show that more than 8,390,000,000 yen (\$1,182,415,000) were cleared during that period. This represents the large increase of 3,275,000,000 yen (\$1,632,587,500) over the figures for the corresponding period last year. The rate of increase was largest in the case of Kobe—72.8 per cent—with Yokohama, Tokyo, Nagoya, and Osaka following in order. The average of increase was 64 per cent.

Never before in the annals of Japanese bank clearing has such a large increase been recorded in a single year. It was common to all of the centers, and no decrease was recorded.

The total number of bills cleared in the period under review was 6,166,000, showing an increase of 923,000 compared with the corresponding period last year. The increase was largest in Nagoya, where it was 26.3 per cent. Yokohama was next, and Otaru, Kobe, and Osaka ranked in the order named. The average increase was 17.6 per cent.

**Minister of Finance Discusses Gold Holdings.**

At a meeting of the Tokyo Economic Association Mr. Taketomi, Minister of Finance, spoke on Japan's gold holdings. In the course of his speech, as reported in the Japan Daily Mail, he said:

Just before the outbreak of the present European war the total amount of gold holdings of Japan stood at 353,000,000 yen (\$175,970,500). According to the returns of June 24, this figure had increased to 600,000,000 yen (\$299,100,000), a net increase in 23 months of 247,000,000 yen.

If the net receipt of gold continues during the rest of the year it may not be very far wide of the mark to say that the figure may be brought up to 650,000,000 yen (\$324,025,000) or 700,000,000 yen (\$348,950,000), even though all charges to Japan be first paid off. Thus by the end of the present year the holdings to the account of Japan may rise to double the figure just before the outbreak of the war.

The advance of exports over imports will, it is thought, progress further and further. Already during the first half of the year exports achieved an advance by 56 per cent over the same time last year, while imports increased by only 30 per cent. There was thus a favorable balance of 79,000,000 (\$39,381,500). Judging from the past, it may be safe to predict that by the end of the year the total favorable balance may amount to as much as 200,000,000 yen (\$99,700,000).

When peace is restored Japan must be prepared for the fierce economic conflict that will ensue. The saving of specie is one way to meet the postwar economic campaign, and the Government is prepared to assist the business community with a strong policy of encouraging the export trade and maintaining the increasing tendency of gold holdings.

The Government has adopted the policy of lessening foreign indebtedness by raising money in the domestic market. Already by the end of the present year the total refund will be brought up to 160,000,000 yen (\$79,760,000), for the Government, with the support of the Imperial Diet, is authorized to carry out this policy to the fullest extent.

**Wage Earners Increase Postal Savings.**

The Japanese Department of Communications reports that the amount of the postal savings at the end of June was 254,823,933 yen (\$127,029,731), and the number of depositors 14,204,531, showing an increase of 49,910,994 yen (\$24,880,631) in amount and 1,267,701 in the number of depositors, compared with the corresponding date last year. There was also an increase over May of 8,041,493 yen (\$4,008,-

684) in the amount and of 110,921 in the number of depositors. The new depositors are chiefly wage earners in the commercial centers.

An increase in postal savings of 8,000,000 yen in a single month, says the Japan Advertiser, is a rare phenomenon. It is the biggest increase since October, 1910.

#### **Japanese Laborers in Foreign Lands.**

Results of an investigation by the department of communications indicate that the number of Japanese laborers in foreign lands is 227,241. Their locations are: Asiatic countries, 12,611; Australia and Philippines, 111,038; American continents, 102,385; European countries, 1,217; total, 227,251.

These laborers have contributed to the economy of the country in many ways, says the Japan Advertiser, but the department of communications is interested in the amount of money they have sent home. The total values of money orders received from them in the last few years were: 1912, \$7,896,240; 1913, \$8,494,440; 1914, \$7,841,405; 1915, \$7,228,250.

#### **SPAIN PROVIDES FOR BETTER FLOUR SUPPLY.**

[Consul General Carl Bailey Hurst, Barcelona, June 27.]

The Spanish Government conducted an inquiry, from April 28 to May 15, as to the possibility of regulating the classification of flour and its sifting, in order to augment the bread-producing quality of flour used by Spanish bakers. The investigation showed that the consumption of bread in Spain has greatly increased and that bakers are furnishing a maximum output. These facts are accounted for both by the rise in the cost of other articles of food and the abundance of money in the country realized from exports of larger quantities of merchandise. In view of this situation and the difficulty and expense involved in importing wheat, the Government will dictate rules for the use of this year's wheat crop. A royal decree, published June 25, authorizes the presentation to the Cortes of a law by which the commissions on supplies, created in February, 1915, shall classify the flour produced in different parts of Spain.

#### **Some Old-Fashioned Millstones Used.**

Only during the past 20 years has flour been made here by the modern system of roller milling and, although this is now generally introduced, the old-fashioned millstones are still used in some regions distant from the main lines of communication. The transformation in Spanish milling has been gradual, little attention having been devoted to intensifying the production of flour, of which in certain localities scarcely 50 per cent can be used for bread.

On the basis of the prospective wheat crop, amounting to 150,646,300 bushels, if an improvement of 8 per cent in milling could be effected there would be 11,022,900 bushels less of the wheat it is necessary to import. The proposed law provides that if the price of bread shall exceed \$0.0367 per pound, the commissioners on supplies may oblige the millers to increase the production of bread-making flour to 73 per cent, and may also compel, when necessary, the use of rye flour, to a maximum of 8 per cent, mixed with wheat flour, regulating the price of bread accordingly.

[Developments in relation to the Spanish wheat supply were published in COMMERCE REPORTS for Mar. 11, Apr. 26, and June 13, 1916.]

**EXPORTS FROM VANCOUVER INCREASE.**

[Vice Consul G. C. Woodward, Vancouver, British Columbia, Aug. 2.]

The value of the exports invoiced for shipment to the United States through the consulate general at Vancouver during the first six months of 1916 was \$14,373,848, as compared with \$8,553,541 during the corresponding period of 1915. The most striking increase was in the shipment of copper, which amounted to \$8,162,955 in 1916, as compared with \$2,599,679 in 1915. The following table gives the value of the principal exports during the two periods:

Articles.	1915	1916	Articles.	1915	1916
<b>Animals:</b>			<b>Paper and pulp:</b>		
Cattle.....		\$30,362	Paper.....	\$419,910	\$569,171
Other.....	\$19,858	3,803	Pulp.....	90,665	80,828
Building material.....	27,112	53,041	Rice grits (brewers').....	82,642	92,004
<b>Foodstuffs:</b>			Rubber.....	613,163	.....
Breadstuffs.....	162,903	91,548	<b>Wood, and manufactures of:</b>		
Fish—			Logs.....	325,318	230,501
Fresh.....	118,146	172,758	Lumber—		
Preserved.....	56,624	51,624	Flooring.....	29,807	30,013
Meats.....	16,815	5,400	Rough and dressed.....	473,729	333,076
Vegetables.....	31,020	28,430	Siding.....	222,374	266,497
Furs.....	31,982	57,915	Silo stock.....	97,124	15,529
<b>Hides and skins:</b>			Piling.....	24,479	16,886
Calf.....	3,978	8,155	Poles.....	16,891	38,480
Cattle.....	194,342	111,950	Shingles.....	1,743,274	1,850,525
Sheep.....	13,357	10,022	Shingle bolts.....	9,755	4,815
Household goods.....	131,716	111,848	Wool, raw.....	34,251	29,116
Junk.....	44,591	124,412	All other articles.....	322,832	463,100
<b>Minerals:</b>			<b>Total.....</b>	<b>8,553,541</b>	<b>14,373,849</b>
Bullion.....	551,562	1,011,133			
Copper.....	2,599,679	8,162,955			
Gold (concentrate).....	43,572	266,932			

**QUOTATIONS FOR SPIRITS IN AUSTRALIA.**

[Commercial Attaché Phillip B. Kennedy, Melbourne, Australia.]

On account of the difficulty of securing whisky and brandy in Europe, Australian dealers have been trying to secure quotations from the United States. In spite of the fact that public houses are required to close at 6 p. m. in South Australia and New South Wales and at 9.30 p. m. in Victoria, there is a good demand for supplies.

It should be remembered that the imperial gallon is the unit in Australia. Duties are assessed on the basis of imperial gallons, and quotations to the trade are on this basis. Imperial gallons are approximately 20 per cent greater in volume than the standard gallon in the United States. The spirits test, moreover, in vogue in Australia is the Sykes hydrometer test, which is said to be different from that in use in the United States. American distillers who make quotations to Australian importers should quote on the basis of imperial gallons, Sykes test.

Another point to remember is that spirits may not be imported into Australia unless they comply with certain provisions. Whisky must have been aged for two years in wood. Brandy must be composed of clear grape.

If American distillers will bear these regulations in mind and make out certificates according to the form provided by the United States Treasury Department for the exportation of spirits (T. D. 1868), difficulties will be avoided.

**AMERICAN TRADE RESULTS IN NORWAY.**

[Consul Maurice P. Dunlap, Stavanger, July 14.]

Stavanger's sugar supply is usually secured through a Christiania agent, but during the past quarter an agent here has bought some \$6,000 or \$7,000 worth of sugar direct from the United States. The address was furnished by this consulate.

There has been much interest here in American leather and shoes. The consulate sent out notices regarding the recent leather fair in Boston, and two Stavanger firms expressed their intention of having agents visit the fair. One local firm has disposed of \$800 worth of American leather and has ordered \$10,000 worth in addition.

Trouble with the Stavanger lighting system last fall created an interest in small motors to generate electricity. One firm obtained a connection in the United States through this consulate and has placed a trial order for \$300 worth of small gasoline motors.

Over 55,000 cases of tin (more than 5,000 tons) have recently arrived in Stavanger from the United States. This sale was reported in *COMMERCE REPORTS* for December 4, 1915, but the quantity was there stated as "upward of 30,000 cases," valued at \$450,000. Difficulties have delayed the receipt of the goods until this summer, but during the interval the value of the tin has appreciated until the shipment is now reckoned as worth \$1,100,000. This is the first real cargo of tin ever received here from the United States and the largest ever received at one time from any country. There has been considerable local comment regarding the arrival of this tin-laden vessel.

**PLANS FOR NEW SCHOOL BUILDINGS IN CHILE.**

In accordance with the recent law authorizing the construction of new school buildings in Chile [see *COMMERCE REPORTS* for May 6, 1916], the President has opened a competition for plans and estimates for the construction of 10 school buildings, 4 to be located in Santiago, 3 in Valparaiso, 2 in Concepción, and 1 in La Serena. With the exception of an industrial school for adults in Santiago, which is to be built for 240 students, each of these schools is to have a capacity of from 500 to 1,000 pupils. A prize of 1,000 pesos (\$140) was offered for the plans accepted for each school, the competition closing August 3. The *Diario Oficial* of July 4 states that all plans and estimates should be presented to the Minister of Public Instruction in Santiago.

**OFFICES OF THE BUREAU OF FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC COMMERCE.****DISTRICT OFFICES.**

**NEW YORK:** Room 409, Customhouse.  
**BOSTON:** 18th floor, Customhouse.  
**CHICAGO:** 504 Federal Building.  
**ST. LOUIS:** 403 Third National Bank Building.  
**ATLANTA:** 521 Post Office Building.  
**NEW ORLEANS:** 1020 Hibernia Bank Building.  
**SAN FRANCISCO:** 807 Customhouse.  
**SEATTLE:** 848 Henry Building.

**COOPERATIVE OFFICES.**

**CLEVELAND:** Chamber of Commerce.  
**CINCINNATI:** Chamber of Commerce.  
**CINCINNATI:** C., N. O. & T. P. Ry. Co.  
**LOS ANGELES:** Chamber of Commerce.  
**DETROIT:** Board of Commerce.  
**PHILADELPHIA:** Chamber of Commerce.  
**CHATTANOOGA:** South American Agent, Southern Ry. Co.

## FOREIGN TRADE OPPORTUNITIES.

Reserved addresses may be obtained from the Bureau and its district offices. Request for each opportunity should be on a separate sheet and state opportunity number. The Bureau does not furnish credit ratings or assume responsibility as to the standing of foreign inquirers; the usual precautions should be taken in all cases.

*Paper, chewing gum, and vending machines, No. 22127.*—An American consular officer in Latin America reports that a business man in his district desires to receive catalogues and full descriptive information of gum-vending machines, to be operated by a coin equal in size to the American dime. Chewing gum to be used in connection with these machines will also be required. Samples and prices f. o. b. New York are also desired on paper 39½ inches by 28 inches in size, suitable for wrapping bricks of ice cream. Sample of the paper may be inspected at the Bureau or its district offices. (Refer to file No. 78957.)

*Incubators, wagon trucks, etc., No. 22128.*—A commercial agent of the Bureau in South Africa writes that a firm in that territory desires to communicate with American manufacturers of incubators, steel wagon trucks without boxes of from 4,000 to 10,000 pounds capacity, hand corn shellers, and walking corn cultivators.

*Cottonseed meal, No. 22129.*—A man in Canada informs an American consular officer of his desire to correspond with manufacturers of and wholesale dealers in cottonseed meal.

*Footwear, No. 22130.*—A manufacturers' representative in Italy asks the Bureau to place him in touch with manufacturers and exporters of women's and children's shoes and of high-grade shoes for men.

*Rubber stamps, etc., No. 22131.*—An American consular officer in the Far East reports that a leading daily newspaper with stationery and job printing departments desires to obtain connections in the United States with dealers in rubber stamps and stamp accessories.

*Machinery, No. 22132.*—A firm in New York city writes the Bureau that its office in France desires to receive catalogues and quotations on machines for the manufacture of penholders.

*Vehicles, shoes, etc., No. 22133.*—An American consular officer in Persia writes that a man in his district desires to represent, on a commission basis, American manufacturers of vehicles, shoes, leather goods, rubber goods, knitted cotton goods, such as underwear, etc. Correspondence may be in English.

*Cotton goods, shoes, etc., No. 22134.*—A commission agent in Russia asks the Bureau to place him in touch with American manufacturers and exporters of shoes and cotton hosiery for women and children; cotton piece goods, and leather purses. Communication is also desired with importers of seeds, bristles, horsehair, mushrooms, etc. References.

*Water pipes, etc., No. 22135.*—An American consular officer in a foreign colonial possession writes that plans are under way for extensive alterations and renewals to the water-supply systems, and that a possible opportunity exists for the sale of the necessary pipe and fittings.

*Agency, No. 22136.*—The Bureau is informed that a firm in Brazil wishes to represent American manufacturers and exporters in the northern cities of that country. No particular line is specified.

*Aerial railways, No. 22137.*—An American consular officer in Canada transmits the name of a firm in his district which desires to be placed in touch with manufacturers and exporters of aerial railways.

*Office furniture and supplies, etc., No. 22138.*—A firm of printers in France informs an American consular officer of its desire to establish a branch department for American-made office furniture and supplies, filing cabinets, typewriters, and copying machines. Correspondence and printed matter should be in French and dimensions in the metric system.

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No. 191      Washington, D. C., Tuesday, August 15      1916

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## MARKETING FRUIT IN NEW ZEALAND.

[Consul General Alfred A. Winslow, Auckland, June 20.]

The orchardists of this Commonwealth have formed an association known as the New Zealand Fruitgrowers' Federation, with headquarters at Wellington. It is proposed to hold annual conferences of members [mention of the 1916 conference was made in COMMERCE REPORTS for June 13] and to keep headquarters open for consultations and meetings.

Many important matters have already been taken up by the federation, among them the local marketing of fruit. After careful study the following points have been suggested for increasing the consumption of fruit in general: (1) High-quality fruit; (2) attractive package; (3) suitable-sized unbroken package; (4) standard grades of fruit; (5) regularity of supply; (6) prompt delivery of orders; (7) reasonable and uniform price to the consumer.

For local consumption it is proposed to put apples up in 10-pound cardboard packages, and growers have inquired of the Auckland consulate general relative to machinery for making these cartons and also in regard to whether or not these cartons might be obtained from the United States.

[A list of New Zealand fruit growers' associations may be had from the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce or its district and cooperative offices. Ask for file No. 78548.]

## BRAZIL'S THIRD ANNUAL POULTRY SHOW.

It is announced that a poultry show will be held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, during September, and that great efforts are being made to interest local fanciers and breeders—many of whom, reports Consul General A. L. M. Gottschalk, are using American brooders, incubators, patent foods, and other supplies. Articles dealing with the poultry show held in Rio de Janeiro last year appeared in COMMERCE REPORTS for July 19 and November 17, 1915.

**PAINTS AND VARNISHES IN THE TRANSVAAL**

[Consul Edwin N. Gunsaulus, Johannesburg, June 26.]

Although there is a tendency to increase the local manufacture of paints in the Transvaal, where many of the ingredients necessary for its manufacture are to be found, import figures reveal the fact that the United States has a big market for its goods. British paints and varnishes, however, are largely favored here, both on account of the 3 per cent ad valorem reduction from the customs tariff which is given to British manufactured goods and because of the close relation between the manufacturer and the importer.

The values of the imports of various classes of paints, varnishes, etc., into South Africa in 1914 and 1915 were:

Classes and countries.	1914	1915	Classes and countries.	1914	1915
<b>PAINTS, COLORS, AND PAINTERS' GOODS.</b>			<b>VARNISH.</b>		
United Kingdom.....	\$35,851	\$28,970	United Kingdom.....	\$93,568	\$82,117
Other countries.....	146	156	United States.....	9,411	11,373
			Other countries.....	4,555	569
Total.....	35,997	29,126	Total.....	107,534	94,059
<b>TURPENTINE AND SUBSTITUTES.</b>			<b>WATER PAINTS.</b>		
United Kingdom.....	1,153	936	United Kingdom.....	484,688	445,200
United States.....	69,498	71,241	Germany.....	8,044	346
Other countries.....	1,002	209	Holland.....	12,731	8,954
			United States.....	42,005	23,236
Total.....	71,653	72,418	Other countries.....	7,006	3,363
			Total.....	556,074	580,398

Retail prices of paints and varnishes are somewhat higher than those charged in the United States. Imports of American goods are made through East London, Port Elizabeth, Durban, and Lourenco Marques. At present, most buyers are paying cash against documents in New York, and have, in the past, largely met payments by means of sight drafts.

Paints and varnishes are classified under item 193 (Class VI) of the customs tariff for the Union of South Africa, which assesses an ad valorem duty of 20 per cent, with a rebate of 3 per cent ad valorem, upon goods manufactured in the United Kingdom or in reciprocating British colonies.

[A list of dealers in paints, linseed oil, and varnishes in the Johannesburg consular district may be obtained from the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, its district or cooperative offices. Refer to file No. 78994.]

**INTEREST IN BASEBALL GROWING IN HONDURAS.**

[Consul Walter F. Boyle, Puerto Cortes, July 31.]

A noticeably strong interest in baseball has developed recently in the Puerto Cortes district. Hitherto the game had been played in only one or two small American colonies. Contests in the town of San Pedro Sula are now as well attended, and by audiences quite as enthusiastic, as would be the case with a town of equal population in the United States. It is evident that there will be a growing demand for baseball goods, although the limited population of the district will prevent its development to large proportions.

[A list of importers in the Puerto Cortes district who would be likely to be interested in importing baseball goods may be obtained from the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, its district or cooperative offices. Refer to file No. 79171.]



**INTEREST IN AMERICAN MILLINERY IN BRAZIL.**

[Consul General Alfred L. M. Gottschalk, Rio de Janeiro, July 7.]

Chances for the sale of American millinery goods in Rio de Janeiro should be very good, provided importers are able to obtain sufficiently favorable prices to compete with the French article generally sold here.

The larger dry-goods houses have hat departments, usually in the charge of a French milliner, and one or two French women have established shops in which hats may be bought, either by selection from a large stock of imported French models or as custom-made goods. The preference seems to be for the former class. Prices vary at the smarter shops from 80 milreis to 200 milreis (\$20 to \$50), and in exceptional cases more.

A thriving business is done in hats, as in gowns, by certain women who are professional buyers and who visit Europe two or three times a year. Returning with a stock they take rooms at some large hotel and serve a private clientele, without the expense of renting a shop or of public advertising. Much money is made this way, and the shops are naturally bitter against this trade.

**Stocks of Cheaper Hats Carried by Some Stores.**

Many smaller dry-goods houses and smaller individual shops deal in cheaper millinery. One large department store here, it is stated, sells very cheap but attractive French hats as low as 20 milreis (\$5). Another of a somewhat better class sells hats at 40, 50, and 60 milreis (\$10, \$12.50, and \$15). A woman, well known here in the millinery business, stated to the American consulate general:

A good trade could be done by having a buyer who would make very frequent trips abroad and bring back large stocks, either of individual hats or of models. The chances are that more sales could be made from a tasteful shop with a large display of models than by custom work. Ribbons (both silk and velvet), velvet by the meter (of all grades), and particularly women's veils, could all be most profitably added to the regular stock of hats, and if frequently renewed and well selected could be resold here at enormous profit. All would depend on the tact of the buyer and the frequency of her visits home.

The market thus far has been entirely for French hats, but the styles shown by the American fashion papers seem to me to be quite as attractive, particularly the small chic American hats that go with tailor-made gowns.

**Renting Place of Business a Big Problem.**

The renting of a place of business in Rio de Janeiro is a big problem in itself. The typical French bonnet shop, one flight up from the street, with a small workroom behind and large parlors in front, would be cheaper than the average "store," and perhaps more successful. Its rent ought to vary between 700 and 900 milreis (\$175 and \$225) per month, in a good location. If the place were a regular store, on the ground floor, with a big window display and the usual methods of store advertising (i. e., catering to a public instead of semiprivate trade) a smaller number of expensive hats might be sold, but surely a greater bulk of business, all in all, would be done. A store such as this would rent, in a good location, at \$250 to \$375, or more, per month.

[A list of millinery houses in Rio de Janeiro may be obtained from the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, its district or cooperative offices. Refer to file No. 79086.]

## CHEMICAL FERTILIZERS IN SOUTHERN INDIA.

[Consul Lucien Memminger, Madras, India, June 14, 1916.]

The average imports into the Madras Presidency of artificial and mineral manures, consisting of superphosphates, sulphate of potash, sulphate of ammonia, etc., before the war were valued at \$109,010, and most of the supply was obtained from Germany and Belgium. The amount imported in 1915-16 was valued at \$42,501.

Native farmers (ryots) in southern India chiefly use waste organic materials for fertilizers, such as oil cakes of different kinds and, to a less extent, fish manure. With the exception of the planting community, composed principally of Europeans owning large estates where tea, coffee, and rubber are grown, the planters in the Madras Presidency have little knowledge of superphosphate manure, and whatever use is made of it is due to the work of the Government agricultural authorities and to the exertions of the manufacturers themselves within recent years. Manures of either animal, vegetable, or mineral origin are being extensively used by the planters and cultivators in southern India, as is clearly shown by the rise in prices during recent years. Neem cake, for example, has increased 100 per cent in price during the last 15 years.

### Chief Crops of the District.

The area of the Madras Presidency, which forms the principal part of south India, is 139,168 square miles, about equal to the size of Minnesota and Iowa combined, and the amount of land under cultivation in 1915 was 39,090,000 acres. The chief crops are paddy, cholam, cumbu, ragi, cotton, peanuts, gingelly, castor seeds, sugar cane, indigo, and tobacco. The most valuable of these are grown in wet lands, and it is to this type of soil that manures are principally applied in this region. Dry lands receive practically no manuring, and in the opinion of the agricultural authorities it is not probable that they will for several years. The tendency is first to extend the productiveness of the wet and garden soil.

The manures of vegetable origin consist of green manures, oil cakes, wood ashes, and such miscellaneous manures as the effluents from paddy-husking mills. For purposes of green manuring there are used either the leaves and twigs of trees and shrubs found growing in waste places or in the forests, or special crops, such as kolinji (*Tephrosia purpurea*), sunn hemp (*Crotalaria juncea*), or Daincha (*Sesbania aculeata*). It has been found that a large amount of nitrogen can be introduced into a soil by green manuring. The chief application of green manures is in paddy cultivation, and for this purpose green leaves and stems of erukkam (*Calotropis gigantea*) and wild indigo (*Tephrosia purpurea*), the leaves of such trees as the rain tree (*Pithecolobium saman*), portia (*Thespesia populnea*), and pungam (*Pongamia glabra*) are trampled in at the time of puddling, or in some districts special green-manuring crops of the type of sunn hemp are raised for this purpose. In the immediate vicinity of the Kolair Lake water weeds are used as green manure.

### Oil-Cake Manures.

The most important of the large variety of oil-cake manures in use throughout the Madras Presidency are castor (black and white), neem (*Melia azadirachta*), pungam (*Pongamia glabra*), peanut, and

safflower cakes. Castor cake is generally regarded by the native farmer as the best oil cake for manurial purposes, but its use, like that of all oil cakes, is restricted mainly to valuable crops, such as paddy, sugar cane, betel vines, etc. White castor cake (*Recinus communis*), which contains 5.6 per cent nitrogen, sells at \$22.71 per ton, while black castor and hongay or pungam cake bring the next highest prices. Groundnut (peanut) cake, in the districts in which it is raised, has displaced castor and the other cakes in the manuring of paddy, and in addition it is used for feeding bullocks subjected to hard work. Although a certain amount is used in sugar-cane cultivation, there is a preference for castor cake, because the latter is said to be less easily decomposed and its effect is therefore more lasting.

Neem cake is produced from the seeds of the neem, or margosa, tree, which grows wild in the Deccan and is one of the principal sources of the "gum gattie," or "East India gum," of commerce. The cake is used largely by tea and coffee planters, thus accounting for the large increase in price during recent years, but on the plains its use is not extensive compared to other cakes. Experiments carried out on the Government farms show that oil cakes are efficient manures for paddy, but that the same effect can be obtained in a cheaper manner by green manuring.

The ashes of plants or parts of plants are available in several parts of south India, and are used as manures, particularly ashes from cane trash, cotton-stalk ash, and ashes from paddy husks. In certain places the refuse of indigo vats is used as a manure, and among the miscellaneous manures of vegetable origin may be mentioned the effluent water from rice mills, a liquid containing a large proportion of nitrogenous matter as well as soluble phosphates and potash, and, consequently, well suited for irrigation. It was used on sugar cane at Samalkota with excellent results.

#### **Bone Meal and Fish Manure.**

Among the manures of purely animal origin the most important from the point of view of Indian agriculture are bones and fish manure, because of the large export trade in them. The Government is making every effort to popularize them locally, however, and to prevent their exportation. A factory in Madras manufactures and sells bone meal containing about 23 per cent phosphoric acid and 4 per cent nitrogen, and the product is becoming popular with wet-land cultivators. The price is \$21.09 per ton, containing  $3\frac{1}{4}$  to 4 per cent nitrogen and 22 per cent phosphoric acid ( $P_2O_5$ ). The same factory converts the bones and also bone charcoal from sugar refineries into a superphosphate containing from 16 to 17 per cent phosphoric acid, of which about 15 per cent is water soluble. This manure is used on the European estates, but is not commonly used by the natives, although considered suitable for swamp paddy. Fish manure at present finds a fairly extensive application in many districts within easy reach of the coast, and particularly on the west coast of the Presidency. As usually prepared, the fish and offal are merely dried upon the shore, and in consequence the quality of the product varies considerably according to the amount of sand it contains. Owing to the improvement of the fish-curing industry in the Presidency, the oil is now removed from fish, and the product, sold as fish guano, is of good quality and commands a fairly high price. Mixed with

wood ashes fish manure gives good results with sugar cane and pepper. On irrigated cholam and ragi it has proved somewhat better than cake.

#### Mineral Manures.

The number of mineral manures is very limited. Nitrate of potash is available in many places, and when purified, is used to a fair extent by the planters, but the native farmer seldom, if ever, employs it. Mineral phosphates are found in the Trichinopoly district in the form of nodules distributed through clay beds. Investigations show that they are impure, and contain only about 56 per cent of tricalcic phosphate, and so far all attempts to utilize them commercially have failed. Calcium carbonate is available all along the coast in the form of shells and as limestone in the ceded districts. The carbonate or burnt or slacked lime, however, is not used to any extent by the natives, but, at the instance of the Department of Agriculture, lime dressing of fields where the soil is deficient in lime is being encouraged.

So far, with the exception of experimental areas, the application of superphosphate has been restricted to paddy, and it is expected that in a few years this crop will consume a very large proportion of the superphosphate manufactured in southern India. Every experiment has shown that superphosphate has a strong effect on the growth of paddy even in comparatively small doses. In the case of an experiment at Coimbatore the use of 1 hundredweight (112 pounds) of sulphate of potash and 2 hundredweights of superphosphate per acre on green-manured land gave an increase in the yield of grain amounting to 33 per cent more than was obtained on a corresponding area dressed with green manure and potash only, and the yield in straw was considerably higher. With cotton the results of the experiments are stated to have been disappointing, and no increased yields were obtained. In general, however, the use of superphosphates for those crops for which it has been found suitable is extending. Saltpeter is little used except by European planters, and on wet and garden lands it is not believed that its use will become extensive.

[A list of importers and manufacturers of fertilizers in southern India, submitted in connection with the above report, may be obtained from the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce or its branch and cooperative offices. Refer to file No. 78668.]

### PROPOSED RAILWAY WOULD SERVE SPAIN'S FARMS.

[Consul Robertson Honey, Madrid, July 10.]

As a result of the high prices of foodstuffs in Madrid, and other recent developments, meetings have been held, culminating to-day in a gathering which took up the question of establishing a railway between Madrid and various points in the agricultural district within a radius of about 30 miles from the capital. The gathering had a semiofficial character and was attended by various senators, deputies, and other prominent persons. Americans interested in this proposed railway and its construction should communicate with the president of the committee in charge.—Excmo. Sr. D. Alfonso Diaz Agero, Senador del Reino, Madrid, Spain.

**USE OF PEPSIN IN CHEESE MAKING.**

[Consul G. R. Taggart, Cornwall, Ontario, Canada, Aug. 5.]

Further developments in the use, in the Cornwall district, of pepsin as a substitute for rennet in cheese making, notice of which appeared in the **COMMERCE REPORTS** for July 17, 1916, are set forth in the following quotations from statements published by the Canadian Department of Agriculture at Ottawa:

Tests have been conducted at the Finch dairy station [Finch, Ontario, is in the Cornwall consular district] with a view to determining if pepsin may be safely used as a temporary substitute or partial substitute for rennet. Several cheeses were made \* \* \* using pepsin as a coagulant. These were examined on June 7 by the experts of the dairy division. In each test there were two cheeses made, one of which was set with rennet and the other with pepsin. In every case but one the judges awarded first place to the cheese made with rennet, but the difference was very slight and chiefly in the matter of texture. It was the unanimous opinion, however, that it would be safe to recommend the use of pepsin in cases where no rennet could be obtained, but to eke out a limited supply by using a mixture of rennet and pepsin. Prof. Dean reported that tests made at Guelph, in which a mixture of rennet and pepsin was used, gave rather better results than pepsin alone. This practice is recommended where it is possible.

During the week ending May 27, 1916, several experimental lots of cheese were made at the Finch dairy station from mixed milk, divided into two vats, one of which was set with pepsin and the other with rennet extracts. These cheeses are still on hand in the curing room (Aug. 1, 1916), and no difference can be found in their flavor. Any statements to the effect that cheese made with pepsin is inferior to cheese made with rennet extracts are absolutely unfounded, provided, of course, the pepsin is of good quality and is properly used. There are different forms and strengths of pepsin being offered at the present time and cheese makers should be careful not to use anything which has not been carefully tested and proved to be suitable for the purpose by some disinterested and competent person. Pepsin is now being used at the Finch dairy station and its use there will be continued until we can purchase rennet extract at no more than \$5 per gallon.

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**STUDY OF HYDROELECTRIC SITES IN CHILE.**

[Consul General L. J. Keena, Valparaiso, July 18.]

By decree of July 1, 1916 (Ministry of Industry and Public Works), an honorary commission was appointed to make a study of the water power available in Chile for the purpose of hydroelectric development. The committee named is as follows: Señor Arturo E. Salazar, Señor Rafael Edwards S., Señor Horacio Valdes C., and Señor Abraham Guzman B.

The addresses of the above-named gentlemen are: Escuela de Ingeniería de la Universidad de Chile, Santiago; Calle Agustinas, 1170, Santiago; Chacra Subercaseaux, Santiago; and Calle Bandera, 198, Santiago, respectively.

The local press, in commenting approvingly on the appointment of a committee for the above purpose, quote the estimate of Prof. Don Arturo E. Salazar, of the University of Chile, that proper hydroelectric development in Chile would reduce the cost of electricity for the small consumer for commercial purposes from the present price of 70 centavos gold (\$0.255 United States currency) to 3 centavos gold (\$0.01095).

## SCARCITY OF PAPER IN FOREIGN COUNTRIES.

[Consul General Alfred L. M. Gottschalk, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, July 15.]

### Government May Take Action to Relieve Brazilian Situation.

The scarcity of paper, and particularly of news-print paper, in Rio de Janeiro is still a serious matter. While stocks have been replenished, there are signs that another crisis is approaching. The *Jornal do Commercio*, the leading daily paper of the city, in an editorial on July 7, seriously proposed that unless the Brazilian Congress saw fit to reduce the import duties on news-print paper for a time, all the newspapers of the country should begin to eliminate news that was superfluous and print smaller daily editions so as to save paper.

The matter has attracted widespread attention, perhaps on account of the impression that importers usually profit by a scarcity on the local market to make exorbitant demands for what stocks they may have on hand. Although the serious situation now confronting the country has been looming up threateningly for a long time past, no effort seems to have been made to save paper or to collect waste paper and rags, as in the United States.

Senhor Dunshee de Abranches, of the Brazilian Chamber of Deputies, himself a man familiar with journalism and the needs of the paper trade, has already presented to Congress a proposed amendment to the forthcoming budget law, providing that imported paper shall pay no duty and only the expediente tax on entering the country. I am informed that the measure is popular. It would be well for American paper manufacturers to profit by the situation.

[Consul General Carl Bailey Hurst, Barcelona, Spain, June 27.]

### Spanish Government Asked to Seek Remedy.

The scarcity of paper in Spain has caused some anxiety, and representatives of Spanish publishers, printers, and manufacturers of paper and cardboard have informed the Government of their willingness to postpone filling export orders until after the domestic demand for their products has been fully met. They also expressed a desire that the Government fix prices and conditions to control the export of raw materials used in paper manufacture. Accordingly, a royal order, published June 15, 1916, appointed a commission, a representative of the Government presiding, formed of three delegates chosen from each interested group, namely, paper manufacturers, newspaper publishers, and those engaged in bookmaking arts.

This commission is to pass on all complaints formulated, proposing, if necessary, such methods as it judges opportune with respect to the export of paper and unmanufactured cardboard. The customhouse authorities must submit to this commission a sample of every class of paper or cardboard exported, accompanied by a statement as to its tariff classification, the quantity exported, its origin, and the name of the exporter.

### Paper Makers Employ Chiefly Wood Pulp.

The paper-making interest in Spain employs chiefly wood pulp, and its price has increased about 85 per cent since the war began. Imports of wood pulp in 1913 amounted to 61,000 metric tons of

2,204.6 pounds each; in 1914 to 40,000 tons, and in 1915 to 50,000 tons. More than half of this supply comes from Sweden; other sources are Germany and Norway.

Wood pulp and logs for making pulp coming from foreign countries were exempted from the transport tax in March last, and an export duty of 18 pesetas gold per 100 kilograms (\$1.58 per 100 pounds) levied on endless paper weighing from 41 to 50 grams per square meter and containing mechanical pulp.

Efforts are being made to stimulate the cultivation of the black poplar in Spain, with the object of devoting the wood to paper making. In this connection, the Sociedad Papelera Española has announced that it will buy all the healthy black poplar wood in green state, with bark, at from 18 to 23 pesetas (\$3.47 to \$4.44) per metric ton. The wood shall be in pieces of from 1½ to 6½ feet in length, with a diameter of not less than 4 inches.

[Consul Percival Gassett, Malaga, Spain, July 13.]

#### **Two Companies Furnish Paper Supplies.**

Users of news-print paper in Malaga are accustomed to getting their supplies from two Spanish paper companies, La Papelera Española at Bilbao, or La Salvadora at Tolosa, having special contracts by which they agree not to import foreign paper, and in return for which they are granted especially low prices, which are not to be divulged. The price now being paid, I am reliably informed, is 65 pesetas per 100 kilos, placed in Malaga free of all cost. At the present rate of exchange (about 5 pesetas to the dollar) this is equivalent to \$13 for 220 pounds. There is a market, although not a very large one, for news-print paper here, if this price can be met. Interest is displayed also on the part of stationers in the prices of American writing and wrapping papers. Manufacturers in the United States are advised to make quotations c. i. f. Malaga, if possible, in preference to f. o. b. New York. The usual terms of 2 per cent cash in 30 days, net 90 days from receipt of documents and acceptance of drafts.

It would pay American exporters to appoint a reliable general agent for Spain, in Barcelona or Madrid, and let him establish sub-agents in different cities, with stocks on hand ready to supply any users, rather than to attempt to deal direct with small purchasers in each city. This plan, of course, is more costly in the beginning, but it will pay better in the end, provided the prices of European competitors can be met after the war.

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#### **Australian Government Requisitions Rabbit Skins.**

The fact that the Australian Government is now requisitioning that Commonwealth's supply of rabbit skins should be of interest to American importers, since shipments of such skins have recently been made to the Hatters' Fur Exchange, in New York. According to the Melbourne Age, the prices that will be paid by the Government agents for rabbit skins suitable for the manufacture of military hats are: First winter skins, "sleeved," 40 cents per pound; first winter skins, "butchered" or "slipperd," 36.5 cents; second winter and first incoming, "sleeved," 36.5 cents; second winter and first incoming, "butchered" or "slipperd," 32 cents.

**BRITISH GUIANA DEVELOPS BAUXITE PROJECTS.**

[Consul George E. Chamberlin, Georgetown, June 28.]

Deposits of bauxite in British Guiana, according to information obtained from the Government, include the following, in addition to those already reported:

1. A substantial deposit in the northwest district of the colony on the Yarikita River, southwest of its junction with the Amakura River, about 28 miles from the coast at the mouth of the Waini River.
2. A deposit on the Arawari River, which is a branch of the Essequibo River, on the west side, near its mouth. This is fairly convenient for water transportation.
3. A deposit on the Ituna Creek, off the Berbice River, in the direction of the Kwitaro River, a branch of the Demerara River. The mineral from this deposit would have to be taken overland to the Demerara or Berbice Rivers. Vessels of 16½ feet draft can ascend the Demerara River as far as Wismar, but above this point barges would have to be used.

All of these are on Crown lands, but no Government survey has been made of the deposits; consequently their extent is not known, although it is believed that mining interests have explored the Arawari and Ituna deposits. The one on the Yarikita River is believed to cover a considerable area, probably extending into Venezuela, but unless the Amakura River is found to be navigable for barges, transportation to the coast would be difficult.

**Extent of Known Deposits—Government Requirements.**

From the location of the known deposits it would appear that bauxite exists in a strip of territory extending from the junction of the Yarikita and Amakura Rivers across British and Dutch Guiana and probably into French Guiana. The quality of the deposits around Wismar is believed to be equal to that found in the United States and France.

A letter from the commissioner of lands and mines to an interested inquirer has appeared in the local press. He stated, in part:

There are at present no existing regulations regarding the quarrying of bauxite, but it has been decided that the form of title, if issued, would be a lease to quarry bauxite. The area to be comprised in any one lease is 500 acres. No applications are likely to be approved until the terms on which land is to be leased for mining bauxite are settled by the Government. There is, however, no reason why applications for leases to quarry bauxite may not be made now by handling in such applications at this department with the filing fee of \$5 on each application.

A lease which has been drawn up for bauxite lands, but which has not yet been accepted by the Government, provides that the lessees shall pay yearly in advance, without demand, on the 1st day of January in each year to the Colonial Treasurer, a certain annual rent of 20 cents per acre or part of an acre, and shall, in addition, pay a royalty of 10 cents per ton of 2,240 pounds for all bauxite obtained from the lands and exported from the colony, and the minimum quantity of bauxite upon which, whether exported or not, royalty shall be payable each year shall be the total reached by taking 5 tons for each acre of the lands. The payment under this provision on account of the first year of the lease may be deferred until not later than the fifth year and the payment on account of any other year of the lease must be made on or before the 10th day of January in the following year. Minimum royalty payments may be averaged over five-year periods.



**Applications Held Pending Government Decision.**

It is understood that several applications have been filed with the Department of Lands and Mines for the lease of Crown lands containing bauxite, but no action has yet been taken regarding them and they are being held pending the decision of the British Government.

An article concerning bauxite has appeared in the *Daily Argosy*, of Georgetown. It stated:

The recent investigations made in this colony by corporations interested in bauxite have directed local attention to the possibilities of another remunerative industry. At a meeting of the Board of Agriculture two of the finest specimens of Bauxite that could be obtained in the colony were inspected, together with a specimen of iron ore. These specimens, which were favorably commented upon by all present, were found by Government officers at Aruka, Morawhanna, which is recognized as containing large quantities of both iron ore and bauxite, only awaiting the explorations of capitalists.

An article on bauxite in British and Dutch Guiana appeared in *COMMERCE REPORTS* for July 8, 1916. Mineral production in British Guiana was described in the issues of March 17, 1915, and January 3, 1916.

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**CANADA'S SECOND TOY FAIR.**

[Consul Fred C. Slater, Sarnia, Ontario, Aug. 8.]

Canada is alert to utilizing present opportunities for producing at home, as far as possible, many commodities heretofore imported. By the end of the first year of the war difficulty was experienced in supplying the usual demand for toys. The Minister of Trade and Commerce, on investigation, found that here and there the making of toys had been taken up in a small way. A toy exhibition was accordingly arranged under Government auspices, and was held in Toronto last spring. [See *COMMERCE REPORTS* for Apr. 5, 1916.] Forty-nine Canadian manufacturers had displays, and the number of toys on exhibition approached 20,000. Among these, however, were German, Japanese, and American toys procured by the Government.

The success of this spring fair created such a favorable impression that it has been decided to hold another in connection with the Toronto Exhibition from August 26 to September 11. In addition to those who exhibited at the first fair, a number of new Canadian toy manufacturers will be represented. During the year preceding the war Canada imported \$1,039,002 worth of toys, of which \$581,009 worth came from Germany, \$293,977 from the United States, \$91,538 from the United Kingdom, \$33,214 from France, and \$26,243 from Japan.

[As of interest in this connection see the articles on the Canadian toy trade in *COMMERCE REPORTS* for Apr. 21 and Sept. 11, 1915, and Mar. 16, May 13, and June 16, 1916.]

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**Pacific Halibut Catch in June.**

During June there were landed at the three British Columbia ports of Vancouver, Prince Rupert, and Steveston 2,658,000 pounds of halibut—363,000 pounds less, reports Vice Consul G. C. Woodward, than in the corresponding month of 1915. At Ketchikan, Alaska, 537,000 pounds were landed, while Seattle, Wash., received 1,716,235 pounds.

**TRADE PROMOTION BY CANADIAN FORESTRY BRANCH.**

[Vice Consul R. M. Newcomb, Victoria, British Columbia, Aug. 5.]

Energetic work is being done by the Forestry Branch of the British Columbia Government to develop an organized method for extending the export trade in lumber from this Province. The chief forester was appointed trade commissioner of the Dominion Department of Trade and Commerce and for a year has been traveling to all parts of the world with the view of establishing trade outlets for British Columbia mill products and of furnishing insight, through personal knowledge, into the special requirements of different markets.

**Publicity Propaganda—Trade Commissioner's Views.**

The Department of Lands has started publicity work to secure an enlarged domestic and foreign market for lumber products. Promotion offices and exhibits have been installed at industrial centers and various bulletins are being issued. The "Farm Building Series" is written for the prairie farmer and gives detailed instructions as to plan, dimensions, quantities, etc., to encourage the use of lumber. A second series, called the Timber Series, discusses British Columbia woods, their uses and proper handling, e. g., how to finish British Columbia woods, boxwoods, tie timber, dimension timber, red cedar, shingles, western larch, and Douglas fir. A third series appears under the title "Market Bulletins." This series is to keep the loggers, mills, and trade informed of market conditions at home and abroad.

The special trade commissioner, who has just returned from his travels, states that the British Columbia mills must cooperate in order to be in position to meet on a competitive basis the prices of United States mills, which virtually control the whole lumber export business of this coast. The commissioner reports a strong disposition within British territory to confine the lumber purchases within the Empire, but lumber users expect that this inter-Imperial trade shall be done on a business basis; that is, the British Columbia exporters must give a competitive price, must fill orders according to the specifications, and must supply the quality that is being paid for. The commissioner also reports that British Columbia lumber is not widely known, and that by far the greater proportion of the lumber exports of British Columbia is shipped through United States firms, billed as American lumber.

**To Overcome Ship Shortage.**

The commissioner states that the lumber exporters in the United States have control of all ship tonnage available for lumber cargoes on this coast, which forces such British Columbia lumber as is exported to pass through American hands. Formerly lumber was shipped via sailing vessels and the mills here could take the risk of chartering vessels of this class. Most of the business at present is done by steamers operating by trip or time charter and carrying large shipments each trip.

To overcome the lack of ocean tonnage the Provincial Government, during the year 1916, passed the "British Columbia shipping act" [see COMMERCE REPORTS for Mar. 14 and June 16, 1916.] The purpose of this act is to secure the construction of 25 vessels which

shall be bound by contract to so arrange their voyages and charters that on each outward voyage the cargo will consist of British Columbia products. Under the provisions of this act the Cameron Genoa Mills Shipbuilding Co. has been incorporated and its plant is now under construction in Victoria. The Vancouver Island Marine (Ltd.) has been incorporated with head offices in Victoria, and it is reported that the Wallace Ship Yards of Vancouver have accepted contracts for three ships under the provisions of this act.

### MARKET FOR AMERICAN FLOUR IN JAMAICA.

[Consul Ross Hazeltine, Port Antonio, July 25.]

Jamaica offers an excellent market for American flour. During 1915 flour was imported to the value of \$1,364,770, of which \$1,335,444 came from the United States, \$26,224 from Canada, and \$3,102 from Italy. Quantities and values of imports during the past six years in barrels of 196 pounds each, have been: For 1914, 248,993 barrels, \$1,302,601; for 1915, 224,353 barrels, \$1,364,770; average for preceding four years, 277,308 barrels, \$1,445,234.

The grades and prices of flour vary greatly. The average price for a good grade of flour may be placed at \$6 per bag of 196 pounds. This grade is sold at \$8.75 per bag and retailed at 5 cents per pound. The officially calculated value, according to the customs, was \$6.08 per 196 pounds in 1915, as against \$5.23 in 1914.

The usual terms are draft at sight, 30 to 90 days, or 2½ per cent off for cash. American exporters need not concern themselves with the local import duty, as prices are uniformly quoted the trade f. o. b. vessel, New York. As a matter of information, it may be stated that the local import duty is specific and amounts to 8s. (\$1.95) per barrel of 196 pounds. The unit of quantity is given as a barrel, but all flour is imported in bags weighing 196 pounds.

Bags are usually marked with the trade-marks of the manufacturers, with the initials, names, or private marks of the local selling agents. It is advisable to have the trade-mark registered in Jamaica.

### OFFICES OF THE BUREAU OF FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC COMMERCE.

#### DISTRICT OFFICES.

NEW YORK: Room 409, Customhouse.  
BOSTON: 18th floor, Customhouse.  
CHICAGO: 504 Federal Building.  
ST. LOUIS: 402 Third National Bank Building.  
ATLANTA: 521 Post Office Building.  
NEW ORLEANS: 1020 Hibernia Bank Building.  
SAN FRANCISCO: 807 Customhouse.  
SEATTLE: 846 Henry Building.

#### COOPERATIVE OFFICES.

CLEVELAND: Chamber of Commerce.  
CINCINNATI: Chamber of Commerce.  
CINCINNATI: C., N. O. & T. P. Ry. Co.  
LOS ANGELES: Chamber of Commerce.  
DETROIT: Board of Commerce.  
PHILADELPHIA: Chamber of Commerce.  
CHATTANOOGA: South American Agent, Southern Ry. Co.

Arrivals of American coal at Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, for June, 1916, amounted to 76,180 tons, compared with 53,629 tons in the corresponding month of last year. Imports of British coal dropped from 29,667 to 7,671 tons. Imports of coal for June were 83,296 tons in 1915 and 83,851 in 1916. These figures were reported by Consul General Gottschalk.

**PROPOSALS FOR GOVERNMENT SUPPLIES AND CONSTRUCTION.**

[Correspondence should be direct with the offices named, and specifications can usually be obtained at the points where the goods are to be delivered or the work is to be performed. In cases where the time limit is too short to permit firms to submit tenders, they should ask to be placed on the mailing lists of such offices to receive notices calling for future supplies or work of a similar nature.]

*Bodies for radio tractors*, No. 3495.—Sealed proposals will be received at the office of the Chief Signal Officer, War Department, Washington, D. C., until August 22, 1916, for furnishing 10 bodies for radio tractors. Further information may be had on application to the office of the Chief Signal Officer.

*Docking and repairing*, No. 3496.—Sealed proposals will be received by the lighthouse inspector, Portland, Me., until September 18, 1916, for docking and repairing the lighthouse tender *Zizania*. Further information may be had on application to the Portland office.

*Medical supplies, etc.*, No. 3497.—Sealed proposals will be received at the Medical Supply Depot, 543 Greenwich Street, New York, N. Y., until August 19, 1916, for furnishing ammonia bromide, dropping bottles, bone-cutting forceps, needle holders, needles, metal tubes, trunnion carriers, glass funnels, rubber cushions, gates for farm and poultry yard, ovens, rubber caps, trocars, etc. Further information may be had on application to the Medical Supply Depot.

*Subsistence supplies*, No. 3498.—Sealed proposals will be received at the General Depot of the Quartermaster Corps, 115 East Ontario Street, Chicago, Ill., until August 18, 1916, for furnishing and delivering on or before September 5, 1916, about 20,000 pounds of issue lard; 960 cans of breakfast bacon; 3,600 cans of sliced beef; 9,500 pounds of sugar-cured ham; 2,400 cans of sales lard; 9,600 cans of pork sausage; 18,000 cans of V. S. sausage; and 240 cans of beef tongue.

*Docking and repairing*, No. 3499.—Sealed proposals will be received by the lighthouse inspector, Portland, Me., for docking and repairing the Portland light vessel, No. 74. Further information may be had on application to the Portland office.

*Medical supplies*, No. 3500.—Sealed proposals will be received at the medical supply depot, Fort Mason, San Francisco, Cal., until August 18, 1916, for furnishing and delivering at Warehouse D, transport dock, Fort Mason, San Francisco, Cal., instrument cases, gauze cartons, chloride of lime, equine influenza vaccine, equine cough sirup, and clinical thermometers. Further information may be had on application to the medical supply depot.

*Chart paper*, No. 3501.—Sealed proposals will be received at the office of the Superintendent United States Coast and Geodetic Survey, 205 New Jersey Avenue SE., Washington, D. C., until August 31, 1916, for furnishing 200 reams of chart paper. Specifications may be obtained on application to the superintendent at the above address.

*Docking, cleaning, etc.*, No. 3502.—Sealed proposals will be received by the lighthouse inspector, Portland, Oreg., for docking, cleaning, painting, and repairing relief light vessel No. 92. Further information may be had on application to the Portland office.

*Switchboard*, No. 3503.—Sealed proposals will be received at the office of the Chief Signal Officer, War Department, Washington, D. C., until August 22, 1916, for furnishing one 300-line switchboard. Specifications, drawings, etc., may be had on application to the above-named office.

*Furnaces and boilers*, No. 3504.—Sealed proposals will be received at the office of the Superintendent, United States Coast and Geodetic Survey, 205 New Jersey Avenue SE., Washington, D. C., until August 21, 1916, for furnishing and installing two new furnaces and boilers. Specifications and full details may be had on application to the superintendent at the above address.

**Riprap**, No. 3505.—Sealed proposals will be received by the Lighthouse Inspector, Baltimore, Md., until August 29, 1916, for furnishing and placing 800 tons of riprap at Thimble Shoal Light Station, Va. Further information may be had on application to the Baltimore office.

**Medical supplies**, No. 3506.—Sealed proposals will be received until August 21, 1916, at the Medical Supply Depot, United States Army, 543 Greenwich Street, New York, N. Y., for furnishing and delivering white enamel bedsteads, solution bowls, dressing and irrigating carriages, invalid chairs, cribs, incubator, irrigators, measures, scales, stands, instrument sterilizers, stools, tables, etc. Further information may be had on application to the Medical Supply Depot.

### AMERICAN CONSULAR OFFICERS ON LEAVE OF ABSENCE.

The following American consular officers are on leave of absence in the United States and will be glad to confer with business men and commercial organizations relative to conditions in their respective jurisdictions. The consul's time is available primarily for personal interviews. He has limited facilities for correspondence, and except in urgent cases letters should be directed to the consulate.

Name.	Post.	Expira- tion of vacan- cy.	Address.
West, George N. ....	Kobe, Japan. ....	Aug. 15	Department of State, Washington, D. C.
Hale, F. D. ....	Huddersfield, England. ....	Sept. 5	Lunenburg, Vt.
Masteron, William W. ....	Durban, Natal, South Africa. ....	Sept. 1	Carrollton, Ky.
Baker, E. Carlen. ....	Nagasaki, Japan. ....	Aug. 30	Apartment No. 75, The Brunswick, Washington, D. C.
Monaghan, J. C. ....	Kingston, Jamaica. ....	Sept. 1	Avenue A and Fourteenth Street, Ba- yonne, N. J.
Jewell, John F. ....	Chefoo, China. ....	Oct. 1	Galeana, Ill.
Kemper, Graham H. ....	Erfurt, Germany. ....	Sept. 10	Department of State, Washington, D. C.
Goodrich, James H. ....	Niagara Falls, Canada. ....	Sept. 1	27 South Hawk Street, Albany, N. Y.
Hacalins, Ross. ....	Port Antonio, Jamaica. ....	Oct. 1	Department of State, Washington, D. C.
Lalag, James Oliver. ....	Karachi, India. ....	Sept. 30	C/o University Club, Kansas City, Mo.
Leonard, Walter A. ....	Colombo, Ceylon. ....	Oct. 14	Essex, Iowa.
Osborne, John Ball. ....	Havre, France. ....	Oct. 21	Department of State, Washington, D. C.

### PARCEL-POST PACKAGES FROM CANADA TO SIBERIA.

[Consul General John G. Foster, Ottawa, Aug. 3.]

A recent ruling of the Canadian Post Office Department, made known to the American consulate general in Ottawa through a letter from the Deputy Postmaster General of the Dominion, relates to the transportation of parcel-post packages to Asiatic Russia. The letter reads:

With reference to the shipment of goods from the United States to Russia in bond through Canada, the goods to be shipped by freight or express from the United States to Canada, then to be transferred to the postal authorities under customs supervision, and to have Canadian postage stamps affixed and be forwarded by parcel post from Canada to Russia, the Department has decided that in all cases where special application is made the question of permitting these parcels to go forward shall be considered, but that no general permission has been given. Each firm desirous of shipping must make personal application to the department at Ottawa, where steps will be taken to investigate the goods to be shipped, the points to which they are shipped, and also ascertain that they are bona fide goods for the benefit of Russia. It has also been decided that all goods so accepted for transmission must be shipped in bond to Vancouver, where steps will be taken to release them and forward them to their destination.

**FOREIGN TRADE OPPORTUNITIES.**

Reserved addresses may be obtained from the Bureau and its district offices. Request for each opportunity should be on a separate sheet and state opportunity number. The Bureau does not furnish credit ratings or assume responsibility as to the standing of foreign inquirers; the usual precautions should be taken in all cases.

*Fountain-pen materials*, No. 22139.—An American consular officer in France reports that a dealer in stationery and office supplies desires to purchase gold nibs (18 carat) and barrels with necessary parts for the manufacture of fountain pens, bearing his own trade-mark. Further information may be obtained from the Bureau or its district offices.

*General merchandise*, No. 22140.—A manufacturers' agent in Colombia desires to represent American manufacturers and exporters of general merchandise. References.

*Chrome iron ores*, No. 22141.—A firm in Canada advises an American consular officer of its desire to be furnished the names of users in the United States of chrome iron ore, stating that one of its clients is in a position to supply this material.

*Hides, chemicals, textiles, etc.*, No. 22142.—A firm in the Levant desires to represent American manufacturers and exporters of chemicals and other materials for tanning purposes, hides and skins, sugar, lubricants and table oils, cotton goods, woolen goods, silk goods, etc. The firm is also in a position to export such products as table oils, almonds, sumac in powder, fine powder soaps, etc.

*Dairy machinery*, No. 22143.—An American consular officer in Australia transmits the name of a firm in his district which desires to be placed in touch with American manufacturers of dairy machinery.

*Drugs and medicines, etc.*, No. 22144.—A commercial agent of the Bureau in East Africa writes that a leading druggist in that territory wishes to form commercial relations with American manufacturers and exporters of drugs and medicines, surgical instruments, and other medical and surgical supplies. He is also interested in American-made typewriters. Correspondence preferably in Portuguese.

*Railway materials, provisions, etc.*, No. 22145.—Supplementing foreign trade opportunity No. 21557, a firm of commission agents in Latin America writes that it desires to receive quotations on decauville rails, engines, freight and passenger cars (60 cm. gauge), and on metal buildings for use as railway stations; rock crushers and machinery for the manufacture of concrete paving blocks, etc. The firm also desires to receive agencies for flour, cement, plate and window glass, toys, calendars, photographic supplies, chemical fire extinguishers, and lard and hams. Reference.

*Sugar*, No. 22146.—An American consular officer in Persia writes that a firm in his district is in the market for loaf sugar. The sugar is desired in cones weighing about 6 pounds. Quotations and terms should be made on 1,000 tons. Correspondence in English. Reference.

*General representation*, No. 22147.—A man in the West Indies asks the Bureau to place him in touch with American manufacturers and exporters interested in entering or extending their trade in those islands. No particular line is specified.

*Stoves, elevators, car wheels, etc.*, No. 22148.—The commercial attaché of the Department of Commerce in France reports that a business man in Spain desires to represent American manufacturers of cooking and heating stoves suitable for burning gas, coal, and wood, and elevators for houses, hotels, and business establishments. Catalogues, etc., are also desired from American manufacturers of car wheels, steel axles, and car springs for railway cars. References.

*Office furniture and supplies, etc.*, No. 22149.—An American consular officer in the United Kingdom writes that a firm in his district desires to represent American manufacturers of office furniture, filing cabinets, typewriter ribbons and carbon paper, and calculating machines.

# COMMERCE REPORTS



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## INCREASED PORT CHARGES AT MANCHESTER.

[Consul Ross E. Holaday, Manchester, England, July 28.]

The Manchester Ship Canal Co., the Authority controlling the Port of Manchester, yesterday announced that, owing to increased war allowances granted to their employees throughout the ship canal and to the continued enhancement of prices of coal, consumable stores, and materials, the rates for discharging and loading vessels and for quay portorage, warehousing, and storing in the open in respect of merchandise and minerals will be raised by 12½ per cent as from July 25, 1916. On August 9 next the rates of ship-canal toll and wharfage and the ship dues will be raised by 5 per cent.

## COMMERCIAL TREATY BETWEEN ARGENTINA AND PARAGUAY.

[Based on reports published in the River Plate Review and the Revista Financiera y Comercial, of Buenos Aires.]

A new commercial treaty providing for practically free trade between Argentina and Paraguay was signed at Asuncion, Paraguay, on July 9, 1916, by the Argentine Minister and the Paraguayan Minister for Foreign Affairs. The treaty, which must receive legislative sanction in both countries before it goes into effect, provides for the reciprocal free admission of the products of each of the contracting countries, with the exception of matches, furniture, sugar, candles, leatherware, and footwear, which are to remain subject to the present rates of duty for a period of five years. At the expiration of that period the excepted products will become free of duty without any further action. It is expected that the 5-year period will be sufficient to enable the manufacturers engaged in the production of the excepted articles to modify their methods of production so as to meet the new conditions.

In addition to providing for the free exchange of commodities between the two countries, the treaty also contains a provision for conditional most-favored-nation treatment in all matters relating to commerce and navigation, i. e., for the reciprocal extension of every new concession to a third country, freely if freely granted, or for identical or equivalent compensation if the grant is conditional. The treaty is to remain in effect for a period of 10 years and is to be

renewed for the same period in the absence of a year's notice of abrogation.

An analysis of the trade between Argentina and Paraguay for the year 1913 (the latest for which detailed statistics are available) shows that the exports from Argentina to Paraguay amounted in that year to \$1,837,171, and consisted largely of cattle and horses, wheat, and wheat flour. The imports from Paraguay for the same year amounted to \$2,191,645, made up largely of cattle, oranges, yerba mate, tobacco, and lumber. For the period of 1906-1915 the exports from Paraguay to Argentina averaged 56 per cent of the total exports, while the imports from Argentina during the same period averaged only 15 per cent of the total imports. It is expected that the new treaty, in addition to promoting the commercial relations between the two countries, will also enable Paraguay to introduce certain economies in its customs service.

### BRITISH SUBSIDY FOR TRADE-EXPANSION PURPOSES.

[Consul General Robert P. Skinner, London, Aug. 2.]

A very interesting departure in British methods of securing trade in European countries was discussed in Parliament on July 31, a departure in which the Government itself appears as a full partner by the contribution of a subsidy of £50,000 (\$243,325) per annum. On the occasion named the Chancellor of the Exchequer reported that a British company, under the title of the British-Italian Corporation (Ltd.), with a capital of £1,000,000 (\$4,866,500), was registered on July 20. There will be no public issue, the capital having been subscribed privately, chiefly among banks.

The British Government agrees to contribute to the company by way of subsidy, during each of the first 10 years after its incorporation, an annual sum of £50,000 (\$243,325), or the equivalent of 5 per cent upon its paid-up capital if less than £1,000,000. In consideration of the subsidy the company agrees to pay to the Government amounts equal to any dividend above a cumulative dividend of 5 per cent per annum which the directors may distribute to the shareholders in any year—after making such provisions as the directors may think desirable for bad and doubtful debts and the establishment of a reserve fund—until by such means the Government has been repaid (without interest) the amount so received by the company by way of subsidy.

#### A Collaborating Italian Company to Be Formed.

A company under the style of the Compagnia Italo-Britannica will forthwith be formed under Italian law with a capital of 10,000,000 lire, one-half of which is to be taken by the British-Italian Corporation and the other half by the Credito Italiano and their friends. Out of the nine directors of the Italian company three will be British.

The chancellor concluded:

The two companies will work together in close collaboration, and arrangements have been made by which their interests will be as far as possible identified, except that the subsidy of the British Government will naturally remain for the benefit of the British company exclusively.

The primary object of the two companies is the development of the economic relations between the British Empire and Italy and the promotion of undertakings in the commercial and industrial field in Italy. They will carry out banking and financial operations which do not necessarily fall within the strict definition of banking as understood in this country.



**COTTON CONSUMED DURING YEAR.**

The United States Bureau of the Census reports that the cotton consumed in the United States during July, 1916, amounted to 489,933 running bales, compared with 496,846 bales in the corresponding period last year, and that the quantity consumed during the 12 months ended July 31 was 6,395,972 bales compared with 5,597,362 bales in the preceding year. Cotton on hand July 31 in consuming establishments amounted to 1,632,456 bales compared with 1,401,186 at the corresponding time last year, and in public storage and at compresses to 1,090,914 bales compared with 1,784,919 bales in the preceding year.

The figures given for July include 23,252 bales of foreign and 5,981 bales of sea-island consumed, 142,561 bales of foreign and 27,576 bales of sea-island held in consuming establishments, and 53,320 bales of foreign and 10,870 bales of sea-island held in public storage.

Linters not included above were 61,499 bales consumed during July in 1916 and 48,860 bales in 1915; 99,967 bales on hand in consuming establishments on July 31, 1916, and 198,905 bales in 1915; and 112,290 bales in public storage and at compresses in 1916 and 89,881 bales in 1915. Linters consumed during 12 months ending July 31 amounted to 881,385 bales in 1916 and 411,845 bales in 1915.

Imports of foreign cotton during July, 1916, amounted to 7,636 bales (500-pound) compared with 35,667 bales in the corresponding month last year, and for the 12 months ended July 31 to 437,572 bales compared with 382,286 bales in the preceding year. Exports of domestic cotton and linters for July, 1916, amounted to 492,831 bales compared with 244,477 bales in the corresponding month last year, and for the 12 months ended July 31 to 6,204,188 bales compared with 8,544,563 in the preceding year.

The export figures given include 52,750 bales of linters exported during July in 1916 and 11,569 bales in 1915, and 293,808 bales for 12 months ending July 31 in 1916 and 221,875 bales in 1915. The distribution for July, 1916, is as follows: France, 49,523; all other countries, 3,227.

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**MANUFACTURE OF DRUGGISTS' PREPARATIONS.**

During the five years between 1909 and 1914 there was a substantial increase in the manufacture of druggists' preparations, patent and proprietary medicines and compounds, and perfumery and cosmetics in the United States. The United States Bureau of the Census has prepared a summary of the general results of the 1914 census of manufactures for this industry.

Reports for 1914 were received from 4,082 establishments, with products valued at \$172,008,946. The number of establishments in 1914 exceeded that in 1909 by 440, or 12.1 per cent, and the value of the products increased during the five-year period by \$30,067,344, or 21.2 per cent.

The materials reported as consumed by all establishments in 1914 comprised 118,282 pounds of opium, 316,130 ounces of morphine or derivatives thereof, 414,255 ounces of cocaine or derivatives thereof, 13,039 ounces of heroin, and 23,859 ounces of diacetyl morphine.

## RAILWAY EARNINGS IN ARGENTINA.

[Special Agent Frederic M. Halsey, London, Aug. 2.]

Preliminary traffic returns for the fiscal year ended June 30, 1916, have been issued by the principal British-owned railways operating in Argentina. The gross earnings, while £899,500 (\$4,377,400) in excess of 1914-15, did not come up to expectations. This was explained by the scarcity of steamers to handle the export traffic, a condition not likely to be remedied for some time to come.

The following table indicates the approximate total mileage operated as of June 30, 1916; gross receipts for 1912-13, 1913-14, and 1915-16 of the eight principal British-owned railways, together with the Buenos Aires Central Railway, the bonds of which are held in Great Britain:

Railroads.	Mileage operated.	Gross results from operations.		
		1912-13 (normal year).	1914-15	1915-16
Argentine Northeastern .....	752	\$1,786,000	\$1,229,800	\$1,578,700
Argentine Transandine .....	111	4467,280	230,700	335,600
Buenos Ayres & Pacific .....	3,535	27,203,800	23,371,300	22,093,300
Buenos Ayres Great Southern .....	3,792	31,968,000	24,313,100	27,662,100
Buenos Ayres Western .....	1,670	14,162,100	12,331,700	13,270,900
Central Argentine .....	3,305	31,578,700	28,157,600	27,860,700
Cordoba Central .....	1,208	9,235,000	8,909,900	7,564,000
Entre Rios .....	431	2,973,400	2,233,200	2,965,300
Buenos Ayres Central .....	175	1,265,300	1,187,400	1,421,000
	<sup>a</sup> 15,573	120,679,500	100,364,300	104,741,700

<sup>a</sup> 1913-14.

<sup>b</sup> The total mileage operated by the railways of Argentina, not under Government control, as of June 30, 1916, was slightly in excess of 18,000 miles.

On July 1, 1915, the Cordoba Central Railway was unable to meet interest requirements on its 4½ per cent second debenture stock, and on its short-term notes. A funding scheme has been arranged whereby debenture and note holders will, for the present, receive scrip convertible into debenture stock in lieu of cash. By this method a possible receivership has been averted.

[A report on the Argentine State Railways was published in COMMERCE REPORTS for June 15, 1916.]

## WEEKLY COTTON SHIPMENTS.

The cotton exported during the week ending August 12, 1916, at the twelve principal customs districts of the United States, follows:

Districts.	Bales.	Districts.	Bales.	Districts.	Bales.
Georgia .....	8,050	Philadelphia .....	1,151	San Francisco .....	4,100
Massachusetts .....	1,880	South Carolina .....		Washington .....	200
Maryland .....	3,980	Virginia .....	5,247		
New York .....	18,548	Galveston .....	5,155	Total .....	62,752
North Carolina .....	10,000	New Orleans .....	4,300		

**SPAIN INCREASES CULTIVATION OF PEANUTS.**

[Consul General Carl Bailey Hurst, Barcelona, Spain.]

Peanuts were grown formerly in a single Province of southern Spain, but they are now raised in other Provinces and the area devoted to them is extending. At present about 8,000 hectares (19,800 acres) are annually planted in peanuts with a yield of approximately 14,800 long tons, so that Spain stands first among European countries in the production of this crop. It has been demonstrated here that if  $44\frac{1}{2}$  dry quarts of seed peanuts are planted per acre and rich nitrogenous manure used at the rate of about one-fifth of a ton per acre, the average production in Spain can amount to 1.03 long tons per acre. The wholesale price of peanuts on the local market is about \$2.45 per 100 pounds.

While quantities of peanuts are consumed as food in the Peninsula, the nut is also utilized for the production of oil. The export of oil has increased, having amounted in 1913 to 7.87 long tons, in 1914 to 4.9 long tons, and in 1915 to 17.7 long tons. The export of the nut, on the other hand, has decreased, having been 5,280 long tons in 1913, 2,506 long tons in 1914, and 3,515 long tons in 1915. The greater part of the exported oil goes to Porto Rico and Cuba, and the peanuts to Holland, Great Britain, the United States, Algeria, and France.

[An interesting account of Spanish retail methods of handling peanuts appeared in Daily Consular and Trade Reports for June 2, 1913.]

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**KILLING OF YOUNG STOCK IN NEW ZEALAND.**

[Consul General Alfred A. Winslow, Auckland, July 1.]

According to a late report given out by the Department of Agriculture, pastoral and agricultural interests fared exceedingly well in New Zealand so far as receipts were concerned during 1915, for prices were high as a result of the European war, and because of this there has been a tendency to dispose of everything marketable when shipping space could be secured.

It would seem that this draining of the supplies of the country has been carried to an extreme, and especially when it came to disposing of the breeding animals and young stock. The decrease in the flocks and herds in New Zealand has become quite perceptible, and there seems to be fear that there will not be sufficient to supply the needs of the increased development of the farming communities. During 1915 there were 914,824 acres of new lands occupied by 1,926 homesteaders, and all this calls for additional stock for development.

The report suggests that definite action seems to be necessary to check the practice of killing so much young stock, and it is thought that the present control by the State of the meat-export trade offers a favorable opportunity for taking such action.

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Commercial Attaché Philip B. Kennedy reports that the Melbourne Harbor Trust will, on January 1, 1917, put in force regulations to safeguard against the pillage of goods on the wharves of that Australian port.

**ABATTOIRS IN AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND.**

[Commercial Attaché Philip B. Kennedy, Melbourne, Australia.]

The common method of operating slaughtering plants in Australia and New Zealand may be of interest, because these British dominions can already be looked upon as important meat-producing areas, and also because these enterprising countries have been wont to experiment with Government ownership and operation to a greater degree than is generally customary elsewhere. Although Australia and New Zealand are governed separately their problems and methods are so akin that they may be considered together. However, outside of statistics of live stock reared and slaughtered in New Zealand, the present report deals with the slaughtering industry of Australia only; a later one will discuss the abattoirs of New Zealand.

Australia nearly equals the United States in area, but has only about one-twentieth as large a population. There is plenty of "elbow room" in this great island continent, and sheep and cattle, which are to-day the foundation of Australia's prosperity, should continue to steadily increase in number. New Zealand has over a million population, and is also a very important pastoral country. Official statistics give the number of sheep, cattle, and pigs in Australia in the fiscal year 1914 and in New Zealand in 1911 (the latest available) as:

Divisions.	Sheep.	Cattle.	Pigs.
New South Wales.....	36,287,000	2,590,000	285,000
Victoria.....	12,051,000	1,362,000	243,000
Queensland.....	22,190,000	5,435,000	166,000
South Australia.....	4,308,000	300,000	69,000
Western Australia.....	4,456,000	863,000	59,000
Tasmania.....	1,674,000	176,000	34,000
Northern Territory.....	70,000	414,000	1,000
Federal Territory.....	136,000	7,000	.....
Total, Commonwealth.....	82,111,000	11,167,000	857,000
New Zealand.....	24,798,000	2,020,000	348,000

**Number of Animals Slaughtered Annually.**

Since, as the foregoing figures indicate, hog-raising in Australia and New Zealand is on a very small scale, we may fairly take the number of sheep and cattle slaughtered as an index of the slaughtering industry in these Dominions. The number slaughtered in 1913 (the latest data available) was:

Divisions.	Sheep.	Cattle.	Divisions.	Sheep.	Cattle.
New South Wales.....	6,420,000	679,000	Northern Territory.....	.....	4,000
Victoria.....	4,742,000	416,000	Federal Territory.....	4,000	.....
Queensland.....	1,375,000	703,000	Total, Commonwealth.....	14,680,000	2,004,000
South Australia.....	1,222,000	116,000	New Zealand.....	5,804,000	288,000
Western Australia.....	602,000	62,000			
Tasmania.....	315,000	30,000			

It will be noted that New South Wales and Victoria lead in regard to sheep. The capitals of these States, Sydney and Melbourne, respectively, are the principal centers for the export of wool and the slaughtering of sheep. The first cattle State is Queensland, the center of the slaughtering and export trade being Brisbane, the capital. Near Brisbane is located the slaughtering plant of an American firm, Swift & Co. New Zealand is excelled only by New South Wales in sheep slaughtering.

**Legal Position of the Commonwealth Government.**

Meat slaughtering in Australia is to a large extent under some form of Government control or operation. Since, however, the Commonwealth Government can not legally engage in the business of slaughtering, each State has been free to follow out its own policy.

Government ownership and operation of semipublic lines of business have been undertaken by the States, and considerable inconvenience sometimes arises from separate State operation (a good example of this is railway operation) but no serious difficulty has arisen on account of the State control of slaughtering. By having power over inspection of meat for export the Commonwealth Government has been able to secure uniformity in inspection for the bulk of slaughtered meat. The business activities of the Commonwealth Government have vastly increased since the war, but thus far the Commonwealth Government, under its war power, has not interfered with the essential organization of the meat-slaughtering industry.

There seems to be some doubt as to the constitutional powers of the State to regulate killing for export on other than sanitary grounds, as the regulation of trade and commerce with other countries is a Federal prerogative. In the several States, at least, meat for export is slaughtered almost exclusively in private abattoirs. This is true in Queensland, where the bulk of export beef originates. It is true also in New South Wales, the chief State exporting mutton. Speaking generally, it may be said that all Australian export meat is privately slaughtered.

As a result of correspondence with officials throughout Australia and New Zealand, I find that there is a unanimous sentiment favoring, as a health measure, the public operation of all plants slaughtering meat for local consumption. Private slaughtering, as a whole, has been adjudged to be wanting in cleanliness and not properly amenable to inspection.

**Local Slaughtering Principally a Municipal or State Affair.**

Aside from the State of Queensland, where slaughtering is wholly a private enterprise, the Australian States have been steadily progressing toward some form of Government operation. The most common type of operation is municipal—Victoria, South Australia, Western Australia, and Tasmania all having municipal abattoirs. Methods of operation, however, differ. In the finest municipal abattoir in Australia—that located in Adelaide, South Australia—the actual slaughtering is performed by the municipal corporation on a fee basis. In Melbourne butchers are allowed to do their own slaughtering in the municipal abattoirs at so much a head. In other places slaughtering stalls are leased out to the butchers. In New South Wales the State has assumed control of the slaughtering in the Sydney metropolitan district through a board called the Meat Industry and Abattoirs Board.

As a rule, municipalities which operate abattoirs exclude from their zone all meat from the outside. This confines private slaughtering to those districts wherein there are no municipal abattoirs. In some instances, however, private slaughtering plants exist alongside of municipal plants and compete with them.

The reason for State and municipal control is generally given as a desire to safeguard the quality of meat provided for local consump-

tion. The Government-operated abattoirs are universally made self-supporting through fees, hence no form of annual subsidy is required.

#### **Slaughtering in Queensland a Private Business.**

Slaughtering in Queensland is entirely a private business. Since Queensland furnishes over five-sixths of the beef exported from Australia, the principal plants slaughtering beef for export are located here. Slaughtering for local purposes is done in numerous small abattoirs.

The State Government is entitled to credit for fostering the slaughtering industry. In the early days the State assisted in establishing such business by taxing the stock owners, under the provisions of the meat and dairy act of 1893. The proceeds of such taxation were loaned by the State Government to meat companies that were formed for export purposes. Interest on the loans was paid by these companies, and finally the principal was paid up and returned to those who had supplied it. Administrative expenses were provided for in the interest charges on the advances.

The emergency arising out of the war caused the Government to enact the meat works act of 1915, which provides that under certain conditions the Government may take over the meat works during the war. No occasion has yet arisen for the exercise of this power. The drought of a year ago resulted in great loss of stock, and there has been very little beef available for export. At present most of the packing plants are closed.

#### **American Packers' Activities.**

The situation in Queensland is interesting from an export standpoint, because of the entrance into the trade of American packers. Swift & Co., through a subsidiary, the Australian Meat Export Co., which is registered in Queensland, in June, 1914, opened a plant on the Brisbane River. This plant has a capacity of 500 cattle and 2,500 sheep a day. Armour & Co. have been large buyers of Australian meat. Morris & Co. and the Cudahy Packing Co. have also purchased meat in Australia.

This activity of American packers caused alarm in various quarters in Australia, and investigations were made in several States as to their operations. The most complete and authoritative investigation, however, was made by a royal commission for the Federal Government. This report, which was published about a year ago, disclosed no oppressive business practices on the part of the American companies. Since this report was aimed directly at American "trust" methods, it is interesting to note that the only combination in restraint of trade which was found was a combination of five Queensland meat companies in connection with bids for supplying the United States Army in the Philippines.

Although no municipal abattoirs have yet been established in Queensland, private slaughtering is not defended as a superior method of handling meat for local consumption.

#### **State Control in New South Wales.**

New South Wales presents the only example in Australia of State control and operation of meat works and abattoirs. Municipal control, which has been very successful in the cities of other States, did not work out well in Sydney, and the Government was forced to step

in and undertake improvements. The local slaughtering in Sydney had been done at the municipal works on Glebe Island and at 20 privately-operated abattoirs in the vicinity. A royal commission which investigated food supplies and prices in New South Wales in 1913 reported unfavorably on the Glebe Island plant.

In order to safeguard the slaughtering of meat for local use in Sydney, New South Wales created, about this same time, a State board to administer local slaughtering works, and appropriated a large sum to construct a modern abattoir at Homebush Bay, near the city of Sydney. This Meat Industry and Abattoir Board, as it is called, consists of a member of the Government, who is chairman, a pastoralist (stock farmer), a representative of the slaughtermen, a representative of the board of health, and a secretary. The board now has control of the abattoirs at Glebe Island and will assume charge of the new \$2,000,000 works at Homebush Bay when completed. It is estimated that the net profits of the new works will be between \$30,000 and \$40,000 a year.

#### **State Participation Small in Victoria.**

The State Government engages in slaughtering and cold storage to only a slight extent in Victoria. The Victorian Government has cool stores in Melbourne and slaughtering and freezing works at Geelong, 40 miles from Melbourne, which are utilized principally for export. Under the Victorian law relating to abattoirs (act of 1915), municipalities may erect one or more abattoirs within their boundaries under certain limitations, and there are at present nine municipally-owned slaughterhouses in the State. The law favors the establishment of municipal abattoirs, but no Government subsidy is given to the municipalities for establishing abattoirs other than those owned by the State. Private abattoirs are discouraged in districts where there are municipal abattoirs. All the municipally-owned abattoirs in Victoria are self-supporting by means of dues and meat inspection. Some of them make substantial profits without inflicting hardship upon local butchers.

The three abattoirs in the city of Melbourne which are controlled by the municipal council are not operated directly. Instead, stalls are assigned to licensed slaughtermen, and fees are charged for all stock slaughtered within the premises.

The general sentiment is that municipal abattoirs should be established as far as possible throughout the State. There is, of course, opposition on the part of the owners of private abattoirs.

#### **Methods Followed in Western Australia and Tasmania.**

A movement is now on foot to bring all local abattoirs under central State control in Western Australia. This will apply to export works as well as to local works, and is an advanced Government policy. The idea is that the Government treat stock for all comers, and simply become a factory owner for the security and permanence of what is esteemed a national industry.

In Tasmania abattoirs are under municipal control. In Hobart, the leading city, a public abattoir was erected in 1908, and all meat for local consumption must be slaughtered there. This abattoir is of the "open-hall" type common in New Zealand. (The system in vogue in many parts of Australia is still the old type of separate slaughtering pens for individual butchers.) For some years after its

opening the slaughtering was carried on under contract, the contractor agreeing to kill animals for all butchers at a fixed rate per head for different classes of animals, but at present butchers are allowed to do their own slaughtering under the supervision of the manager of the abattoir. No Government subsidy is received. The revenue derived is sufficient to pay interest and sinking fund for loan raised, working expenses, and a small profit.

At Launceston, the second city in Tasmania, about the same system prevails, except that local butchers must employ licensed slaughtermen to do the killing.

#### **Adelaide Abattoir Finest in Australia.**

In South Australia there is no control of the slaughtering of meat for local consumption by either the Commonwealth or the State governments (the slaughtering of meat for export is controlled by the Commonwealth Government, as already mentioned), but municipal slaughter plants exist in the city of Adelaide and in the municipality of Glenelg. Since the Metropolitan Abattoir in Adelaide has the reputation of being the finest establishment of its kind in Australia, it may be taken as an example of municipal operation at its best.

The Adelaide abattoirs were established under the metropolitan abattoirs act of 1908 by a board consisting of eight members, who are chosen from the city of Adelaide and adjacent suburban municipalities. This board is known as the Metropolitan Abattoirs Board, and has complete control of the abattoirs and the market for the sale of stock which adjoins same. Meat is slaughtered at these abattoirs for a population of approximately 200,000. The original act authorized the board to borrow \$480,000 for the purpose of erecting the abattoirs, but this sum was later increased to \$1,674,400. The abattoirs were opened on July 1, 1913, and on account of the volume of business an additional sum of \$168,000 was appropriated to enable the board to enlarge the plant, making the total cost of the abattoirs, including the stock market and by-products plant, \$1,842,400.

Under the law the board has a monopoly of meat slaughtering and meat delivery within the metropolitan area—a right not granted to any other abattoir in Australia.

#### **Operated by Metropolitan Abattoirs Board.**

The abattoirs are operated under regulations issued by the Metropolitan Abattoirs Board. Railway sidings run into the stock market, whither the animals are brought by the owners and where they are sold to the butchers. Those intended for slaughter are then taken charge of by the abattoir officials and conveyed to the killing pens, slaughtered and chilled, and subsequently delivered to the butchers. Some 42,700 cattle, 407,100 sheep and lambs, 11,000 calves, and 15,200 pigs are required annually to supply the inhabitants of the Metropolitan Abattoirs area. For the purpose of delivering meat the board employs nineteen 7-ton motor trucks. Ante and post mortem inspections of stock and carcasses are made by inspectors who are under the supervision of a veterinary surgeon.

All slaughtering is done by a staff employed by the board. All viscera and offal not ordinarily used in the butcher's retail trade revert to the board as part of the toll; the remainder is delivered to



the butcher, unless he has made a contract with the board for a period of not less than six months relinquishing his right to the offal, in which case the fees for slaughtering are reduced and all viscera and offal retained by the board. The offal is manufactured into by-products such as beef dripping, mutton dripping, mutton and beef tallow, blood manure, bone dust, bone manure, and poultry meal, in the board's own plant adjoining the abattoirs.

After the meat is slaughtered it is conveyed to the chilling rooms, of which there are seven with a capacity of 420 cattle, 3,000 sheep and lambs, and 500 calves and pigs.

**Fees—Workmen's Village.**

The fees collected by the abattoirs board for slaughtering, inspection, and sustenance of stock, and for cold storage for 24 hours after slaughtering are, per head: Large stock, \$3.36; calves under the age of 6 months, \$1.15; swine, \$1.32; sheep, lambs, and goats, \$0.56. These rates apply when the owner takes the offal of the stock which is ordinarily used in the butcher's retail trade. If the owner relinquishes all offal to the board the fees are: Large stock, \$2.18; calves under the age of 6 months, \$0.67; swine, \$0.97; sheep, lambs, and goats, \$0.32. For inspection only of carcasses which are slaughtered without the metropolitan area, and which it is desired to sell within the limits of the area controlled by the board, the fees per carcass are: Large stock, \$1.20; pig or calf, \$0.60; sheep, lamb, or goat, \$0.24.

After the first week \$0.48 per week is charged for feeding large stock and \$0.08 for sheep, lambs, or goats. Pigs are not allowed to remain alive in the abattoirs for more than three days.

The board has erected 46 dwellings, which are rented to employees, and a flourishing town has grown up in the immediate vicinity of the abattoirs, where formerly there was only vacant ground. Among the buildings in this area are a public school and a church.

All slaughtermen and employees handling meat in the abattoirs are required to change their clothing each day before leaving the establishment. The soiled clothing is delivered to the laundry operated in connection with the abattoirs. Clean clothing is issued to the employees at the close of each day for use on the following day, and is kept in lockers which are assigned to each employee.

**OFFICES OF THE BUREAU OF FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC COMMERCE.**

**DISTRICT OFFICES.**

**NEW YORK:** Room 400, Customhouse.  
**BOSTON:** 19th floor, Customhouse.  
**CHICAGO:** 504 Federal Building.  
**ST. LOUIS:** 402 Third National Bank Building.  
**ATLANTA:** 521 Post Office Building.  
**NEW ORLEANS:** 1030 Bienville Bank Building.  
**SAN FRANCISCO:** 307 Customhouse.  
**SEATTLE:** 848 Henry Building.

**COOPERATIVE OFFICES.**

**CLEVELAND:** Chamber of Commerce.  
**CINCINNATI:** Chamber of Commerce.  
**CINCINNATI:** C., N. O. & T. P. Ry. Co.  
**LOS ANGELES:** Chamber of Commerce.  
**DETROIT:** Board of Commerce.  
**PHILADELPHIA:** Chamber of Commerce.  
**CHATTANOOGA:** South American Agent, Southern Ry. Co.

The United States Lighthouse Service has found that a coating of tank oil applied to the interior metal surfaces of the bilges and inaccessible spaces in steel vessels on the Great Lakes has proven very satisfactory as a preservative in lieu of scaling and painting. In many places it has been difficult to properly cover and protect the steel.

**WAR'S EFFECT ON SWISS LIVE-STOCK CONDITIONS.**

[Vice Consul Frank Bohr, Zurich.]

The live-stock census in Switzerland, which is ordered every 5 years, was taken on April 19, 1916. The final statistics are to be published toward the end of the year, but provisional figures are available.

Compared with the final statistics of the census taken on April 21, 1911, there are decreases of 5.2 per cent in the number of horses, 2.1 per cent in the number of mules, 18.7 per cent in the number of donkeys and asses, and 4.6 per cent in the total number of hogs. On the other hand, there are increases of 11.9 per cent in the total number of cattle, including an increase of 6.5 per cent in the number of the cows, as well as increases of 6.3 and 4.9 per cent, respectively, in the numbers of sheep and goats. A comparison of the total live-stock units indicates an increase of 138,262, or 7.9 per cent.

**Much Higher Prices Affect Total Figures.**

Statistics covering the live-stock values in accordance with the recent census have not yet been made public, but it is stated that the prices are naturally much higher now than in 1911, and that on the basis of the prices for that year there would be an increase in the total value of Swiss live stock of 49,093,104 francs (\$9,474,969), or 6.6 per cent. This would give the present total value of Swiss live stock, as estimated on the basis of the prices obtaining in 1911, at approximately \$143,560,000.

The statistics show that on April 19, 1916, there were in all 262,702 owners of live stock in Switzerland, and that 151,046 of them were engaged exclusively in agriculture, 72,835 in agriculture combined with some other industrial enterprise, and 38,821 in nonagricultural enterprises. Among the 262,702 owners of the different classes of live stock 73,993 were owners of the total number of 140,961 horses, mules, and asses enumerated; 206,432 were the owners of the 1,615,645 head of cattle, and 192,730 were the owners of the total number of 1,073,749 hogs, sheep, and goats or so-called small live stock. The figures indicate an average holding in the respective classes of about 2 horses, mules, or asses, 8 head of cattle, or 5.5 head of small live stock.

Only the Cantons of Berne and Solothurn showed increases in the last census in the number of horses, the Berne increase being due to the importation of military horses by the Federal Government.

**American Horses for Military Use.**

Switzerland, ordinarily, has not been able to produce a sufficient number of horses for its military requirements, and, since the surrounding belligerent countries have placed embargoes against the exportation of horses, the Swiss military department has, since the outbreak of the war, been importing cavalry remounts from the United States. This department is also attempting to promote the breeding of military horses in Switzerland by exempting brood mares from military requisition.

A very striking feature, from an American point of view, is the comparative scarcity of mules, asses, and donkeys in Switzerland. On the date of the recent census 14 Swiss Cantons (Uri, Schwyz, Obwalden, Nidwalden, Glarus, Zug, Solothurn, Baselstadt, Baselland, Schaffhausen, Appenzell A-Rh., Appenzell I-Rh., Aargau, and Thur-

gau) reported in all a total of only 41 mules and 36 donkeys, and the Canton Schaffhausen now has only 2 donkeys. The southern Cantons lead in the number of these animals, the Canton of Valais having 2,464 mules and 423 donkeys, and the Italian Canton of Tessin 265 mules and 363 donkeys. In the former Canton there are, of course, included the 464 mules at the military stations at Martigny, and Sion.

#### All Cantons Show Increases in Cattle.

All of the Cantons showed increases in the number of cattle. The greatest increase was 20.8 per cent in the Canton Vaud and the smallest 0.5 per cent in Canton Tessin. The Swiss cattle industry is important not only as a source for beef, but doubtless to a greater extent as the basis for great export industries of cheese and condensed milk. Owing to the increase since the war in the value of the exports of these two products, as well as of fresh milk, the Swiss cattle-growing industry has been very profitable, in spite of the high cost of feed. Since the outbreak of the war there has been a very decided decrease in the importation of beef cattle. On the other hand, on account of the high price, there has also been a decline in the quantity of beef and other meats consumed and a substitution of cheese and other food products for meat. The Federal military commissary, in a way, early established a standard in this respect in reducing the meat rations of the soldiers in the field and in substituting cheese rations.

#### Changes in Number of Hogs in Various Cantons.

Fifteen Cantons showed a decrease in the number of the hogs and 10 Cantons showed an increase, the greatest decrease being 21 per cent in the Canton Appenzell A.-Rh., and the greatest increases, 68.1 and 38.9, per cent, respectively, in the city Cantons of Baselstadt and Geneva. The high increase in the latter case is, however, due to the fact that on April 19, 1916, it happened that there were large numbers of butchers' hogs on the markets at those places.

In general the decrease in the total number of hogs, as compared with the census for 1911, was due in the first place to the decreased importation since the war began, and in the second place to the difficulties of the feed situation. During the war potatoes have been so expensive that they could be used only as food for human beings. The distillation of potatoes into alcohol was also forbidden by decree of the Federal Council dated August 27, 1914. It has been difficult in many instances to obtain a substitute for the potatoes formerly used as hog feed, especially as the feeding of all grains capable of being ground into flour was likewise forbidden by decree of the Federal Council dated August 27, 1914.

#### Swiss Wool Again Active in Home Market.

During the Middle Ages and up into the nineteenth century the sheep industry was very important in Switzerland, and wool of Swiss production constituted by far the principal raw product of the Swiss woolen industries. With the development of transportation, however, Swiss wool could no longer compete with the Australian and Argentine staples. Only since embargoes have been established upon wool by the various producing countries, as an accompaniment of the present war, has Swiss wool again found a ready demand in

the home market. This is doubtless the principal reason for the increased production of sheep, as shown in the recent census. A second reason is the present high price of mutton.

Goats are relatively very important in Switzerland, both on account of their milk and on account of the meat of the young goats, the so-called gitzi meat, which is greatly relished during certain seasons. The numerical increase with reference to the previous census is said to be due principally to the efforts of the poorer working classes to maintain goats for milk.

[An article on the prices of Swiss cattle was published in *COMMERCE REPORTS* for June 21, 1916.]

### **GROWING USE OF FARM TRACTORS IN CUBA.**

[Consul H. M. Wolcott, detailed as vice consul, Habana, Aug. 2.]

There is a growing demand in Cuba for both light and heavy farm tractors, and it is believed that many will be sold here this year. Some of the larger sugar estates already have tractors in operation. These are heavy machines, as a rule, of the higher horsepower, and are used for plowing and preparing the land for the planting of cane and other crops. Only the highest grade machines are suitable for work in Cuba. Gasoline has been used principally as a fuel, although prior to the advance in the price of alcohol this also was used to some extent.

It is believed that the greatest opportunity for the sale of tractors in Cuba will be with the large sugar estates, although a few of the lower-powered machines are in use on the general farms, and it is likely that there will be a demand for more as the advantages of tractors are more generally demonstrated. Prices of mules and oxen are at present very high in this country, and the prospects seem to indicate a continued advance in the cost of these animals. There is also a growing appreciation among agriculturists of the necessity for deeper and better plowing of the lands for all crops.

#### **Practical Demonstrations Likely to Have Results.**

It would be well to arrange for practical demonstrations of American tractors in Cuba. Manufacturers might consult the director of the agricultural experiment station at Santiago de las Vegas in regard to such plans. Mr. H. A. Van Hermann, an American employed by the Department of Agriculture of Cuba as an expert demonstrator, would be in a position to give advice. He may be addressed care of the department, in Habana.

Tractors for use in agricultural operations are classified under No. 216 of the Cuban import tariff and, with the 20 per cent reduction allowed to the product of the United States under the reciprocity agreement, are dutiable at the rate of 8 per cent ad valorem. A certificate must be presented signed by the alcalde of the municipality where the tractor is used, showing that the machine is employed exclusively in the preparation of the ground or gathering crops, or cleaning and improving them without essentially changing their nature.

[An article on the use of gasoline engines in Cuba was published in *COMMERCE REPORTS* for May 17, 1916.]

## SCOPE OF ATLANTIC COAST PILOT INCREASED.

The section of the Atlantic Coast Pilot covering the coast and inland waters from Sandy Hook to Cape Henry, including Delaware and Chesapeake Bays and the inside route from New York to Norfolk, has been changed in form and rewritten largely from new data. Its scope has been considerably extended, especially by the introduction of information for the use of small craft and motor boats. Some new features are the tables of largest dry-docks and marine railways, a table showing the average number of hours per month that the fog signals were operated, and the complete meteorological tables for this region which were prepared by the United States Weather Bureau. Current observations have also added considerable new information as to times of slack water at important points.

The new publication is entitled Atlantic Coast Pilot, Section C, and was prepared by the United States Coast and Geodetic Survey. It replaces Coast Pilot, Parts V and VI. It contains descriptions of the navigable waters in this region with directions for navigating them, information concerning port facilities, places where supplies and fuel can be obtained, where repairs can be made, tidal and current information, and much other information useful to vessels of every class.

The volume embodies the results of surveys and special investigations by the Survey, the Corps of Engineers, United States Army, and others. The volume is on sale at the office of the Coast and Geodetic Survey in Washington, D. C., and at the agencies of the Survey in all the principal seaports.

## AMERICAN CONSULAR OFFICERS ON LEAVE OF ABSENCE.

The following American consular officers are on leave of absence in the United States and will be glad to confer with business men and commercial organizations relative to conditions in their respective jurisdictions. The consul's time is available primarily for personal interviews. He has limited facilities for correspondence, and except in urgent cases letters should be directed to the consulate.

Name.	Post.	Expiration of leave.	Address.
West, George N. ....	Kobe, Japan. ....	Aug. 15	Department of State, Washington, D. C.
Hale, F. D. ....	Huddersfield, England	Sept. 5	Lunenburg, Vt.
Masterson, William W. ....	Durban, Natal, South Africa.	Sept. 1	Carrollton, Ky.
Baker, E. Carlton. ....	Nagasaki, Japan. ....	Aug. 30	Apartment No. 75, The Brunswick, Washington, D. C.
Monaghan, J. C. ....	Kingston, Jamaica. ....	Sept. 1	Avenue A and Fourteenth Street, Brooklyn, N. Y.
Jewell, John F. ....	Chefoo, China. ....	Oct. 1	Galena, Ill.
Kemper, Graham H. ....	Erfurt, Germany. ....	Sept. 10	Department of State, Washington, D. C.
Gooder, James H. ....	Niagara Falls, Canada. ....	Sept. 1	27 South Hawk Street, Albany, N. Y.
Hesseltine, Ross. ....	Port Antonio, Jamaica. ....	Oct. 1	Department of State, Washington, D. C.
Laing, James Oliver. ....	Karachi, India. ....	Sept. 30	C/o University Club, Kansas City, Mo.
Leonard, Walter A. ....	Colombo, Ceylon. ....	Oct. 14	Essex, Iowa.
Osborne, John Ball. ....	Havre, France. ....	Oct. 21	Department of State, Washington, D. C.

## FOREIGN TRADE OPPORTUNITIES.

Reserved addresses may be obtained from the Bureau and its district offices. Request for each opportunity should be on a separate sheet and state opportunity number. The Bureau does not furnish credit ratings or assume responsibility as to the standing of foreign inquirers; the usual precautions should be taken in all cases.

*Mallets*, No. 22150.—The Bureau is in receipt of a request for the names of manufacturers of mallets made of pig skin, a large quantity of which the inquirer states are desired by a firm in France.

*Paper bags*, No. 22151.—An American consular officer in South Africa writes that a firm in his district is in the market for paper bags of all sizes. Quotations f. o. b. New York, with samples, are desired.

*Thermometers, stationery, etc.*, No. 22152.—A firm in the United States writes that it is in receipt of an inquiry from Russia for clinical thermometers; paraffin; pepper; vanilla; ammonia; winestone sour; chevrot and broadcloth, for women; women's shoes and slippers; and writing paper, postal stationery, etc.

*Leather*, No. 22153.—A Norwegian import firm advises an American consular officer that it desires to be placed in communication with American manufacturers of leather for upholstery purposes. Samples and prices should be sent. Correspondence may be in English. References.

*Machinery*, No. 22154.—A firm in India, through its correspondents in the United States, desires to communicate with American manufacturers of machinery for the manufacture of braid, lace, and yarn.

*Hosiery*, No. 22155.—An American consular officer in Canada reports that a firm in his district desires to be placed in touch with manufacturers and exporters of women's hosiery of all kinds, particularly silk and silk lisle.

*Painters' supplies, etc.*, No. 22156.—The Bureau is informed that a firm in Spain is in the market for decorators' and painters' supplies, colors in powder, lead pencils and copying pencils, and rubber erasers, etc. Quotations and literature may be transmitted to the firm's correspondent in the United States.

*Provisions, hardware, etc.*, No. 22157.—A firm of manufacturers' representatives in Argentina informs an American consular officer that it desires to secure the agency in that country of American manufacturers and exporters of groceries and food products of all kinds, construction materials, and hardware, etc. Correspondence in Spanish. Reference.

*Elastic*, No. 22158.—A firm in the United States desires to secure for transmittal to its correspondents in Japan quotations and literature covering cotton and silk elastic for garters and braces, etc.

*Optical goods, etc.*, No. 22159.—A man in Australia has informed an American consular officer of his desire to be placed in touch with American manufacturers of optical goods of all kinds, including prisepometers, electric vibrators, clips, lenses, and rimless glasses; also scientific instruments for producing ultra violet rays, spinthariscopes, spectroscopes, electrosopes, etc.

*Stationery, etc.*, No. 22160.—A firm in the West Indies desires to receive quotations on stationery and fountain pens. Literature, samples, etc., may be submitted through the firm's correspondent in the United States.

*Cotton goods, etc.*, No. 22161.—An American consular officer in the Netherlands reports that an agent in that country wishes to represent, on a commission basis, American manufacturers of cotton goods, cotton prints for women's dresses, underwear for men and women, and woolen goods. Correspondence may be in English.

# COMMERCE REPORTS



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No. 193      Washington, D. C., Thursday, August 17      1916

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## RESTRICTION OF RAG EXPORTS FROM SPAIN.

[Consular Assistant Bartley F. Yost, Barcelona, July 21.]

According to the Spanish press, the manufacturers of woolen textiles at Alcoy and dealers in old rags have entered into an agreement under the terms of which the latter agree to furnish the former with the necessary rags on the basis of present industrial capacity, pledging themselves not to export any rags until the needs of the Spanish manufacturers are supplied. Orders must be placed before the 20th of each month, and the rag dealers are obliged to accept the orders within five days and report the same to the Spanish sub-treasury. This agreement is to remain in force until October 1, and is subject to renewal.

## CONSULAR WORK IN CANARY ISLANDS.

[Consul George H. Stiles, Teneriffe, July 10.]

The utility of the cabled "Trade Opportunity" in consular trade-extension work was clearly demonstrated during the past quarter, when this consulate wired the fact that the municipality of Teneriffe was in the market for a cargo of gas coal. The cable, sent late on June 8, was in the hands of the American coal trade on June 10, and on June 12 replies began arriving. Terms, quantities, and credit arrangements were quickly agreed upon, this office acting as interpreter for the city officials. By June 22 the money involved (some \$20,000) had been transferred to a New York bank and the transaction closed. City officials here were warm in commendation of the thoroughness of the system through which they had been placed in communication with American producers.

Other results of consular effort that came to light in the June quarter were the sale of outboard motors and the introduction of American straw hats. The general export trade of the United States with the Canaries is evidently broadening, as two new general agencies were opened by American exporting firms, one in Teneriffe and one in Las Palmas.

**CEMENT POSTS FOR AUSTRIAN HOP GARDENS.**

[Consul Wallace J. Young, Carlsbad, July 11.]

Experiments now being carried on in Germany, if successful, may create a market in the Carlsbad district for an American product. It is proposed to use cement posts in hop gardens for carrying the wires on which the vines grow. Wooden (pine and fir) poles are now used. They are about 8 feet long and cost 80 cents each. They are treated with a preservative to prevent rot, and their average life is 12 to 15 years.

If these experiments are successful, there will be a field here for the placing of cement machines. Its extent is indicated by the fact that in normal times, in the Saaz district, there is a hop acreage of 30,000, and it is calculated that with the present system of wooden poles, 210 poles are needed to the acre. With the use of concrete probably not so many poles would be needed.

The wire now used costs 8.7 cents per pound, a 24 per cent increase over the price before the war. It is estimated that the poles and wires installed in the hop gardens of the Saaz district represent an investment of more than \$3,000,000.

**Prospects for This Year's Crop Improved.**

The weather for hop growing has greatly improved, and it is now expected that this year's crop will about equal that of last year—108,000 zentners, or 11,905,000 pounds—regardless of the reduced acreage. It is not expected that there will be a lack of hands for the hop picking, as women can do this work. Last year pickers were brought largely from the Bohemian Forest and the Ore Mountains, through the governmental registry and employment bureau for Bohemia. Similar arrangements are being made this year. So many men are now with the Army, or engaged in governmental work, with the consequent need of women at home also earning something, that it is expected most of the pickers this year will be women and children from the near-by parts of Bohemia.

If the present crop expectations are fulfilled, and it is still impossible to ship hops to the American market, unprecedentedly low prices may be expected for the Saaz crop. As previously reported, last year not only Austrian, but German brewers bought large stocks, and this year they are fairly well supplied. About 6,000 zentners (661,000 pounds) of old hops, it is estimated, are still on hand. With the new crop there will be 12,566,000 pounds, with a fair percentage of the possible buyers already supplied.

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**PLANS FOR NARROW-GAUGE RAILWAY IN PERU.**

The Peruvian Government has authorized Alfredo Armand to make surveys for a narrow-gauge railway or an air line from a point on the Oroya-Hauncayo Railroad to the mining region at Jatunhuasi, located in the province of Jauja. The plans for the proposed line must be in accordance with Government regulations and must be presented to the Department of Public Works within a year from the date of the concession, July 7, which is published in *El Peruano* of July 12. Upon acceptance of the plans, the Peruvian Government will call for bids on the construction of the railway.



**DEVELOPING DEMAND FOR GRAYFISH AND TILEFISH.**

In a campaign to induce the economic utilization of the grayfish, experiments have been conducted by the United States Bureau of Fisheries to develop ways in which the fish could be prepared for food purposes, and in which the livers, skins, eggs, etc., could be given value for industrial purposes.

Within a week after the act authorizing the bureau to undertake this work became a law, and funds for the purpose were made available, representatives of the bureau were on the New England coast making arrangements for the undertaking.

Already a limited market for the fish has been found in New York, and during the fall and winter this will not only be increased in that city, but extended to other large communities. A market has been found for rough-salted fish as crab bait in Chesapeake Bay.

The liver oil will take care of itself, and the bureau has been assured that there will be a demand for the eggs for leather dressing as soon as a regular supply can be obtained. There is now a small market for the skins for the manufacture of novelties, and there is reason to believe that they can be converted into leather which will find more extensive use. The production of gelatin from the fins and fertilizer from the refuse is possible, and it is believed that it will become a fact when the fishery shall have become established.

Further results, also, are reported from the bureau's interest in tilefish. The landings of that fish in New York during July reached a total of 2,200,000 pounds, which, with 230,000 pounds landed at Boston, made a grand total of 2,430,000 pounds as the product of the fishery, exclusive of certain small fares of unknown quantity which it is understood were brought into Newport and Atlantic City. Before July 20, 1,977,000 pounds were taken to New York, the decrease in the landings during the last third of the month being due to the dissatisfaction of the fishermen with the inadequate landing facilities at Fulton Market Dock, bad weather, and the destruction of gear by sharks. During the period of heavy landings the price received by the fishermen was generally 2 cents a pound, a few fares selling for  $1\frac{1}{2}$  and  $1\frac{3}{4}$  cents. In the latter part of the month the average price was about 4 cents per pound. The total value of the fishery during July was about \$55,000.

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**RADIUM PRODUCTION IN BOHEMIA.**

[Vice Consul John L. Bouchal, Prague, Austria, July 17.]

In the mining of uranium ore in Bohemia, 25,720 pounds of uraninite prepared for smelting, having an average value of \$471.50 per 100 pounds, were produced in 1915. Of the different uranium compounds, there were produced in the Government mine in Joachimsthal 2,325 pounds of an average value of \$252.50 per 100 pounds.

The Government factory for radium compounds produced compounds containing 1.754 grams (27.07 grains) of radium elements having a total value of \$209,364.50. The radium production in 1915 represented an increase of 0.879 gram (13.57 grains) as compared with the production in 1914, the value of which shows an increase of \$100,000, in round figures.

**JAPANESE SEEK SOUTH AMERICAN TRADE.**

[Consul General William W. Handley, Callao-Lima, Peru, July 22.]

Considerable interest has been manifested by two of the most powerful Japanese steamship companies during the past few months in developing their service along the west coast of South America. Prior to the war these companies had no regular schedules, but now they maintain a monthly service of steamers having a tonnage from 15,000 to 20,000 tons, and are obviously making strong efforts to capture the trade.

It is stated that the important Japanese steamship company, Toyo Kisen Kaisha, has recently decided to augment its service between Hongkong and Coronel, Chile, putting on three steamers, the *Buyo Maru*, *Hongkong Maru*, and one other. These ships are to touch at San Francisco and some of the principal west coast ports of Central and South America, proceeding as far south as Coronel. The service is to be monthly.

**Japanese to Buy Five Chilean Ships.**

It is also reported here that the Japanese steamship company, Mitsui Bussan Kaisha, which has headquarters at Tokyo, has finished negotiations for the purchase of five Chilean steamers which ply between Punta Arenas and Atlantic and Pacific ports of South America. The steamers are the *Goni*, *Valenzuela*, *Uribe*, *Mott*, and *Boris*. All will be retired from their former service and placed in the trade between Japan, Korea, and China, replacing vessels of a larger tonnage.

The Japanese Government recently instructed the Japanese consul general at Lima to make an extensive tour of Chile, Argentina, Uruguay, and Paraguay, with a view to seeking commercial information for the improvement of the trade between Japan and these countries. He has very recently returned from a two months trip, after an extensive visit not only to the seaports but to many of the interior towns of these countries.

[American Commercial Attaché V. L. Havens, Santiago, Chile, July 17.]

**To Develop Commerce Between Japan and Chile.**

Plans for increasing the commercial relations between Japan and Chile are mentioned by the *Mercurio* of Santiago, which on July 13 published the following statement:

According to information received from Yokohama, it is learned that a company with a large capital has been organized in that city under the name Pacific Trading Co., whose chief business will be the importing and exporting of goods from and to the Pacific coast countries.

Mr. Muritaro Morimoto, who has organized this company, came to this country in charge of the Japanese exposition, and this organization is the result of the study he made of our market and also of the commercial commission which visited us a short time ago from Japan, of which Mr. Morimoto was the leader.

Operations will probably begin in August.

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**COTTON CROP OF ADANA.**

[Consul Edward I. Nathan, Mersina, Turkey, July 13.]

This year's cotton crop of the Turkish Province of Adana will probably not exceed 20,000 bales, owing to the diminished acreage and the exceptionally hot winds that prevailed in June.

**MATCH INDUSTRY IN TONKIN AND NORTHERN ANNAM.**

[Consul Lawrence P. Briggs, Saigon, French Indo-China, May 31.]

The annual production of matches by three factories in Indo-China (one in Tonkin and two in northern Annam) is now about 22,000 cases of 7,200 boxes each. This product goes a long way toward supplying the local market. As a matter of fact, the market of Tonkin and Annam has for some years been practically occupied by the product of these three factories, and they have nearly driven Japanese matches out of Cochin China and Cambodia. Matches are exported in small quantities every year from Haiphong to France and occasionally to other countries.

The annual production of matches in these three factories is more than 3,000,000 kilos per year, considering a case of 7,200 boxes prepared for shipment as weighing 140 kilos (kilo=2.2 pounds). The following tables show in kilos for the years 1910-1914, inclusive, the shipments, both foreign and coastwise, from Tonkin and Annam, and the receipts at each of the principal ports of Indo-China:

	1910	1911	1912	1913	1914
<b>Shipped from Haiphong to—</b>	<i>Kilos.</i>	<i>Kilos.</i>	<i>Kilos.</i>	<i>Kilos.</i>	<i>Kilos.</i>
Annam .....	243,277	269,960	232,615	303,594	225,300
Cochin China .....	1,099,436	825,777	1,129,185	1,619,483	1,085,500
France .....	7,000	21,280	21,721	37,100	22,000
Foreign .....	750	1,504	8,434	11,200	.....
<b>Total .....</b>	<b>1,350,463</b>	<b>1,118,530</b>	<b>1,391,955</b>	<b>1,971,377</b>	<b>1,332,800</b>
<b>Receipts at port of—</b>					
Haiphong .....	1,998	262	2,989	317	200
Saigon .....	320,414	221,291	135,088	175,742	172,688
<b>Total .....</b>	<b>322,412</b>	<b>221,553</b>	<b>138,077</b>	<b>176,059</b>	<b>172,888</b>

**Factories Which Exist Purely for the Local Trade.**

Although the largest match factories of Indo-China are in northern Annam, they come within the Haiphong customs district and have no connection with the rest of Annam except by coastwise steamer from Haiphong. They find their chief market in Tonkin, Annam, and other parts of Indo-China. So far, they exist almost purely for the local trade, which they have nearly absorbed. The decreased production of the old Hanoi factory during the past three years has been due partly to the war and partly to the competition caused by the increased activity of the two other factories.

The product of these factories ranges from a very inferior to a fair grade of matches, but the price is so low that competition is almost impossible. A case of 7,200 boxes of the best grade of local matches sells at retail in Saigon for 63 piasters (a piaster is generally worth a little less than 50 cents, United States currency). This is less than a cent a box, local currency (less than half a cent a box, United States currency).

A box, which contains about 55 or 60 matches, retails for 1 cent local currency. The Japanese boxes selling at the same price are considerably smaller. A similar quality of matches, containing about the same number in a box and put up for the local market in much the same form as the Tonkin matches, finds a small sale here. These matches are sent to Saigon by a Singapore firm, but are said to come

from Sweden. Practically all the rest of the imported matches are of Japanese origin, imported directly or through Hongkong.

**Cheap Labor Makes Cost of Production Low.**

The principal reason for the cheapness of these matches is the low cost of production due to the abundance, cheapness, and skill of the Tonkinese laborers. Each of these factories employs from 300 to 500 workmen, whose wages range from 10 to 50 cents (5 to 25 cents, United States currency) per day, but since the great majority of the workers are women and children, the wages paid probably do not average more than 20 cents (10 cents United States currency) per day. The Tonkinese are industrious and apt with simple machinery. Native labor is much cheaper and more skilful in Tonkin and northern Annam than in Cochin China.

The first of the three factories mentioned was established at Hanoi in 1895. It has several times changed hands, but for the last 10 years has been owned by the Société Indochinoise des Allumettes, a joint-stock company with a capital of 1,600,000 francs (\$308,800), and leased to the Chinese firm of A-Lim & Co. During the first 10 years of its existence, this factory turned out only about 500 cases of 7,200 boxes each; but since it was refitted 10 years ago its product has been about 5,000 cases per year. The plant is equipped with modern machinery and includes a factory for making boxes and cases. The matchwood is rafted down the Red River from above Vietri.

Since 1903 this Société has operated a match factory at Ben-thuy near Vinh in northern Annam. This mill employs about 500 workmen and has a capacity of 8,000 to 10,000 cases a year. The timber for this factory's use, like that for the Hanoi establishment, comes mainly from Vietri. It is equipped with box machinery, but the box material is usually prepared by the adjoining sawmill of the closely-related Société Forestière et Commerciale de l'Annam.

**Hard to Get Materials Under War Conditions.**

The chemicals used have come mainly from France. They were generally purchased by the Paris representative of this firm or, in an emergency, obtained from local dealers. Since the war began, there has been some difficulty in getting materials, partly on account of decreased production or increased consumption of some of these materials and partly to lack of tonnage and consequent delayed shipments and high freight rates. Petroleum and paraffin can be supplied by the English and American firms doing business in Indo-China, and glue and paper can be purchased locally or imported from China. The greatest trouble during the past year has been to obtain the sheet zinc which was formerly used to line the cases exported to foreign countries or shipped to Cochin China, and Cambodia. The price of sheet zinc has increased enormously.

In 1910 the Société des Scieries et des Fabriques d'Allumettes du Thanh-hoa established a match factory at Ham-rong near Thanh-hoa in northern Annam. This organization has operated a sawmill at Ham-rong since 1904, but the mill is now used mainly as an adjunct to the match factory. The headquarters of this firm is at 1 rue d'Argenson, Paris. It has a capital stock of 1,000,000 francs (\$193,000).

**Shows Great Increase in Annual Output.**

During the first four years of its existence this factory turned out about 3,000 cases per year, but since the beginning of 1914 the annual output has been nearly 8,000 cases. The matchwood, like that of the two other factories, comes from above Vietri; but the wood for cases is rafted down the Song Ma and sawed at the mill. The source of supply for other materials is the same as that of the Hanoi and Ben-thuy factories, and what has been said about the difficulty these factories experienced in getting supplies is equally true of the Thanh-hoa factory.

During the latter part of 1914 a Chinese company was formed to establish a match factory at Cholon in Cochinchina. The machinery was purchased and quotations were asked of American dealers for the furnishing of chemicals and other materials. The difficulty of getting materials will probably retard this enterprise until the close of the war, at least.

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**ARGENTINE MANUFACTURE OF ALUMINUM SULPHATE.**

Among the chemicals formerly imported by Argentina from Germany, and now difficult to obtain in any market, is sulphate of aluminum, which is used for clarifying the drinking water in Buenos Aires and in some of the provincial cities. The price of this chemical, according to the *Revista Financiera y Comercial* of July 1, has increased 400 per cent since the outbreak of the European war, being quoted now by American firms at \$120 to \$185 per ton, with no assurance of the shipment of sufficient quantities. The total amount required in Argentina for the year 1917 is estimated at 8,000 tons, which would mean an expenditure of at least \$960,000 for this coagulant.

The Argentina public health works (*Dirección de las Obras Sanitarias de la Nación*) reviewed the situation in a note to the Government, and recommended the establishment of a plant for the manufacture of aluminum sulphate, at an initial expense of \$188,000, which has now been officially authorized. The desired product is obtained through the reaction of hot sulphuric acid on kaolin, and Argentina can supply the kaolin from the Sierra Chica of the Province of Buenos Aires and also from various points in the Province of Cordoba. It is estimated that aluminum sulphate can be manufactured under present conditions at a cost of \$26 per ton, and at \$10 per ton less when the price of sulphuric acid falls to normal.

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**Successful Spanish Automobile Agency.**

A Malaga firm which undertook the agency for two makes of American automobiles, also motorcycles and automobile oil, as the result of information supplied by the United States consulate in that Spanish port, has already sold five cars costing \$5,410, has ordered four others to cost \$4,140 f. o. b. New York, and has disposed of 30 barrels of oil billed at \$1,990 and three motorcycles at \$1,125, making the total business to date \$12,665.

### PROGRESS OF AMERICAN SHIPBUILDING.

Steel merchant vessels building or under contract to be built in private American shipyards on August 1, 1916, according to builders' returns to the Bureau of Navigation, Department of Commerce, numbered 389, of 1,260,978 gross tons, an increase of 4 vessels and 35,194 tons over the return for July 1, 1916.

#### Distribution of Work.

The following table shows the distribution of this work among the several builders of steel vessels in the United States reporting merchant vessels under contract or under construction, and, separately, the number and gross tonnage of the ships building or under contract which the builders expect to launch during the current fiscal year (340 vessels of 1,004,523 gross tons), and those which will not be launched until some time in the fiscal year ending June 30, 1918 (49 vessels of 256,455 gross tons). These dates of launching, of course, are subject to the usual allowances for delays.

Shipyards.	Merchant construction, Aug. 1, 1916.		To be launched during fiscal year ending—			
			June 30, 1917.		June 30, 1918.	
	Number.	Gross tons.	Number.	Gross tons.	Number.	Gross tons.
American Bridge Co., Ambridge, Pa., and Trenton, N. J.	105	49,394	105	49,394	—	—
American Shipbuilding Co., Cleveland, Ohio.	23	82,200	23	82,200	—	—
Bethlehem Steel Co., Maryland Shipbuilding Plant, Sparrows Point, Md.	12	73,408	8	47,546	4	25,862
Baltimore Dry Docks & Shipbuilding Co., Baltimore, Md.	7	24,500	7	24,500	—	—
Bath Iron Works, Bath, Me.	3	1,600	3	1,600	—	—
Charles Barnes Co., Cincinnati, Ohio.	2	375	2	375	—	—
Chester Shipbuilding Co., Chester, Pa.	12	58,700	12	58,700	—	—
Clinton Shipbuilding & Repair Co., Philadelphia, Pa.	1	500	1	500	—	—
Cowles Shipyard Co., Buffalo, N. Y.	2	56	2	56	—	—
Ellicott Machine Corporation, Baltimore, Md.	2	500	2	500	—	—
Fore River Shipbuilding Corporation, Quincy, Mass.	14	87,800	12	74,444	2	13,356
George Lawley & Sons Corporation, Neponset, Mass.	1	75	1	75	—	—
Great Lakes Engineering Works, Detroit, Mich.	12	48,730	8	33,620	4	15,110
Great Lakes Towing Co., Cleveland, Ohio.	4	360	4	360	—	—
Harlan & Hollingsworth Corporation, Wilmington, Del.	15	63,958	11	46,284	4	17,675
Howard Shipyards Co., Jeffersonville, Ind.	6	3,400	6	3,400	—	—
James Rees & Sons Co., Pittsburgh, Pa.	1	300	1	300	—	—
Manitowoc Shipbuilding & Dry Dock Co., Manitowoc, Wis.	8	10,700	8	10,700	—	—
Merrill Stevens Co., Jacksonville, Fla.	4	2,590	4	2,590	—	—
Moore & Scott Iron Works, Oakland, Cal.	5	18,000	2	10,000	3	8,000
Newport News Shipbuilding & Dry Dock Co., Newport News, Va.	16	111,947	10	66,669	6	45,248
New York Shipbuilding Co., Camden, N. J.	24	121,533	18	79,835	6	41,703
Pusey & Jones Co., Wilmington, Del.	16	12,908	10	3,306	6	6,600
Seattle Construction & Dry Dock Co., Seattle, Wash.	7	42,000	7	42,000	—	—
Skinner & Eddy Corporation, Seattle, Wash.	6	35,720	6	35,720	—	—
Spedden Shipbuilding Co., Baltimore, Md.	3	730	3	730	—	—
Standard Shipbuilding Corporation, New York, N. Y.	6	28,800	6	28,800	—	—
Staten Island Shipbuilding Co., Port Richmond, N. Y.	5	5,241	5	5,241	—	—
Sun Shipbuilding Co., Philadelphia, Pa.	2	14,200	—	—	2	14,200
Tampa Foundry & Machine Co., Tampa, Fla.	1	2,000	1	2,000	—	—

\* Formerly known as the Maryland Steel Co.

† Incomplete.

Shipyards.	Merchant construction, Aug. 1, 1916.		To be launched during fiscal year ending—			
			June 30, 1917.		June 30, 1918.	
	Num- ber.	Gross tons.	Num- ber.	Gross tons.	Num- ber.	Gross tons.
Tank-Ship Building Corporation, Newburgh, N. Y.	3	1,500	3	1,500		
Texas Steamship Co., Bath, Me.	4	26,000	2	12,600	2	13,400
Toledo Shipbuilding Co., Toledo, Ohio.	4	22,620	6	17,220	3	5,400
Union Iron Works Co., San Francisco, Cal.	31	a 201,158	25	a 159,958	6	41,200
Willamette Iron & Steel Works and North- west Steel Co., Portland, Oreg.	5	28,500	4	22,800	1	5,700
William Cramp & Sons Ship & Engine Building Co., Philadelphia, Pa.	12	78,400	12	78,400		
Total	389	a 1,260,978	340	a 1,001,523	49	256,455

a Incomplete.

#### Details of New Contracts.

The following table shows the details of new contracts for building steel ships entered into during July, 1916, so far as reported by shipbuilders:

Vessels.	Gross tonnage.	Speed, knots.	Owner.	Trade.	Probable date of launch.
Bethlehem Steel Co., Maryland Shipbuilding Plant—					
No. 165	7,352	10	Ore Steamship Co.	Cargo	Late in 1917.
No. 166	7,352	10	do	do	Do.
Chester Shipbuilding Co.—					
No. 348	5,100	10½	Shawmut Steamship Co.	do	1917 delivery.
Fore River Shipbuilding Corporation—					
No. 272	5,700	10½	Not given	do	End of 1917.
No. 273	5,700	10½	do	do	Do.
Sun Shipbuilding Co.—					
No. 1	7,100	10½	Sun Co.	Bulk oil	November, 1917.
No. 2	7,100	10½	do	do	Do.

#### Completed Ships.

The following table shows the details of steel ships completed during the month of July, 1916, by the builder named, all of which are steamers:

Vessels.	Gross tonnage.	Speed, knots.	Owner.	Type.	Trade.
Great Lakes Engineering Works:					
Resolute	453	10	Merritt & Chapman Derrick and Wrecking Co.	Wrecking tug.	Coasting.
William A. McGonagle	7,811	10	Pittsburgh Steamship Co.	Cargo	Do.
Munisia	1,697	10	J. L. Crosthwaite	do	Do.

#### Increase in Chilean Customs Revenues.

Consul General L. J. Keena reports that Chile's customs revenues for the first six months of 1916 were \$8,432,380 in excess of those for the corresponding period of 1915. More than half of the import taxes were collected at Valparaiso, and nearly four-fifths of the export taxes were paid at Antofagasta and Inquique.

## THE USE OF RUBBER TIRES IN GUATEMALA.

[Consul Stuart Lupton, Guatemala City, July 19.]

Having received in the past many inquiries as to the extent to which rubber tires are used in this Republic, the endeavor has been made to include in this report all the available pertinent information relative to the trade in such goods in Guatemala.

The Director of Police of Guatemala City has stated to this office that of the rubber-tired vehicles in use in this capital 307 are carriages of all sorts, 113 are automobiles, 573 bicycles, and 17 motorcycles, a total of 1,010. It is safe to say that in the rest of the country there are not more than 15 or 20 automobiles and rubber-tired carriages, while bicycles and motorcycles are practically unknown outside this city.

### Special Ruling on Customs Classification.

As there is no specific provision in the Guatemalan customs tariff for rubber tires, the Director General of Customs for the Republic was asked for a ruling. He replied that automobiles, tires, and other accessories are classed with carriages and their accessories, the duties on which are as follows:

Paragraph 1367—Carriages weighing up to 100 kilos, per kilo (2.2046 pounds) net weight, 0.30 peso (\$7.21 per 100 pounds).

Paragraph 1368—Carriages weighing from 100 to 250 kilos, per kilo net weight, 0.28 peso (\$6.73 per 100 pounds).

Paragraph 1369—Carriages weighing from 250 to 500 kilos, per kilo net weight, 0.25 peso (\$6.01 per 100 pounds).

Paragraph 1370—Carriages weighing from 500 to 750 kilos, per kilo net weight, 0.22 peso (\$5.29 per 100 pounds).

Paragraph 1371—Carriages weighing from 750 to 1,000 kilos, per kilo net weight, 0.20 peso (\$4.81 per 100 pounds).

Paragraph 1372—Carriages weighing more than 1,000 kilos, per kilo net weight, 0.17 peso (\$4.09 per 100 pounds).

He indicated that automobile tires and rubber tires for carriages when shipped alone would be classified under paragraph 1367, but it is believed that tires shipped with a carriage or automobile would be subject to the same duty as the vehicle to which they appertain. He further stated that motorcycles and bicycles and their tires and other accessories are considered as included under paragraph 1883, "velocipedes, of all kinds and forms," on which the duty per kilo gross weight is 0.30 peso (\$7.21 per 100 pounds).

All the duties named above are payable one-half in United States currency and one-half in the money of the country. The local currency is at present worth about \$0.023 gold to the peso.

### Tires Not Separately Listed in Import Returns.

In the Guatemalan customs returns rubber tires do not appear as separate items, but are included under the several headings, "Accessories for vehicles," "Automobiles and accessories," "Velocipedes, bicycles, and accessories." Although these headings are so general and include so many things besides rubber tires that it is hardly possible to form an idea of the amount and source of the tire imports, I give the figures below in the belief that they may be interesting as an indication of the countries supplying vehicles on which rubber tires are used:



Articles and countries.	1913	1914	Articles and countries.	1913	1914
Accessories for vehicles .....	\$24, 167	\$24, 262	Automobiles, etc.—Contd.		
United States .....	19, 775	18, 837	France .....	492	24, 821
Belgium .....	142	184	Germany .....	3, 109	158
France .....	600		Velocipedes, bicycles, and ac-		
Germany .....	2, 590	4, 340	cessories .....	8, 655	4, 738
United Kingdom .....	40	863	United States .....	4, 746	473
Automobiles and accessories ..	46, 238	54, 421	France .....	814	
United States .....	41, 847	49, 332	Germany .....	3, 356	3, 653
Belgium .....	2, 040		United Kingdom .....	230	613

[A list of possible buyers of rubber tires in Guatemala City may be obtained from the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce or its district and cooperative offices. Ask for file No. 78018.]

### GREAT INCREASE IN SOUTH AFRICAN IMPORTS.

[Vice Consul John W. Dye, Cape Town, July 10.]

Imports of the Union of South Africa for the first six months of 1916 increased more than 50 per cent over the amount for the corresponding period of last year. The increase was from \$61,356,575 to \$93,294,939. For the month of June the advance over the preceding year was from \$12,963,298 to \$17,525,825. The greatest growth in import business was at Durban, where the six-months import figures were \$33,627,225 compared with \$18,802,100 last year, and the month's figures were \$7,039,558 compared with \$3,457,128 in June, 1915. The receipts at the several ports were:

Ports.	June.		January-June.	
	1915	1916	1915	1916
Cape Town .....	\$3, 665, 463	\$3, 561, 324	\$16, 355, 144	\$20, 202, 260
Port Elizabeth .....	3, 026, 818	3, 864, 522	14, 240, 200	21, 548, 771
East London .....	1, 043, 889	1, 306, 028	5, 574, 724	8, 288, 428
Durban .....	3, 457, 128	7, 039, 558	18, 802, 100	33, 627, 225
Lourenço Marques .....	939, 898	1, 558, 205	4, 979, 523	6, 628, 648
Other ports and stations .....	830, 132	194, 178	1, 404, 885	3, 099, 707
Total .....	12, 963, 298	17, 525, 825	61, 356, 575	93, 294, 939

### LONDON'S SALES TO THE UNITED STATES.

[Consul General Robert P. Skinner, London, England, Aug. 1.]

The declared value of the exports from London to the United States during the seven months ended July 31, 1916, totaled \$100,792,854, as compared with \$81,634,919 during the like period in 1915. The principal articles contributing to these figures were:

Articles.	First 7 months—		Articles.	First 7 months—	
	1915	1916		1915	1916
Rubber .....	\$37, 459, 674	\$25, 863, 034	Tea .....	\$1, 921, 855	\$3, 080, 480
Precious stones .....	4, 178, 028	11, 873, 076	Indigo .....	240, 083	2, 206, 448
Tin .....	5, 966, 729	6, 697, 977	Crocoate oil .....	1, 615, 844	1, 718, 464
Art works .....	2, 008, 867	3, 925, 033	Platinum .....	224, 825	1, 362, 368
Furs .....	1, 420, 149	\$3, 924, 416	Wool .....	5, 383, 670	1, 284, 060
Hides .....	3, 510, 649	3, 863, 377	Copper .....	195, 112	652, 397

For the month of July alone the value was \$11,018,895 in 1915, and \$10,475,053 in 1916.

**CHINESE PURCHASES OF FOREIGN SOAP.**

[Consul Willys R. Peck, Tientsin, July 3.]

A Chinese merchant states that the best sellers among soap products are always wrapped, and in most cases are put up in a fancy box containing three cakes. American manufacturers may arrange, with the cooperation of this consulate general, for the copyrighting of a distinctive trade-mark or "chop," which is a very important requisite in the marketing of soaps in China. The import duties on toilet soaps are 5 per cent of the value.

During 1915 the value of the net imports into China of soap, both toilet and laundry, was 2,324,305 taels, the equivalent of \$1,441,069 United States currency. During 1915 Tientsin imported toilet and bar soap to the approximate value of \$160,000, United States currency. The largest exporter of soap to China was Great Britain. Most of the soap from England is a very low-priced bar soap.

**Countries From Which Toilet Soap is Received.**

Of seven kinds of toilet soap which this consulate general has been informed are the most popular in this country, three are made in China, one in Russia, one in Japan, one probably in Germany, and one in Vienna, Austria. One of the cheapest of the Chinese soaps in this class is made in Tientsin, and retails for \$0.15 local currency, which at the present rate of exchange is the equivalent of 7½ cents, United States currency.

The wrapper is marked "Dragon best soap," and has a dragon for its "chop" or distinctive mark. This soap is sold to retailers by the manufacturers for \$1.70 local currency (\$0.85 United States currency) per dozen.

Another cheap soap retailing at \$0.15 (wholesale, \$1.40), local currency, is the Dragon transparent soap. It is made in Tientsin, and the wrapper is an imitation of the Augelica violet glycerine soap which is made in Vienna. Before the war the Austrian soap was manufactured in two sizes, one the size of the Chinese soap and the other a smaller size, which at present retails at \$0.35, and the wholesale price of which is \$3.80 per dozen.

**Russian Product Sold at Highest Price.**

"Violet Soap," a brand with a crane trade-mark, is manufactured in Shanghai, and retails at \$0.18; wholesale, \$2 per dozen. The Russian soap is the highest priced. It retails for \$0.45, and the wholesale price is \$5.20 per dozen. It is highly scented, and has an attractive wrapper. Both of these factors are important in the Chinese market. The Japanese soap has a white wrapper with gold embossing. Its price is 25 cents retail and \$2.60 per dozen wholesale. The "Silvana Seife" is the cheapest of the foreign soaps, and a very popular one. Its retail price is \$0.16, and the wholesale price is \$1.80.

It is to be noted that the Chinese retailer does not make a very large profit. The largest profits are on the Dragon Transparent, the Japanese, and the Austrian soaps, where there is a difference of 40 cents between the retail and wholesale prices per dozen.

[A list of American, Chinese, and other firms dealing in soaps, at Tientsin, may be obtained from the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, its district or cooperative offices. Refer to file No. 79111.]

**SANSEVIERIA FIBER FROM PORTO RICO AND HAITI.**

Samples of Porto Rican and Haitian sansevieria fiber (*Sansevieria longiflora*) have been received by the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce from Special Agent Garrard Harris and may be inspected by interested American firms at the Bureau or its district and cooperative offices. (Refer to file No. 972.) There is practically no difference in the quality from either island; in both cases the extraction was made by hand and by about the same process.

It is a lack of proper spinning machinery that is the chief obstacle to the commercial exploitation of sansevieria fiber in the United States. On this point Prof. Lyster H. Dewey, botanist in charge of fiber investigations of the Department of Agriculture, may be quoted:

So far as I have been able to learn there is no spinning machinery in any of the mills of the United States adapted to spinning fiber of this type. It is a hard fiber, too stiff and wiry to be spun successfully in flax or jute mills, while the manufacturers of hard-fiber twines state that they can not handle it to advantage. If it can be produced in commercial quantities of good uniform quality a market could probably be found for it and machines would be adapted to spinning it; but manufacturers could not afford to pay for it as much as they are now paying for Java sisal until they had learned how it could be spun and with what kind of goods it could advantageously be used.

**AMERICAN CONSULAR OFFICERS ON LEAVE OF ABSENCE.**

The following American consular officers are on leave of absence in the United States and will be glad to confer with business men and commercial organizations relative to conditions in their respective jurisdictions. The consul's time is available primarily for personal interviews. He has limited facilities for correspondence, and except in urgent cases letters should be directed to the consulate.

Name.	Post.	Expiration of leave.	Address.
Hale, F. D.	Huddersfield, England	Sept. 5	Lunenburg, Vt.
Masterson, William W.	Durban, Natal, South Africa.	Sept. 1	Carrollton, Ky.
Baker, E. Carlton	Nagasaki, Japan	Aug. 30	Apartment No. 75, The Brunswick, Washington, D. C.
Monaghan, J. C.	Kingston, Jamaica	Sept. 1	Avenue A and Fourteenth Street, Bayonne, N. J.
Jewell, John F.	Chefoo, China	Oct. 1	Galeana, Ill.
Kemper, Graham H.	Erlurt, Germany	Sept. 10	Department of State, Washington, D. C.
Goodier, James H.	Niagara Falls, Canada.	Sept. 1	27 South Hawk Street, Albany, N. Y.
Hastings, Ross	Port Antonio, Jamaica.	Oct. 1	Department of State, Washington, D. C.
Lane, James Oliver	Karachi, India	Sept. 30	C/o University Club, Kansas City, Mo.
Leonard, Walter A.	Colombo, Ceylon	Oct. 14	Essex, Iowa.
Osborne, John Ball	Havre, France	Oct. 21	Department of State, Washington, D. C.

**OFFICES OF THE BUREAU OF FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC COMMERCE.****DISTRICT OFFICES.**

NEW YORK: Room 409, Customhouse.  
 BOSTON: 18th floor, Customhouse.  
 CHICAGO: 504 Federal Building.  
 ST. LOUIS: 402 Third National Bank Building.  
 ATLANTA: 521 Post Office Building.  
 NEW ORLEANS: 1020 Milburn Bank Building.  
 SAN FRANCISCO: 307 Customhouse.  
 SEATTLE: 848 Henry Building.

**COOPERATIVE OFFICES.**

CLEVELAND: Chamber of Commerce.  
 CINCINNATI: Chamber of Commerce.  
 CINCINNATI: C., N. O. & T. P. Ry. Co.  
 LOS ANGELES: Chamber of Commerce.  
 DETROIT: Board of Commerce.  
 PHILADELPHIA: Chamber of Commerce.  
 CHATTANOOGA: South American Agent, Southern Ry. Co.

### COMMERCE THROUGH THE SAULT STE. MARIE CANALS.

The following tables show the quantity of each of the principal commodities and the number of passengers carried through the United States and the Canadian Sault Ste. Marie (Soo) Canals during July and for the season until July 31, 1915 and 1916:

[From a report of the United States engineer in charge of the United States Canal at Sault Ste. Marie, Mich.]

#### JULY.

Articles.	United States canal.		Canadian canal.		Total.	
	1915	1916	1915	1916	1915	1916
<b>EASTBOUND.</b>						
Copper.....short tons..	17,601	11,984	2,417	2,063	20,018	14,047
Grain.....bushels..	849,801	6,256,490	1,548,881	7,092,623	2,398,682	13,349,113
Flour.....barrels..	539,090	984,471	226,700	508,750	765,790	1,473,221
Iron ore.....short tons..	6,691,285	7,770,986	333,986	-1,801,188	7,025,151	9,572,174
Pig iron.....do.....		2,800				2,800
Lumber.....M feet..	74,004	52,604	6,454	483	80,458	53,087
Wheat.....bushels..	2,160,148	19,008,233	1,778,218	12,899,570	3,938,366	31,907,803
General merchandise, short tons	26,316	37,009	11,353	7,384	37,669	44,393
Passengers.....number..	3,819	3,059	3,985	4,021	7,804	7,080
<b>WESTBOUND.</b>						
Coal:						
Hard.....short tons..	311,356	357,190	4,018	9,710	315,374	366,900
Soft.....do.....	1,710,478	2,190,882	48,700	170,080	1,759,178	2,360,962
Flour.....barrels..				12,960		12,960
Grain.....bushels..		1,550				1,550
Manufactured iron, short tons..	19,731	19,266	659	836	20,390	20,102
Iron ore.....do.....		1,008		10,864		11,872
Salt.....barrels..	62,293	75,482	2,040	10,500	65,233	85,982
General merchandise, short tons	116,015	137,653	31,919	58,320	147,934	195,973
Passengers.....number..	4,010	3,551	3,531	3,892	7,541	7,443
<b>TOTALS.</b>						
Freight:						
Eastbound.....short tons..	6,999,899	8,701,618	496,728	2,376,833	7,496,597	11,078,451
Westbound.....do.....	2,166,924	2,717,347	85,716	252,605	2,252,640	2,969,953
Total.....do.....	9,166,793	11,418,965	582,444	2,629,439	9,719,237	14,048,404
Vessel passages.....number..	2,464	2,845	507	1,093	2,971	3,938
Registered tonnage.....	6,788,870	8,318,783	919,753	1,969,736	7,708,623	10,278,519

#### THREE MONTHS ENDING JUNE.

<b>EASTBOUND.</b>						
Copper.....short tons..	57,584	42,091	5,703	2,763	63,290	44,854
Grain.....bushels..	9,182,529	22,434,999	7,605,642	20,628,266	16,788,171	43,063,285
Flour.....barrels..	2,214,577	2,112,247	853,460	1,314,530	3,068,037	3,426,777
Iron ore.....short tons..	17,609,066	22,201,725	488,092	5,844,977	18,097,758	28,046,702
Pig iron.....do.....		17,015				17,015
Lumber.....M feet..	192,354	133,904	25,849	5,081	218,203	138,985
Wheat.....bushels..	30,468,770	73,183,974	8,157,708	42,847,320	38,626,478	116,031,294
General merchandise, short tons	67,363	65,179	64,556	34,713	131,919	99,892
Passengers.....number..	6,097	5,376	6,378	7,580	12,475	12,956
<b>WESTBOUND.</b>						
Coal:						
Hard.....short tons..	969,743	936,443	24,483	47,010	994,226	983,458
Soft.....do.....	4,651,941	6,316,079	129,675	417,080	4,781,615	6,733,189
Flour.....barrels..	100	203		12,960	100	13,165
Grain.....bushels..	31,250	2,560			31,250	2,600
Manufactured iron, short tons..	88,511	70,947	7,094	5,525	96,506	76,472
Iron ore.....do.....		3,055		14,448		17,603
Salt.....barrels..	280,676	340,535	16,730	33,537	297,405	374,072
General merchandise, short tons	363,963	443,727	110,340	149,132	474,203	592,889
Passengers.....number..	6,411	5,333	5,526	6,858	11,937	12,196

## THREE MONTHS ENDING JUNE—Continued.

Articles.	United States canal.		Canadian canal.		Total.	
	1915	1916	1915	1916	1915	1916
<b>TOTALS.</b>						
<b>Freight:</b>						
Eastbound ..... short tons...	19,389,691	25,372,836	1,063,039	7,664,202	20,472,730	33,067,028
Westbound ..... do.....	6,116,669	7,821,461	273,972	639,282	6,390,641	8,460,683
<b>Total ..... do.....</b>	<b>25,506,360</b>	<b>33,194,227</b>	<b>1,337,011</b>	<b>8,323,484</b>	<b>26,863,371</b>	<b>41,517,711</b>
<b>Vessel passages ..... number...</b>	<b>6,969</b>	<b>8,461</b>	<b>1,597</b>	<b>3,974</b>	<b>8,547</b>	<b>11,535</b>
<b>Registered tonnage .....</b>	<b>19,062,072</b>	<b>25,472,046</b>	<b>2,437,843</b>	<b>6,331,840</b>	<b>21,519,915</b>	<b>31,803,886</b>

## FOREIGN TRADE OPPORTUNITIES.

Reserved addresses may be obtained from the Bureau and its district offices. Request for each opportunity should be on a separate sheet and state opportunity number. The Bureau does not furnish credit ratings or assume responsibility as to the standing of foreign inquirers; the usual precautions should be taken in all cases.

**Dock construction, No. 22162.**—The American consular officer in Patras, Greece, reports that the Harbor Board of Patras gives notice in Royal Hellenic Government Gazette No. 73, of May 9 (O. S.), 1916, of its desire to receive bids for the construction of docks in the central harbor. Bids will be received by the Harbor Board until November 19, 1916, and must be accompanied by receipts showing that 20 per cent of the bid for 150 running meters has been deposited by the bidder with the municipal cashier of Patras or with the local branch of the National Bank of Greece. Copies of the notice, translated from the Government Gazette, may be examined at the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce or its district offices. (Refer to file No. 78928.) Further technical details may be obtained from M. C. Tsaldaris, president of the Harbor Board, Patras, Greece. Correspondence should be in French or modern Greek.

**Tools, bars, etc., No. 22163.**—A firm in the United States writes that one of its correspondents in Denmark is anxious to obtain the sole representation of manufacturers dealing in rough and manufactured metals, such as tools, bars, etc.

**Dyestuffs, No. 22164.**—An American consular officer in Spain writes that a bleacher, dyer, and finisher of cotton textiles in his district desires to import concentrated colors in various colors for cotton goods. Correspondence in English. References.

**Machinery, No. 22165.**—A manufacturing company in the United States writes that one of its Brazilian representatives desires to receive estimates for the complete installation of machinery, etc., for making absorbent cotton. A capacity of 100 kilos per day of 10 hours is desired. Tanks for washing the cotton, motor, carding machines, stills for distilling water, etc., are also desired.

**Textiles, etc., No. 22166.**—The commercial attaché of the Department of Commerce in Australia transmits the name of a broker and manufacturers' agent who desires to secure agencies for cotton piece goods suitable for shirtings; cambrics; calicoes; tailor's braids, trimmings, and linings for clothing; underwear for women; dress materials; silk hosiery, etc. He wishes to work on a commission basis. Goods will be paid for by sight drafts. References.

**Oils, greases, electrical supplies, etc., No. 22167.**—Supplementing foreign trade opportunity No. 22046, one of the commercial agents of the Bureau advises that an Argentine business man is now in the United States for the purpose of securing agencies for oils, greases, electrical and gasoline motors, packing, and valves. References.

**Cottonseed oil, tools, etc., No. 22168.**—A firm in the United States with established connections in Scandinavia requests the Bureau to place it in touch with American manufacturers and exporters of corn oil, cottonseed oil, turpentine, rosin, automobile tires, tobacco, boots and shoes, and tools.

## PROPOSALS FOR GOVERNMENT SUPPLIES AND CONSTRUCTION.

[Correspondence should be direct with the offices named, and specifications can usually be obtained at the points where the goods are to be delivered or the work is to be performed. In cases where the time limit is too short to permit firms to submit tenders, they should ask to be placed on the mailing lists of such offices to receive notices calling for future supplies or work of a similar nature.]

*Lease of land*, No. 3507.—Sealed proposals will be received by the Lighthouse Inspector at Key West, Fla., until September 11, 1916, for the lease of 1 acre of land on the south shore of Sanibel Island Lighthouse Reservation. Further information may be obtained from the above-named officer.

*Subsistence supplies, etc.*, No. 3508.—Sealed proposals will be received at the office of the Depot Quartermaster, United States Army, 115 East Ontario Street, Chicago, Ill., until August 22, 1916, for furnishing flour, rice, beans, fruit, coffee, sugar, candy, crackers, and safety matches, etc.

*Dredging*, No. 3509.—Sealed proposals will be received at the Bureau of Yards and Docks, Navy Department, Washington, D. C., until September 9, 1916, for dredging about 10,000 yards of material at the United States navy yard, Boston, Mass. Plan and specification may be had on application to the Bureau of Yards and Docks or to the Commandant of the navy yard named.

*Buoys*, No. 3510.—Sealed proposals will be received by the Lighthouse Inspector, Tompkinsville, N. Y., until September 1, 1916, for furnishing and delivering to the lighthouse depot, Tompkinsville, N. Y., three steel buoy bodies, type L. Further information may be obtained from the above-named officer.

*Medical supplies*, No. 3511.—Sealed proposals will be received at the Medical Supply Depot, United States Army, 543 Greenwich Street, New York, N. Y., until August 23, 1916, for furnishing medical supplies, including glass reservoirs, connections, rubber tubing, etc., for salvarsan apparatus; ward medicine cabinets and cabinets for dressings and instruments; rubber gloves; syringes; thermocauteries; tongue depressers; emergency cases, etc.

*Construction*, No. 3512.—Sealed proposals will be received at the office of the United States Reclamation Service, Montrose, Colo., until September 15, 1916, for the construction of the Ironstone Canal Extension, California Mesa Lateral No. 3, and the Buttermilk Lateral, Uncompahgre Valley project, in the vicinity of Delta and Olathe, Colo. The work involves the excavation of about 84,500 cubic yards of material in open cut. Further particulars may be obtained from the United States Reclamation Service, Washington, D. C., Montrose, Colo., and Denver, Colo.

*Heating and power plant*, No. 3513.—Sealed proposals will be received at the Bureau of Yards and Docks, Navy Department, Washington, D. C., until September 30, 1916, for installing generator sets furnished by the Government, and furnishing and installing boilers, condensers, pumps, motors, switchboard, equipment, piping, wiring, lighting, etc., for the heating and power plant at the Naval Torpedo Station, Puget Sound, Wash. Plans and specifications may be obtained on application to the Bureau of Yards and Docks or to the Commandant, Navy Yard, Bremerton, Wash.

*Construction*, No. 3514.—Sealed proposals will be received at the office of the United States Reclamation Service, St. Ignatius, Mont., until September 20, 1916, for the construction of canals and structures on the Flathead project, Montana, involving about 125,000 cubic yards of excavation, 495 cubic yards of reinforced concrete, 1,000 square yards of paving, 10,100 square feet of canal lining, manufacturing and laying 3,400 linear feet of concrete pipe, laying 210 cubic yards of dry rubble wall, and placing 70,000 pounds of structural and reinforcing steel. The work is located from 3 to 10 miles west of Ronan, Mont. Further information may be obtained from the United States Reclamation Service, Washington, D. C., Denver, Colo., or St. Ignatius, Mont.

*Veterinary supplies*, No. 3515.—Sealed proposals will be received at the Medical Supply Depot, 543 Greenwich Street, New York, N. Y., until August 23, 1916, for furnishing veterinary supplies, including boracic acid, carbolic acid, tannic acid, ammonia liniment, cotton and flannel bandages, bottles, chloride of iron, veterinary ointment, linseed oil, potassium nitrate, castile soap, metal syringes, veterinary clinical thermometers, witch hazel, oxide of zinc, chloride of zinc, sulphate of copper, and sulphate of zinc, etc.

# COMMERCE REPORTS



DAILY CONSULAR AND TRADE REPORTS  
ISSUED DAILY BY THE BUREAU OF FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC COMMERCE  
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

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No. 194

Washington, D. C., Friday, August 18

1916

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### FREE ADMISSION OF WOOD PULP INTO SPAIN.

[Cablegram from American vice consul, Barcelona, Spain, Aug. 14.]

A royal order published August 13 abolishes until further notice the import duty on wood pulp and logs for paper making.

### FRENCH EMBARGO ON WOOL.

[Cablegram from American consulate general, Paris, Aug. 16.]

A ministerial order of August 12 revokes the colonial export permit of February 12, authorizing the shipment of raveled wool and new rag cuttings to allied countries and to those of North and South America.

### CHANGES IN BRITISH EMBARGO LIST.

[Cablegram from American consul general, London, Aug. 16.]

Further changes in the British list of goods the exportation of which is prohibited have been made as indicated below, the following abbreviations being used: "A" signifies prohibition to all destinations; "B," to all destinations abroad other than British possessions or protectorates; and "C," to all foreign countries in Europe and on the Mediterranean and Black Seas, other than France, Russia (except through Baltic ports), Italy, Spain, and Portugal.

The following headings are to be deleted: A. Iron and steel plates and sheets (except black plates for tinning exported in boxes, tin plates, terneplates, and lead-coated sheets); B. Railway wagons and their component parts (except steel springs and wheels, axles, and tires); C. Black plates for tinning exported in boxes; cork and cork dust and articles manufactured from cork or cork dust or both; feathers and down; vegetable fibers not otherwise specifically prohibited and yarns made therefrom; railway material, both fixed and rolling stock (except railway wagons and their component parts, steel rails, steel sleepers, steel springs, wheels, axles, and tires); spark plugs; terneplates and receptacles made from terneplates; and tin plates and receptacles made from tin plates.

The following headings should be added: A. Ball and roller bearings and steel balls and rollers for bearings; cryolite; curry combs;

dandy brushes; iron and steel plates and sheets; lead-coated sheets; railway carriages, locomotives, wagons, and their component parts; spark plugs; terneplates and receptacles made from terneplates; and tin plates and receptacles made from tin plates; B. Cadmium; alloys of cadmium, and cadmium ore; and silicon spiegel; C. Cork and cork dust and articles manufactured from cork or cork dust; feathers and down (except wing and tail feathers of the ostrich); vegetable fibers not otherwise specifically prohibited, and cordage, twine, and yarns made therefrom; linoleum; and railway material (except railway carriages, locomotives, and wagons, and their component parts, steel rails, and steel sleepers).

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### **COPENHAGEN BANKS HOLD LARGE BALANCES.**

[Consul General E. D. Winslow, Copenhagen, July 18.]

The reports of the banks in Copenhagen, made public July 1, 1916, show a most satisfactory condition; in fact, never before have such favorable statements been given to the public. The combined balances of the banks amount to \$468,000,000. The increase in the balances gives a large amount of new capital for business purposes. Since the beginning of the war the deposits of the banks have been increasing. The National Bank, which issues the paper currency of the Kingdom and holds the gold reserve as a redemption fund, reports as having gold coin on hand to the amount of \$40,000,000.

The wants of Denmark are no longer credits or money, but merchandise. To stimulate commerce and increase trade the National Bank is temporarily relieved from its obligation to purchase gold bars and foreign coin at the fixed rate per ounce as existing in all the gold-standard nations of the world.

This move is a novelty in financial circles, but it is hoped that it will compel debtor nations to send goods instead of gold to pay for Danish merchandise and bring about normal rates of exchange. The Kingdom is experimenting with this new idea, following in the footsteps of the other Scandinavian countries. It is a return to "barter and sale." The law releasing the National Bank of Denmark from its obligation to purchase gold bars and foreign coin at a fixed price is only temporary and is a war measure.

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### **COCOA FROM PORTUGUESE COLONIES.**

[Consul General W. L. Lowrie, Lisbon, July 20.]

Exports of cocoa from the Portuguese Islands of São Thome and Principe amounted to 61,825,331 pounds in 1915 and 73,456,791 pounds in 1914, a decrease last year of 11,631,458 pounds. The reexportation of the colonial cocoa from Lisbon to the United States was valued at \$751,582 in 1915 and \$1,467,641 in 1914.

The total of reexports of cocoa from Lisbon in 1913 were 73,384,091 pounds, valued at \$8,540,367, and in 1914 they were 82,271,554 pounds, valued at \$9,740,185. Germany was the largest buyer of Portuguese cocoa before the war, and its export was handled mostly by German firms in Lisbon.



**CONCESSION ASKED FOR QUEBRACHO PLANT IN PARAGUAY.**

[Consul Samuel Hamilton Wiley, Asuncion, July 10.]

A representative of American capitalists petitioned the Paraguayan Congress on July 6, 1916, to grant a concession for the erection and operation of a plant for the manufacture of extract of quebracho in Paraguay.

**Seeks Reduction of Export Duties.**

The most important concession asked is a readjustment of the export duties on extract of quebracho. It is asked that the present fixed rate of export duty on extract of quebracho, 10 gold pesos (\$9.65) per ton (2,240 pounds), be abolished and an export duty of 1 gold peso (\$0.965) per ton be established on extract of quebracho when the market value of this commodity does not exceed 100 gold pesos (\$96.50) per ton. The quotations of extract of quebracho on the bourse of Buenos Aires shall determine the market price for the purposes of levying export duty. When the market price of extract of quebracho exceeds 100 gold pesos per ton an ad valorem duty of 4 per cent shall be paid on the value exceeding the 100 pesos per ton, in addition to the 1 peso per ton to be paid on the first 100 pesos market value.

In addition to this, concessionaire asks for exemption from import duties of machinery and other materials to be used in the construction and operation of the plant and exemption from fiscal imposts.

**Loan to Paraguayan Government.**

In consideration for the granting of the concession, the concessionaire agrees to advance the sum of 500,000 gold pesos (\$482,500) as a loan to the Paraguayan Government. This loan is to bear interest at the rate of 5 per cent per annum and the amortization thereof shall be effected from the export duties that shall be due the Paraguayan Government for quebracho extract exported by the plant. The loan is to be made on the date of the signing of the concession and the amortization of the debt is to begin on the day set in the concession for the plant to commence operation—January 1, 1918.

The concessionaire also binds himself to produce not less than 15,000 tons of quebracho extract per annum.

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**NEW AMERICAN BUSINESS IN GREEK CAPITAL.**

[Consul General Alexander W. Weddell, Athens, July 8.]

Because of the international situation, the difficulties in the way of trade expansion between the United States and Greece seem to be increasing. It is therefore interesting to record that during the June quarter the purchase of \$4,000 worth of cotton goods, \$11,000 worth of electrical goods, \$5,000 worth of photographic supplies, \$4,000 worth of pharmaceutical products, and 30 rebuilt typewriters approximating \$1,200 in value, as well as 1,000 typewriter ribbons, 20,000 sheets of carbon paper, 85,000 cakes of soap, and large quantities of dental supplies, was voluntarily reported by the firms concerned, who gave credit for this new business to the trade-extension work of the Athens consulate general.

**COTTON GROWING IN BRITISH COLONIES.**

[Consul Ross E. Holaday, Manchester, England, July 24.]

In the eleventh annual report of the British Cotton Growing Association, covering the year ended December 31, 1915, which has just been issued, reference is made to the increasing urgency of a rapid extension of the work of the association. It calls attention to the consumption of cotton in the United States, and states that it is quite evident that in a very short time the available balance of the American crop will be quite insufficient to meet even the existing demand of Great Britain and other countries.

The association reports that with the exception of Uganda the prospects for the future are most encouraging, and it is expected that the crop in West Africa in 1915-16 will be a record one.

The following is an approximate estimate of cotton grown in new fields in the British Empire; the quantities being stated in bales of 400 pounds each:

Colonies.	1912	1913	1914	1915
	<i>Bales.</i>	<i>Bales.</i>	<i>Bales.</i>	<i>Bales.</i>
Gold Coast .....	120	100	100	100
Lagos .....	8,900	14,000	13,600	6,200
Southern Nigeria .....	270	200	150	100
Northern Nigeria .....	2,000	2,000	1,000	1,200
West Africa .....	11,890	16,300	14,850	7,600
Uganda .....	29,000	26,000	42,000	25,200
British East Africa .....	900	1,000	500	300
Nyasaland and Rhodesia .....	7,200	7,500	8,000	9,000
East Africa .....	37,100	34,500	50,500	34,500
Sudan .....	15,000	14,000	10,000	24,000
West Indies .....	6,500	7,000	6,000	5,000
Sundries .....	1,000	1,000	1,000	3,500
Grand total .....	71,490	72,800	82,350	76,300
Estimated value .....	\$4,632,000	\$5,227,107	\$5,064,275	\$5,466,003

**DECREE REGULATES COAL CONSUMPTION IN SPAIN.**

[Vice Consul Harris N. Cookingham, Barcelona, July 20.]

A royal order, intended to regulate the consumption of coal throughout Spain and thus to conserve for important industrial uses the very limited supply of this combustible at present available, was published on July 18 in the *Gaceta de Madrid*. By the provisions of this decree every municipality in Spain having gas or electric lighting systems must, in case the illuminant is produced by steam power, turn off one-half of the public lights each night at 11 o'clock.

This measure is taken with a view to relieving to a certain extent the serious scarcity of coal throughout Spain. Its enforcement, it is believed, will tend to avert the threatened temporary discontinuance of various domestic industries and to prevent the further rise in the price of coal in the Spanish market. Meanwhile the Spanish coal mines, with Government encouragement, are producing in increasing quantities to offset in part the reduced imports of coal of foreign origin.

[Among the recent discussions of the Spanish coal situation that have appeared in *COMMERCE REPORTS* were those in the issues for Jan. 19, Feb. 23, and July 26 and 28, 1916.]

**NEW ZEALAND GOVERNMENT TO SELL KAURI GUM.**

[Consul General Alfred A. Winslow, Auckland, July 3.]

Under the law authorizing the Minister for Lands to enter into contracts for the purchase of equipment for the extraction and treatment of kauri gum and the acquisition of supplies of the resin [see **COMMERCE REPORTS** for Dec. 1, 1915], the New Zealand Government expended \$131,440 for plant and stocks during the fiscal year 1915-16. An agent in the United States, with headquarters in New York City [address obtainable from the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce or its district and cooperative offices upon asking for file No. 78948], has been appointed to distribute the gum taken over by the Government, and it is said that large stocks are in hand ready for the market. A Government representative is now in the United States completing arrangements, having with him samples of the different grades for which orders may be taken, with the idea that the grades shall be guaranteed. It is also stated that the representative is in position to enter into contracts for large quantities covering any reasonable period and to guarantee delivery.

The New Zealand Government owns about 35,500 acres of excellent kauri forest, said to contain at least 15,000,000 feet of kauri lumber, which may be made to realize at least \$45,000 per annum by bleeding these trees as rubber trees are bled. It is thought this tapping can be done for centuries if the forests are carefully treated. The exports of kauri gum from New Zealand in 1915 amounted to 4,575 tons, valued at \$1,358,401, against 8,473 tons, value \$2,420,811, during 1914; and up to March 10, 1916, the exports totaled 1,096 tons, valued at \$313,286. The United States not only takes the largest quantity of any country, but it also buys the most expensive grades, the average price per ton of the kauri gum taken by the United States being \$333 contrasted with \$264 for the United Kingdom.

**MANY POST CARDS USED IN THE CAUCASUS.**

[Consul F. Willoughby Smith, Tiflis, May 31.]

There is a large demand for illustrated post cards throughout the Caucasus. The annual sale of such cards in Tiflis alone runs to more than 1,000,000, and in the Caucasus it is estimated at 10 to 15 times that amount. Most of these cards were supplied by a firm in Sweden and the rest by German and Russian firms. Each had its local agent, usually a commission house, to sell to the trade, the agent being allowed from 30 to 90 days' credit. Present connections may be made on terms cash against documents, but not cash with order.

The greatest demand is for cards with local views, colored and plain. The former were sold free at Tiflis, duty paid, to the agents, at 1.40 rubles (\$0.72 at the rate of 51.46); the latter at 0.75 rubles (\$0.39) per 100. Next in favor, in the order named, were types of women, comic cards, types of men and children, flowers and fancy pictures, with prices approximately the same. There is now a great shortage.

Duty is paid on the weight of post cards (\$0.268 per pound), and it is of advantage to have the cards as light as possible, if they are at the same time of sufficient strength.

[A list of commission merchants and dealers in post cards in Tiflis and Baku may be obtained from the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, its district or cooperative offices. Refer to file No. 78197.]

**SWISS REGULATIONS OF POTATO TRADE.**

[Consul General Francis B. Keene, Zurich, July 20.]

The Swiss Federal Council, under date of July 14, issued a decree declaring null and void all existing contracts for the purchase of potatoes of Swiss production that have not yet been harvested and making entrance into such contracts illegal. In the case of contracts which have already been entered into and which concern potatoes that have been harvested the decree provides that the contract price shall be reduced to conform with the maximum prices to be established by the Swiss Economies (Volkswirtschafts-Department), which department has established the following maximum prices for early new potatoes: When sold in quantities of 50 kilos (110.23 pounds) or over, the price must not exceed 22 centimes (4½ cents) per kilo of 2.2 pounds, price of sacks not included; for smaller quantities the price must not exceed 27 centimes (5½ cents) per kilo.

The cantonal and municipal authorities are, moreover, permitted to establish relatively lower prices for old potatoes, as well as—in accordance with local conditions and requirements—to decrease the above-mentioned prices by 5 centimes (0.96 cent) per kilo, or to increase them by the same amount, particularly in inaccessible regions with high freight rates. The prices for imported new potatoes may also be increased, provided it can be demonstrated that their actual cost has been greater.

**Object of Regulations.**

The purpose of the present decree, which applies especially to new potatoes, is to prevent speculation as well as to provide a basis for future price regulation. The yield of potatoes in 1915 is said to have been 1,052,500 metric tons, as compared with only about 600,000 metric tons in 1914. With regard to the present crop prospects, the secretary of the Swiss Agricultural Association has stated that, as compared with 1914, the plantings have been increased by one-third, or approximately 18,000 hectares (44,480 acres). However, owing to the continued rainfall during this spring and summer, it is estimated that the yield will be only from 75 to 85 per cent that of a normal year, depending upon the weather conditions from now on. Even under those circumstances it is presumed that the autumn prices for late potatoes should be considerably lower than the maximum prices given above.

Swiss imports of potatoes in 1914 amounted to 132,632 metric tons, valued at \$2,695,999, as compared with 93,716 tons, valued at \$1,457,362, in 1913 and 84,886 tons, valued at \$1,617,119, in 1912.

While Germany previous to the war furnished over two-thirds of the Swiss potato imports, the leading sources of supply during 1914 were the Netherlands, which furnished 59,501 metric tons, valued at \$1,234,491, and Italy, which furnished 42,801 tons, valued at \$949,968.

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Consular Assistant Bartley F. Yost, of Barcelona, notes the rapid rise in the price of wool in Spain during the past five years. In 1912 white wool was quoted at 12 cents a pound, black wool at 11; this year white wool brings 20 cents and black wool 18.6 cents a pound.

**NOTTINGHAM LACE TRADE ACTIVE.**

[Consul C. M. Hitch, Nottingham, England, July 20.]

Notwithstanding the continued shortage of labor, a good business is being done in the Nottingham lace trade, and the supply of cheap to medium class laces is not equal to the demand for the South American market. There is a strong demand in the United States for practically all lines of lace goods, especially cotton laces, cotton nets, and silk nets, and the quantity of this class of goods being exported is practically double what it was at the same period of last year.

Curtain manufacturers report that all their machines for which they can secure labor are well employed and orders are waiting for the goods as soon as they are finished. Plain nets continue to bring high prices and the demand is greater than the supply. The making-up trade continues in a very satisfactory condition, with a good demand for blouses and veilings.

The prosperous condition of the hosiery trade remains unchanged. Machinery devoted to the production of hosiery and underwear is running on full time. There is a large demand for this class of goods, and some good orders have recently been received for military requirements.

**Increased Wages for Net Operatives.**

For the past seven or eight months the net operatives have been receiving a certain bonus on mosquito nets, bobbin nets, and Brussels or extra twist. Recently the operatives demanded an increase of 10 per cent on the wages they were receiving. The manufacturers declined to meet this demand and made a counter offer of 10 per cent on mosquito nets;  $7\frac{1}{2}$  per cent on bobbin nets, Brussels, or extra twist; and 5 per cent on all other goods made on the circular machine, including silk and spot goods. This offer the operatives declined by a vote of 231 to 128.

Through the timely intervention of the mayor of Nottingham an agreement was finally arrived at between the operatives and manufacturers, effective July 15, by which a bonus of 10 per cent is to be paid on mosquito nets, bobbin nets, Brussels, and mock Brussels;  $7\frac{1}{2}$  per cent on silk nets; and 5 per cent on spots and other goods made on the circular machine. This agreement is to remain in force for a period of six months, and there is a possibility that the time will be extended for a period covering the duration of the war and for six months thereafter.

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**UTILIZATION OF FISH OFFAL IN CANADA.**

[Vice Consul G. C. Woodward, Vancouver, British Columbia, Aug. 8.]

Mr. James White, vice chairman of the Dominion Conservation Commission, is at present in British Columbia securing data in connection with the proposed utilization of fish offal. While at the present time a portion of this waste fish is used in the manufacture of fertilizer, but a small percentage is disposed of in this manner, most of it being thrown overboard. It is estimated that 25 per cent of halibut and from 20 to 30 per cent of salmon is included in the entrails, head, tail, etc.

**ABATTOIRS IN AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND.**

[Commercial Attaché Phillip B. Kennedy, Melbourne, Australia; in continuation of report, published August 16.]

With two exceptions, where municipalities have delegated their powers to freezing companies as is provided for in the slaughtering and inspection act, all abattoirs in New Zealand are municipally owned and controlled. These are utilized principally for the slaughtering of stock for consumption within the Dominion. With the exception of a few animals slaughtered for export at the principal abattoirs, all meat exported is from stock slaughtered at licensed export slaughterhouses.

The municipal ownership of the abattoirs has worked satisfactorily in every way. The butchers have found that having their stock slaughtered at an abattoir does not entail any special inconvenience or expense to them, and the public is assured that its meat supply is free from disease and that it is dressed and handled under the best sanitary conditions.

**Provisions of Slaughtering and Inspection Act.**

The slaughtering and inspection act, 1908 (consolidated), was originally passed in 1900. Some of the principal features of the act, in so far as they apply to abattoirs and inspection of meat for local consumption, are as follows:

Provision is made for the compulsory erection and future maintenance of public abattoirs for the slaughter of meat for local consumption by all municipalities of a population of 2,000 or over, as revealed in the last official census returns, such buildings to be erected within a period of 12 months from the gazetting of the census returns, provided extension of time not to exceed 12 months may be granted by the governor in special cases.

Before proceeding with the erection of an abattoir, the plans must be submitted to and approved by the Minister for Agriculture. On the completion of the erection of a public abattoir the same is required to be registered, and, by advertisement in a newspaper circulated in the district, the registration is to be notified to the controlling authority, with an intimation that on and after a certain date (to be stated) the abattoir will be available for the slaughter of stock. After the expiration of the specified interval all stock for consumption within the borough or other defined area must be slaughtered in such building.

The act provides that local authorities may defray the expense of establishing and maintaining abattoirs, including the expense of acquiring land, if necessary, out of the municipality's general funds; but, if so desired, they are also authorized to borrow money from the Treasury for the purpose of erecting the abattoir, but not for its maintenance. The local or controlling authorities may make by-laws prescribing the charges for the use of the abattoir, slaughter of stock, etc., approval having been first obtained from the governor.

**Private Abattoirs Permitted—Use of Registered Slaughterhouses Obligatory.**

The local authority, in lieu of itself establishing an abattoir, may, except in the case of the principal municipalities which are specified in the act, delegate to any fit person or persons the power to establish an abattoir on such terms and conditions as are agreed on and approved by the minister. This proviso was intended principally

to apply to districts where a registered export slaughterhouse was already in existence and could be made available for the slaughter of stock for local consumption if desired. The proviso has been taken advantage of only two or three times, and in at least one instance the local authority has decided to establish an abattoir itself.

An abattoir may be available for the whole or part of any contiguous district or districts, as may be agreed upon by the local authorities concerned, and in such an event it would not be necessary for each municipality to itself establish an abattoir.

Subject to certain provisions relating to export slaughterhouses the act provides that so long as a registered abattoir is available for slaughtering stock for a certain district it shall not be lawful to slaughter in any part of such district any stock for human consumption or for export, or to dress any carcass for sale except at a registered abattoir, or to sell or expose for sale in any such district any meat slaughtered elsewhere than in a registered abattoir. Slaughterhouses whose principal business is the tinning of meat or the curing of bacon and hams may from time to time be exempted by the governor from the operation of this paragraph, with the stipulation that such exemption shall apply only to the meat tinned or the bacon or ham cured in the course of such business.

#### **Provisions Relating to Export Slaughterhouses.**

A meat-export slaughterhouse license, while it continues in force, authorizes the licensee to slaughter in his abattoir stock for human consumption throughout New Zealand, or for export beyond New Zealand, provided meat from stock slaughtered in an export slaughterhouse shall not be sold or exposed for sale in a district in which there exists a registered abattoir available for the slaughter of stock, except on the payment to the controlling authority of the abattoir of such fees as are agreed upon, being in no case less than the fees that would be chargeable for the use of the abattoir (exclusive of the cost of slaughtering) were the stock slaughtered therein.

The provisions regarding the slaughter of stock at an abattoir or meat-export slaughterhouse are that no stock shall be killed without the authority of an inspector, and that upon the slaughter of any in an abattoir or export slaughterhouse the carcasses shall be inspected and no meat shall be removed therefrom for human consumption or for export unless it is declared to be free from disease.

The fees payable to the Government for inspection are \$0.08 for every head of cattle and \$0.06 for every 12 (or fraction of 12) calves, sheep, or pigs; the minimum fee in every case to be \$33.60 in any one month during which the inspector was engaged.

The act provides for the owners of ordinary slaughterhouses which were in existence on the date of the passing of the act of 1900 and compulsorily closed under the provisions of this act, owing to the erection of a public abattoir, to be compensated to the extent of one-half the value of the buildings constituting the slaughtering place in existence on that date, as shown in the valuation roll of the district.

#### **Compensation for Condemned Stock.**

The scale of compensation for stock condemned at present in force is as follows:

Heifers and bullocks not exceeding 8 years of age, and in every case of not less value than \$14.40 per head—\$0.02 per pound, dressed weight, of meat con-

demned, not including the head or any part of the animal below the knee or hock.

Lambs and sheep (other than rams) not exceeding 5 years of age, and in every case of not less value than \$2.40 per head—\$0.02 per pound, dressed weight, of meat condemned, not including the head or any part of the animal below the knee or hock.

Swine of not more than 200 pounds—\$0.04 per pound, dressed weight, not including the head.

Swine of more than 200 pounds—\$0.02 per pound, dressed weight, not including the head.

Cows not exceeding 10 years of age, and of not less value than \$14.40 per head—\$0.015 per pound, dressed weight, of meat condemned, not including the head or any part of the animal below the knee or hock.

Calves of not less than 60 pounds, dressed weight—\$0.015 per pound, dressed weight, of meat condemned, not including the head or any part of the animal below the knee or hock.

This scale was brought into force by an amendment to the original act in 1910. In some respects it is now proposed to revert to the original scale, as the high price now ruling for stock makes the compensation per pound less remunerative to the owners of condemned stock than under the old scale. As originally fixed the charges were:

(a) In the case of fat marketable cattle not exceeding 8 years of age and of not less value than \$14.40, the compensation payable in respect of each such animal shall be one-third of its value.

(b) In the case of pigs the compensation shall be: (1) For each pig weighing not less than 50 nor more than 100 pounds, dead weight, \$1.20; (2) for each pig weighing more than 100 pounds, dead weight, \$2.40.

(c) That compensation shall not be payable unless the owner of the stock makes application therefor in the prescribed manner and form, and satisfies the inspector that the stock so slaughtered is in fact diseased and has been disposed of as required by section 35 of the act.

[A list of the Government-owned (State or municipal) abattoirs in Australia and New Zealand may be obtained from the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce or its district and cooperative offices by referring to file No. 1678.]

### AMERICAN CONSULAR OFFICERS ON LEAVE OF ABSENCE.

The following American consular officers are on leave of absence in the United States and will be glad to confer with business men and commercial organizations relative to conditions in their respective jurisdictions. The consul's time is available primarily for personal interviews. He has limited facilities for correspondence, and except in urgent cases letters should be directed to the consulate.

Name.	Post.	Expiration of venue.	Address.
Hale, F. D. ....	Huddersfield, England	Sept. 5	Lunenburg, Vt.
Masterson, William W. ....	Durban, Natal, South Africa.	Sept. 1	Carrollton, Ky.
Baker, E. Carlton. ....	Nagasaki, Japan. ....	Aug. 30	Apartment No. 75, The Brunswick, Washington, D. C.
Monaghan, J. C. ....	Kingston, Jamaica. ....	Sept. 1	Avenue A and Fourteenth Street, Bayonne, N. J.
Jewell, John F. ....	Chefoo, China. ....	Oct. 1	Galeana, Ill.
Kemper, Graham H. ....	Erfurt, Germany. ....	Sept. 10	Department of State, Washington, D. C.
Goodler, James H. ....	Niagara Falls, Canada.	Sept. 1	27 South Hawk Street, Albany, N. Y.
Hazeltine, Ross. ....	Port Antonio, Jamaica.	Oct. 1	Department of State, Washington, D. C.
Lalng, James Oliver. ....	Karachi, India. ....	Sept. 30	C/o University Club, Kansas City, Mo.
Leonard, Walter A. ....	Colombo, Ceylon. ....	Oct. 14	Essex, Iowa.
Osborne, John Ball. ....	Havre, France. ....	Oct. 21	Department of State, Washington, D. C.



**HONDURAS INCREASES TRADE WITH UNITED STATES.**

[Consul Francis J. Dyer, Ceiba, July 26.]

There has been a substantial increase in the exports from Ceiba to the United States. For the first quarter of 1915 the exports amounted to \$54,474. For the corresponding quarter of 1916 the total was \$207,165, and for the second quarter of 1916, \$569,164, while for the first 24 days of July, 1916, they were \$114,803. They may decline somewhat from now on, as the market is not taking bananas so readily as during the last quarter. The detailed figures for the quarter ended June 30, 1916, are:

Article.	Quantity.	Value.
Bananas .....	bunches.. 1,807,300	\$423,238
Sugar .....	.....pounds.. 3,000,000	120,413
Hides, dry .....	.....do... 45,118.5	12,243
Rubber .....	.....do... 16,228	7,998
Deerskins .....	.....do... 6,456.5	2,108
Coconuts .....	.....number.. 66,009	1,748
Oranges .....	.....boxes.. 881	766
Plantains .....	.....number.. 80,650	520
Sarsaparilla .....	.....pounds.. 664	125
Ginger root .....	.....do... 45	5
Total.....	.....	569,164

The value of returned American goods was \$5,115, the chief items being "empties"—empty gasoline drums, carbonic-acid gas cylinders, acid carboys, oil barrels, and cement sacks, of a total declared value of \$3,901.

Ships that cleared for United States ports numbered 32, of which 29 were Honduran, bound for New Orleans; 1 was Norwegian, for Mobile; 1 a British schooner, for Key West; and 1 a British schooner, for Tampa.

[A previous report on the increased commerce of Ceiba with the United States was published in *COMMERCE REPORTS* for June 7, 1916.]

**NEW COMMERCIAL CENTER DEVELOPING IN HONDURAS.**

[Chargé d'Affaires Willing Spencer, American Legation, Tegucigalpa, July 15.]

By the recent issuance of a decree signed by the President of Honduras, Tela, on the coast of the Caribbean Sea, has been raised from a "commandancia menor" to a "commandancia principal," now ranking in the class with the other Caribbean Sea ports of La Ceiba, Puerto Cortés, and Trujillo, and with Amapala on the Gulf of Fonseca.

Tela is the headquarters of the United Fruit Co. in Honduras and has the advantage of excellent steamship service with New York and New Orleans. The company maintains a wireless station and a modern and well-equipped hospital at Tela. A well-constructed dock brings the cars of the Tela Railroad Co. to the ship's side, permitting economical handling of freight, and the rapid extension of the railroad into the surrounding country is opening a vast expanse of productive territory for which Tela is the logical distributing center.

**FOREIGN TARIFFS.****BRAZIL.****Proposed Tariff Reduction on Manufactures of Brazilian Rubber.**

Commercial Attaché William C. Downs, Rio de Janeiro, reports that a proposal to encourage the consumption abroad of Brazilian rubber by means of reduced import duties on products manufactured therefrom has again been introduced into the Brazilian Congress. The new bill provides for a reduction of 95 per cent of the ordinary duties on such articles, if they are accompanied by a declaration from the manufacturer, duly authenticated by a Brazilian consul, attesting that the goods are made of fine Para rubber. The words "Para Rubber, Brazil" or their equivalent in the language of the country of origin must be stamped on such articles. On certain grades of insulated wires and cables, in the manufacture of which Para rubber has been used, the regular duty is to be reduced 90 per cent. It is proposed to make pneumatic automobile tires not made of Brazilian rubber (present rate 5 per cent ad valorem) dutiable at 15 per cent ad valorem.

The new measure differs from the provisions contained in the budget law for 1915 in that no discriminatory surtaxes are imposed on articles made of other than Brazilian rubber. It was reported that the customs officials found great difficulty in distinguishing between articles made of Para and of other rubber during the brief period that the provisions of the 1915 budget law were in effect. With a view to remedying this difficulty, the new bill prescribes a number of tests for determining whether articles are made of Brazilian rubber. Thus, goods admitted at the reduced rates must stretch six times their size without breaking and must stand all the elasticity and compression tests required by certain French organizations (French State Railways, the Châtellerault Arsenal, and the Foundries of Pont-à-Mousson), and may also be subjected to other tests.

[The provisions of the pending bill are similar to those of a bill passed a year ago by the Brazilian Congress which was vetoed by the President. For notices regarding the previous measure, see Foreign Tariff Notes No. 16, p. 73, and No. 17, p. 118.]

**BRITISH INDIA.**

[Consul Samuel C. Reat, Rangoon, Apr. 13.]

**Marking of Condensed Milk.**

According to a ruling recently made by the Government of British India, the proportion of fat required in full cream condensed milk is 9 per cent of the contents of the can, and all containers of condensed milk having a fat content below this standard must be marked "Prepared from skimmed milk." In the case of sweetened milk, the fat percentage will be calculated on the whole contents of the can and not on the actual milk content of the product.

**MADAGASCAR.**

[Consul James G. Carter, Tamatave, May 6.]

**Marking of Cotton Goods.**

The regulations for the marking of cotton goods imported into Madagascar (reported in Foreign Tariff Notes No. 19, p. 63) are not to go into effect until one year after the close of the war, according to a decree of April 16, 1916.

**PERU.**

[Consul General William H. Handley, Callao-Lima, June 24.]

**Customs Valuation of Patent Medicines.**

According to a decree issued by the Minister of Finance May 31, 1916, the duty of 25 per cent ad valorem imposed on patent medicines imported into Peru is to be calculated on the manufacturer's list price, disregarding any discounts allowed to the importer. Recently the agents of an important American manufacturer of proprietary medicines were obliged to pay duty on the list price of the shipment, although they received a discount of 25 per cent from the catalogue prices.

**PORTUGUESE COLONIES.**

[Board of Trade Journal, July 6.]

**Postponement of Export Duties on Coffee in Angola.**

A Portuguese decree of June 23, 1916, provides that the export duties on coffee shipped from Angola prescribed by the decree of August 19, 1914 (see Foreign Tariff Notes No. 14, p. 25), shall not be enforced until eight months from the date of the new order.

**SALVADOR.****Surtax on Imports.**

The American Legation at San Salvador has transmitted a decree which appeared in the *Diario Oficial* for June 9, 1916, authorizing the collection of a surtax of \$0.10 per 100 kilos, gross weight, on all articles imported into Salvador. The proceeds of the surtax, which is to come into effect September 1, 1916, are to be devoted to providing customhouse buildings and facilities at La Union.

[*Diario Oficial*, June 14.]

**Export Duty on Hides.**

Because of the scarcity of leather in Salvador, the export duty on hides has been increased to \$0.18 per kilo, according to the terms of a presidential decree of June 13, 1916. [This is a restoration of the duty prescribed by the new customs tariff of Salvador, in effect Jan. 1, 1916, for which a rate of \$7 per 100 kilos was substituted by a decree of Oct. 26, 1915.]

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**DOUGH MIXERS FOR BRAZILIAN CITIES.**

[Consul George H. Pickerell, Para, June 13.]

The municipal council of the city of Para is discussing a measure which provides for the elimination of manual labor in the preparation of doughs in bakeries and alimentary-paste factories and for the use of machinery instead. A reasonable time will be allowed them for the acquisition of the machinery. It is generally believed that the measure will be approved. A list of hardware dealers and bakeries is forwarded, and I suggest that American manufacturers interested send their catalogues to these firms and to the Para consulate as well.

[The list referred to may be obtained from the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce or its district and cooperative offices upon asking for file No. 77981. A list of bakeries in Rio de Janeiro was offered in *COMMERCE REPORTS* for Apr., 1916, under file No. 74493.]

**MARKET FOR ROLLERS IN SWITZERLAND.**

[Consul Philip Holland, Basel, May 29.]

Lawn rollers are very little used in the cities and towns of the Basel district, especially for rolling grass. There are probably 30 or 40 cast-iron hand rollers in this city which are used for rolling gravel and tennis courts. These are of the open-cylinder kind, cast in 15-inch wide and 15-inch diameter sections and comprising from 2 to 4 sections. The roller rim is about 2 inches thick and there is a heavy weight inside to balance the handle. Most of them are owned by tennis and court builders.

Basel has about 100 wirtschafts (beer gardens), with open, gravelled courts, where the public is served in summer. The courts are scratched and rerolled each spring. This is also true of the wide walks at the homes of the wealthy. The city uses rollers in building and repairing parkways, sidewalks, and streets.

**Lawns of Wealthier Residents Rarely Rolled.**

About 98 per cent of the people of Basel live in small houses and apartments, where the maximum court and lawn spaces do not exceed 400 square feet. The large grass lawns of the wealthier residents are rarely, if ever, rolled. The rainfall is not exceptionally heavy in this section of Switzerland, but the overhanging clouds and incessantly damp weather are conducive to a healthy growth of grass. Rollers are, however, very extensively used by the farmers. As most of the farms are small, and as grain and grass are almost exclusively grown, usually with but one plowing or breaking up, the farmers harrow the ground after plowing and roll it after sowing. The rollers used are, as a rule, of the same kind that the court builders of the city use. Some of the farmers use only log or wooden rollers.

A few water-filled drum rollers have already been sold in Basel, and one firm here carries them in stock. The sales, however, have been small, from 2 to 4 a year. These cylinders are manufactured in Germany and measure 5 feet in length and 18 inches in diameter. They retail for \$24.

There is one manufacturer of open-cylinder rollers in this consular district.

**Large Dealers Canvass Farming Districts.**

The large dealers who sell most of the agricultural machinery in Switzerland send their representatives throughout the farming districts to sell and assemble their implements. In order to establish a permanent and profitable business, reaching over the whole of Switzerland, it would be well to communicate with one of these dealers.

The usual terms in Switzerland are 60 to 90 days or 2 per cent for cash. Many American exporters, however, are demanding cash with orders or against shipping documents. These terms, if exacted now, will probably injure business for the future. They should not be exacted where there is a purpose to establish a permanent business.

Rollers for agricultural purposes are classified under No. 891 of the Swiss import tariff and pay import duty at the rate of 7 francs (\$1.35) per quintal of 220 pounds.

[Lists of large dealers who sell most of the agricultural machinery in Switzerland, and of hardware and implement dealers in Basel or district, may be obtained from the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, its district or cooperative offices. Refer to file No. 77844.]

### KELP HARVESTING IN RELATION TO FISHES.

The naturalist of the *Albatross* has submitted to the United States Bureau of Fisheries a preliminary report of observations made in July to determine the effect of kelp harvesting upon fishes. The observations were made between Point Loma and La Jolla, in the vicinity of San Diego, Cal. Evidence of the presence of fish eggs on the kelp was sought. In the case of harvesters that grind the kelp as it is cut, such evidence, of course, is not available; but some harvesters do not grind the kelp while cutting it, and in such cases the opportunity was afforded for making the desired observations. No evidence of eggs, fish, or crawfish larvæ could be found. On the kelp beds the leaves were examined to a depth of 8 or 10 feet, and the specimens of mollusks, crustaceans, worms, hydroids, etc., collected. Some small fish were taken, but these were not the young of food fishes, since they were mature at 1 inch in length. No fish eggs could be found.

Although three harvesters had been working on this bed for more than three months, the amount of kelp at the surface of the water had not decreased appreciably. It is said that if the harvesters begin at one side of the kelp beds and cut clean as they go, the first part will have grown up again to its natural condition before the whole bed has been passed over.

While the preliminary observations in this region afforded no ground for suspecting that the harvesting of kelp is injurious to important fish or shellfish, the bureau plans to continue the investigation.

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### RECORD OF SOUTH AFRICAN RAILWAYS FOR YEAR.

[Consul Edwin N. Gunsaulus, Johannesburg, July 6.]

Statistics relating to the management and operation of the South African (Government) Railways for 1915 are given in the annual report of the general manager, just issued. The open mileage on December 31, 1915, was 8,924, an increase during the year of 438 miles. The total capital expenditure on railways and harbors to December 31, 1915, was \$490,646,579. The average cost of the open lines is \$47,706 per route mile, including workshops and rolling-stock equipment.

#### Gross Earnings and Expenditures for Two Years.

The gross earnings in 1915 were \$59,361,032 and expenditures \$38,263,547. In 1914 the earnings were \$56,029,007, and expenditures \$43,020,872. The ratio of passenger earnings to total earnings increased from 24.9 per cent in 1911 to 28.34 per cent in 1915, while the ratio of goods earnings diminished in almost the same proportion, attributable to large reductions in rates in 1912.

The ratio of expenditure to earnings has decreased by 11.95 per cent compared with 1914, and 7.9 per cent compared with 1913. While revenue is lower than in 1910, expenditure has increased by almost \$4,866,500, mainly because the 1912 rate reduction involved a sacrifice in revenue approximating \$7,299,750 per annum. The net profit from railways carried to revenue-distribution account was \$6,376,964.

## FOREIGN TRADE OPPORTUNITIES.

Reserved addresses may be obtained from the Bureau and its district offices. Request for each opportunity should be on a separate sheet and state opportunity number. The Bureau does not furnish credit ratings or assume responsibility as to the standing of foreign inquirers; the usual precautions should be taken in all cases.

*Machinery*, No. 22169.—An American consular officer in Spain writes that a firm in his district wishes to import all kinds of machinery, tools, and parts used in making shoes. Correspondence in Spanish. Cash will be paid against shipping documents in Spain.

*Advertising novelties*, No. 22170.—A shipping agency in the United States writes that a firm in Argentina desires to form commercial relations with manufacturers of general advertising novelties, such as celluloid, metal, wood, calendars, fans, buttons, etc. Payments will be made against shipping documents in Argentina.

*Machinery*, No. 22171.—The Bureau is informed that a man in Chile desires to erect a mill for manufacturing castor oil and desires to receive catalogues and other information relative to the necessary machinery and equipment.

*Olive oil*, No. 22172.—An American consular officer in Spain reports that a firm in his district wishes to receive names and addresses of American importers of refined olive oil. Correspondence in Spanish. References.

*Shoe findings*, No. 22173.—The bureau is informed that a business man from Argentina is now in the United States for the purpose of securing additional agencies for the sale of American products. He is especially interested in shoe findings of all kinds, such as arch supporters, hooks and eyelets, heel grips, bone buttons, rubber heels and soles, duck linings, box toes, etc. References.

*Paper, printing supplies, etc.*, No. 22174.—An American consular officer in the Far East reports that two native printing offices desire to receive catalogues and price lists of paper, printers' requisites and materials, stationery, and account and ledger books.

*Leather belting and packing, etc.*, No. 22175.—A firm of commission agents in the West Indies wishes to represent American manufacturers of leather belts, and packing for steam engines, pumps, etc. References.

*Automobiles*, No. 22176.—A firm in South Africa informs an American consular officer of its desire to receive catalogues, price and discount lists from American manufacturers of small electric pleasure vehicles suitable for use in city and suburban districts.

*Cottonseed oil, tobacco seed, etc.*, No. 22177.—A business man in the Netherlands asks the bureau to place him in touch with American manufacturers and exporters of cotton seed and cottonseed oil, castor bean and tobacco seed, etc. References. Correspondence in English.

*Paints, food products, machinery, etc.*, No. 22178.—One of the commercial agents of the bureau writes that the representative of a Brazilian steamship company is now in the United States with a view to purchasing the following: Paints, oils, provisions, canned meats and fruits, India rubber, packing, leather and canvas hose, electrical machinery and fittings, iron and steel plates, manila and wire rope, kerosene, gasoline, asbestos, and bags for salt. Cash will be paid in New York City. Reference.

*Automobiles*, No. 22179.—A Norwegian import firm advises an American consular officer of its desire to be placed in communication with American manufacturers and exporters of automobiles. Correspondence may be in English.

## OFFICES OF THE BUREAU OF FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC COMMERCE.

## DISTRICT OFFICES.

NEW YORK: Room 409, Customhouse.  
BOSTON: 18th floor, Customhouse.  
CHICAGO: 504 Federal Building.  
ST. LOUIS: 402 Third National Bank Building.  
ATLANTA: 521 Post Office Building.  
NEW ORLEANS: 1020 Hibernia Bank Building.  
SAN FRANCISCO: 307 Customhouse.  
SEATTLE: 848 Henry Building.

## COOPERATIVE OFFICES.

CLEVELAND: Chamber of Commerce.  
CINCINNATI: Chamber of Commerce.  
CINCINNATI: C., N. O. & T. P. Ry. Co.  
LOS ANGELES: Chamber of Commerce.  
DETROIT: Board of Commerce.  
PHILADELPHIA: Chamber of Commerce.  
CHATTANOOGA: South American Agent, Southern Ry. Co.

# COMMERCE REPORTS



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## BRADFORD SHIPMENTS TO THE UNITED STATES.

[Consul Augustus E. Ingram, Bradford, England, Aug. 3.]

The declared exports to the United States from the Bradford consular district during July, 1916, amounted to \$1,141,435, as compared with \$1,686,615 in July, 1915. The decline in the total value is accounted for by the embargo on the export of raw wool and of mohair, none of either having been shipped, as compared with \$488,199 and \$51,264, respectively, in July, 1915. There was also a falling off in the shipments of wool noils, wool yarn, and particularly worsted and woolen cloths, wool dress goods, and wool coat linings.

On the other hand, cotton cloths, principally linings, showed a very large increase, the total amounting to \$494,766, as compared with \$208,232 in July, 1915.

## PENCIL-MAKING INDUSTRY IN INDIA.

[Consul Lucien Memminger, Madras, July 6.]

The Indian Review, published at Madras, contains the following account of the establishment of a pencil-making industry in that city under Government auspices:

A good beginning has been made in this presidency in the direction of pencil making. Some pencil-making plants were recently taken over by the Department of Industries and placed under an expert. In a short time a plant was in working order and reasonably well-finished pencils were prepared within three months, but the expert was unable to refine the graphite properly, and as sources of supply for wood had not been adequately investigated, no attempt was made to place the pencils on the market. These initial experiments furnished what may be called the fundamental data of production, that is, the limiting figures and conditions under which commercial production is possible. These limits appeared to be sufficiently favorable to warrant the continuation of the experiment. Subsequent work until the end of the year consisted chiefly in the investigation of forest supplies and the treatment of graphite.

American manufacturers of pencil-making machinery who are interested in the possibility of supplying machinery for this industry should address the Director of Industries, Government of Madras, Madras, India.

## **AUTOMOBILE SITUATION IN BRAZIL.**

[Consul General Alfred L. Moreau Gottschalk, Rio de Janeiro, July 6.]

For a number of months past there has been shown in the correspondence of the Rio de Janeiro consulate general, as well as in the more frequent visits of salesmen and traveling representatives from the United States, a very pronounced interest in the Brazilian field for the sale of automobiles. The inquiries received here, both by letter and from traveling representatives, have been carefully noted and constitute what may be regarded as an interesting picture of the misconceptions that seem generally to prevail among North American automobile firms with regard to Brazil. The points are fully discussed below.

First of all, there are in the files of this office many letters that seek to ascertain what are the chances for an "automobile tour of South America" or a "tour through the interior of Brazil." To such inquiries the reply has had to be made in all cases that there is no international system of highways between the countries of South America; that the interior—at least the remoter interior—of most of the Latin American States is still devoid of communications other than trails or riverways; and that nobody has ever made—nor will probably for many years make—a tour such as is inquired about.

### **Motor Cars in Rio de Janeiro.**

Visitors to Rio de Janeiro invariably comment on two things with regard to the motor cars which they see here in general use. One thing that arouses their attention is the prevalence of foreign (French, Italian, German) makes. The other is that the city's public taxicabs are almost all of them large and roomy and show evident signs of having been built for much more luxurious purposes than those to which put at present.

The explanation of the preference—for a decided preference does thus far exist—for foreign (European) makes in the matter of private cars is easily explainable from the fact that these southern countries have for years held the belief that while the United States produced and marketed foodstuffs and the grosser articles of prime necessity and sold them advantageously, none the less when anything in the nature of a luxury was to be purchased, one must naturally turn to Europe for it. To the average Brazilian an automobile is a luxury, and a luxury only.

The reasons why Europe enjoys this reputation of being the source par excellence of all things luxurious and "smart" is not hard to find. For years past Continental Europe has catered to the South American, not only commercially, but by welcoming him as a tourist; by helping him in a thousand ways to spend his money there; by flooding his own country with books, newspapers, and illustrated magazines in languages that he could more readily understand than English; by establishing European schools in the South American countries and thereby unconsciously training the children to a more or less "Continental" ideal, which the child, being himself of Latin blood, readily enough assimilated; and, last but not least, by putting into business relations and selling methods that diplomatic suaveness that wins popularity.

### **Taxicabs—Small Cars for the Planter.**

As to the superior type of taxicab in evidence in the streets of Rio de Janeiro the explanation is simple, and not without some little hint of minor tragedy. During 1912—the "boom" year of coffee,



when money was easily made and when business in general was prosperous as it had not been for many years previous—everyone who could afford it (and many, as the sequence shows, who could not) bought an automobile. Some were bought for cash, some on installments, and some on credit. A few were paid for before the crash came. All of them, one may say, were from Continental Europe. Then came the panic of 1913 and the financial stringency which the depression in business of that year and the closely-following European war brought about. Private automobiles were a drug on the market. Many owners of cars were glad to send them out as taxicabs to earn what they could. Others sold them outright, at a sacrifice. And that is the simple reason why Rio de Janeiro has to-day the best-looking taxicabs in the world.

The market for automobiles in South America generally is confined, first, to the cities, and, second, to the larger plantation areas. In the cities, as explained, the luxurious European car is preferred. It is only the planter in a few scattered agricultural districts who, like the North American farmer, has begun to know the motor car that is cheap and serviceable and regarded rather as a piece of farming equipment than as a pleasure vehicle. I am told that certain American makers of the lower-priced cars have grasped this truth and have begun a campaign of education in this respect among the coffee planters of the State of São Paulo.

For the heavier vehicles, such as trucks and lorries, Brazil offers a less favorable field. The country, from the beginning of its settlement, stretched coastwise rather than toward the interior of the Continent. To this day there are few roads penetrating the interior. Just as in the newer sections of the United States, the railroad came before the highway, and the highway, in consequence, is often bad.

#### Imports During Past Four Years.

The official record of Brazil's imports of automobiles graphically tells the story of the financial depression that has weighed down the Republic for the past two years. In 1912 (the "boom" year already referred to) 3,785 cars were imported, these having a value of \$5,368,650; in 1913, 3,218 were imported, their value being \$4,684,069; but in 1914 the number dropped to 744 and the value to \$968,994, and last year only 214 cars were brought in, whose aggregate value was \$190,358. The United States furnished \$924,045 of the imports in 1912 and \$795,754 in 1913, and was third among the supplying countries in each of these years; but with only \$165,152 to its credit in 1914 it held second place, and in 1915 ranked first, though its trade that year amounted to less than \$123,500.

As regards number of cars, the United States was third in 1912, second in 1913, and first in both 1914 and 1915, as the following table shows:

Imported from—	1912		1913		1914		1915	
	No.	Value.	No.	Value.	No.	Value.	No.	Value.
United States .....	783	\$924,045	814	\$795,754	213	\$165,152	169	\$123,390
Germany .....	1,060	1,526,018	613	1,020,075	114	160,083	3	2,261
France .....	1,011	1,470,785	953	1,555,232	186	335,006	10	20,044
Italy .....	432	638,193	412	587,711	92	115,846	15	11,139
Great Britain .....	205	317,873	112	225,355	46	81,812	8	20,924
Belgium .....	120	180,210	83	135,222	35	50,255	.....	.....
Switzerland .....	136	247,223	142	242,945	11	13,464	3	4,885
Other countries .....	38	68,287	89	123,195	47	47,366	6	7,963
Total .....	3,785	5,368,650	3,218	4,684,069	744	968,994	214	190,358

## Distribution of Motor Cars Throughout Brazil.

I have tried in vain to obtain statistics of the number of cars in use or licensed in the various large cities of Brazil. An idea of the relative importance of the various districts of the country to the foreign maker of motor cars may, however, be gathered from the following table, which shows the number of cars imported through the various ports of entry of the Republic between 1912 and 1915:

Ports.	1912	1913	1914	1915
Manáos .....	29	24	5	.....
Pará .....	61	58	14	.....
Maranhão .....	43	19	4	1
Ceará .....	36	11	4	.....
Natal .....	1	1	.....	.....
Pernambuco .....	66	54	43	4
Maceló .....	3	18	2	1
Bahia .....	55	111	19	8
Rio de Janeiro .....	2,117	1,345	196	24
Santos .....	1,121	1,318	325	166
Paraguá .....	21	31	10	1
São Francisco .....	.....	.....	3	.....
Florianópolis .....	2	3	8	2
Rio Grande do Norte .....	12	14	2	1
Pelotas .....	30	45	25	4
Porto Alegre .....	151	87	37	2
Livramento .....	6	24	10	.....
Quarany .....	2	3	3	.....
Uruguaiana .....	17	36	26	.....
Itaquí .....	2	3	.....	.....
Jaguarião .....	4	.....	.....	.....
Corumbá .....	.....	.....	2	.....
Porto Velho .....	6	6	.....	.....
Itapohy .....	.....	2	2	.....
Rio Grande do Sul .....	.....	5	.....	.....
São Borja .....	.....	.....	2	.....
Total .....	3,786	3,218	744	214

It will be seen that, under the more normal conditions of 1912, Rio de Janeiro, the great distributing point of the Republic, headed the list. Since then the financial depression has greatly lowered the country's purchasing power as a whole, and only Santos, the port of the State of São Paulo (which is to-day the principal seat of the coffee industry) has been buying automobiles—chiefly for the reason that the planter there has learned to appreciate the motor car not as an article de luxe, but properly as part of his farming equipment.

## Choosing a Field—Competition After the War.

A mistake that many North American traveling salesmen make, however, when they visit Brazil, is to be misled by prosperous conditions in the State of São Paulo, and to conclude that there lies the only field for the sale of automobiles. It is true that many motor cars have been sold there and that many more will be disposed of among the coffee planters, but I am almost convinced that the firm which has confined its efforts to the São Paulo country will find, in the end, that it has not done wisely. Far better would it be, to my mind, to establish lasting connections with some good selling agent at the natural distributing point, Rio de Janeiro, and let that agent sell wherever changing conditions might later warrant.

The figures given above should not encourage the American investigator of this market to think, because during the past year the United States has furnished 65 per cent of the automobiles purchased by Brazil, that that country will necessarily retain this position once the nations of Europe have reorganized their exporting.

The two obstacles that will have to be faced will be those enumerated in the beginning of this report, namely, the Brazilian tendency to prefer European styles, and the superior skill and more lenient terms of European competitors in marketing their goods.

**Cars in the Federal District.**

The Federal District—which, like the District of Columbia, is the Government preserve surrounding the capital city, Rio de Janeiro—had at the close of 1915 a total of 2,347 automobiles registered. The fees collected for these registrations during that year aggregated \$72,869 (American currency). The figures given are, however, considerably underestimated, for they do not include the numerous motor cars employed in the service of both the municipal government of Rio de Janeiro and the Federal Government itself, which are exempt from registration. These are said in all to amount to several hundred cars. The kinds and numbers of cars licensed and registered in the Federal District during 1915 were:

Private automobiles for 2 persons.....	174
Private automobiles for 4 persons.....	424
Private automobiles for 6 persons.....	85
Taxicabs for 2 persons.....	16
Taxicabs for 4 persons.....	601
Taxicabs for 6 persons.....	696
Auto omnibuses (now out of commission).....	23
Private motor trucks.....	193
Motor trucks (rentable).....	40
Automobiles for transporting meat.....	12
Automobiles on trials.....	10
Owned by the Rio de Janeiro Tramway Light & Power Co. (not taxed).....	73
<b>Total registered .....</b>	<b>2,347</b>

Since January 1, 1916, the operation of a system of auto busses, which carried passengers from the center of the city to various points as far as 5 miles in certain residential sections, has been discontinued. The fares were very reasonable (from 5 to 15 cents), but the company claimed that with the high price of gasoline which prevailed (43 cents a gallon on Dec. 25, 1915, and since risen to 52 cents a gallon, as against 25 cents on July 31, 1914) the service could not be continued without heavy financial losses. An unsuccessful attempt to electrify this line was made, but this having failed there are to-day no indications as to when the service may be resumed, and in the meantime the busses are lying idle.

**Low-Priced Automobiles—Cars Should be Fully Equipped.**

A tendency toward the purchase of the smaller and more modest cars is plainly discernible in Brazil to-day. Four years ago a "run-about" on the streets of Rio de Janeiro was a curiosity. Now, as the table illustrates, there are already a considerable number of the smaller cars, which are gradually replacing the larger, more expensive ones. It is in this field that the American car may find an opportunity; and I can not impress it too strongly upon such automobile firms as call upon me for information that for Brazil—and, I think, perhaps for Latin America generally—they should concentrate their efforts on selling a good, practical small car that would be within reach of most men's purses.

I have heard considerable complaint that certain low-priced American cars sold here were not provided with speedometers, and that it seemed as if the makers inferred that these necessary adjuncts could be purchased easily at any time. No greater mistake could be made than this, and no American car should ever be offered here that is not fully provided with all its necessary accessories.

#### **Depots and Factories in Brazil.**

The question was asked me not long ago, by an American traveling representative who called at the consulate general, whether he ought not to advise his firm to establish its depot for accessories and its workshop for assembling cars at some point other than Rio de Janeiro, selecting rather some city whose topographical surroundings were level, whose roads were numerous and well kept, and whose general interests were agricultural. The question was a very natural one, and yet, somewhat to my visitor's surprise, I had to answer it decidedly in the negative. It is on just this point that so many American firms desirous of establishing a branch or agency in Brazil often make their initial error.

It should be remembered that Brazil is an assemblage of 21 States, each of which has a remarkable degree of autonomy, and that the capital city, Rio de Janeiro, is situated in a Federal District that, like the District of Columbia, belongs to no one of the several States but is under the immediate jurisdiction of Congress and of a sort of municipality. As articles seven and nine of the Brazilian Constitution provide, the Federal Government levies and enjoys the income from customs and other duties upon all imports. The duties which may be levied and collected upon all exports, however, are the property of the individual State where the factory is located; and each of the States has its own tariff of export charges and may vary them at its pleasure. It is this peculiarity in Brazilian law, joined to an utter absence of interstate laws concerning commerce, that makes it infinitely more profitable for a foreign corporation or manufacturer to settle within the Federal District, which, outside of the usual charge for trading license, levies no duties upon production or exportation either to foreign countries or to any of the Brazilian States.

#### **Rio de Janeiro the Distributing Center of Brazil.**

The city of Rio de Janeiro enjoys practically a monopoly of the distribution of merchandise throughout Brazil. This distribution is effected chiefly by means of a Government-owned railway, the Central Railway of Brazil, which penetrates from Rio de Janeiro into the interior, and by the coastwise steamers of the Lloyd-Brasileiro Steamship Line, also a Government-owned transportation company, with a river service, a coastwise service, and ships running to the United States out of Rio de Janeiro.

The city of Rio de Janeiro, further, is visited yearly by thousands of merchants from all the various States of the Brazilian Union. One comes here to make one's arrangements for purchasing stock throughout the year; one brings one's wife and daughter here to see the newest fashions and make their purchases of the latest modes imported from abroad; or one comes to consult some well-known lawyer on a business matter of interstate importance. In this sense Rio de Janeiro is perhaps not only the political, but the commercial, legal, and social capital of the whole country.

**Salesmen's Operating Licenses—Sample Cars.**

The American salesman who comes here with a car whose merits he is prepared to demonstrate asks, first of all, for an operating license. He is naturally inclined to think that this is due him as a right. Unfortunately, the local law makes no provision for temporary operating licenses, and what he considers as no more than his due must be asked for, as a "special privilege to a foreign firm," by the consulate general. Brazil does not have two forms of licenses, one for the owner or demonstrator of a car, and another for the professional chauffeur; nor is an applicant immediately granted an operator's license without examination.

Once he has obtained a special license, the salesman must be prepared to show it on all occasions, and perhaps to submit to a little curious inquiry of a purely personal nature on the part of some good-natured policeman with a thirst for knowledge as to the enterprising methods of foreign firms. The license is not based upon the horsepower of the car, and it is not valid after one has crossed a State boundary. It is to be hoped that within a short time certain ordinances may be passed in Brazil which may alleviate most of these difficulties.

There is no class of salesmen who should more carefully remember the requirement of the Brazilian customs laws regarding samples than automobile salesmen. A salesman who has with him cars for demonstrating purposes should remember that he can not have them enter the country in bond without, before his departure from the United States, obtaining a Brazilian consular invoice declaring them to be samples.

[A list of the principal automobile dealers in Rio de Janeiro may be had from the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce or its district and co-operative offices upon referring to file No. 79085.]

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**AMERICAN AGENCIES ESTABLISHED IN BRITISH GUIANA.**

Consul George E. Chamberlin reports that as a result of the trade-extension work of the Georgetown consulate 29 American agencies were placed in that section of British Guiana during the past six months. The lines involved embraced edible oils, soaps, fish, sheet metals, shirts, glassware, groceries, paints, dry goods, oleomargarine, cereals, flour, beans, beer, tools, carpets, enameled ware, razors, strops, disinfectants and sanitary appliances, stoves, slates, and rice.

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**USE OF TURKISH LANGUAGE MADE OBLIGATORY.**

[Hoffman Philip, secretary of American embassy, Constantinople.]

A Turkish law dated March 10 (23), 1916, makes obligatory the use of the Turkish language by companies and corporations doing business in Turkey. For foreign companies this obligation is limited to their correspondence with the Turkish Government and to any documents which they may use in their dealings with the public. They are also granted until July 10 (23), 1919, to comply with the law.

**FOODSTUFF SITUATION IN SWITZERLAND.**

[Consul Walter H. Schulz, Berne, July 28.]

The upward tendency in food prices in Switzerland continues and is accounted for, to a great extent, by the failing imports from the adjacent countries. The United States has succeeded Germany, Austria-Hungary, France, Roumania, and Russia as the granary of the country, but owing to the high freight rates and the long haul, the prices of grain products are continuously increasing, and unless some unexpected reaction takes place in the near future the Swiss will soon be paying as much for foodstuffs as their warring neighbors.

**Crops Damaged by Rain.**

The heavy, devastating, and continuous rains during the past two months, reported by the Swiss meteorological service to have been the heaviest in 50 years, have damaged the local crops considerably, and added to the gravity of the foodstuff situation. These conditions have made it necessary for the Government officials to enter upon a program of economic retrenchment, the first evidence of which has been clearly shown by the decline of cocoa, chocolate, condensed milk, and cheese exports during the first quarter of the present year, which was the result of Government action.

The Statistical Yearbook of Switzerland, which has just been published, gives the increases in the most important necessities of life from August, 1914, up to May 1, 1916, as follows: Bread, 41 per cent; beef, 37.6 per cent; milk, 10.6 per cent; butter, 30.5 per cent; eggs, 54.8 per cent; potatoes, 104.8 per cent. These figures represent the average prices prevailing in 27 cities in Switzerland, but they are much exceeded in some parts of Switzerland.

Since 1914 the importation of agricultural products from the former sources of supply has altogether ceased. Thus, the German market, with its former annual export of foodstuffs valued at \$13,992,500, has become a closed market to Switzerland. The same may be said of Austria-Hungary, with similar exports valued at \$11,444,900; Russia with its \$12,429,200, and France with \$20,535,200.

**Decline in Imports.**

A survey of the imports during the first quarter of 1916 shows sharp contrasts when compared with 1914. The only items that have entered the country in encouraging quantities are coffee and tobacco. Beeves have declined from 7,977 head in 1914 to 167 in 1916; sheep from 23,296 to 602; and there has also been a very heavy falling off in the imports of oats, malt, potatoes, sugar, and eggs.

From August, 1914, to December, 1915, Switzerland imported foreign grains valued at \$48,057,000. During this period 117 shiploads of wheat, 19 of oats, 18 of corn, and 3 of barley were purchased in foreign markets.

The import and export figures for the March quarters of the years 1914, 1915, and 1916, as recently published by the Swiss Government, are as follows:

Articles.	1914	1915	1916
<b>IMPORTS.</b>			
Wheat.....metric tons..	111,483	160,671	124,795
Oats.....do.....	48,977	26,100	25,268
Barley.....do.....	7,202	5,218	6,808
Rice.....do.....	3,163	16,554	3,177
Corn.....do.....	20,169	49,306	23,231
Malt.....do.....	153,953	91,431	16,077
Flour, in bags.....pounds..	18,327,908	15,233,940	163,362
Potatoes.....do.....	28,004,211	2,570,810	10,638,533
Coffee.....do.....	5,620,023	10,656,924	16,209,845
Cocoa.....do.....	7,897,398	13,161,815	5,911,033
Sugar, all kinds.....do.....	58,497,226	78,687,562	33,977,855
Eggs.....do.....	6,177,572	1,352,314	1,305,796
Butter.....do.....	1,992,096	1,330,489	207,014
Lard.....do.....	682,330	1,093,932	372,801
Tobacco.....do.....	4,156,374	3,949,801	5,797,054
Beer.....gallons.....	787,703	552,067	73,254
Beesves.....number.....	7,977	1,513	167
Calves.....do.....	3,705	2,619	1,450
Figs.....do.....	3,115	12,700	8,723
Sheep.....do.....	23,296	227	602
<b>EXPORTS.</b>			
Cocoa.....pounds.....	457,458	1,178,370	854,732
Chocolate.....do.....	7,776,806	12,230,804	11,570,980
Condensed milk.....do.....	21,961,566	21,616,542	15,138,259
Cheese, hard.....do.....	19,015,529	29,449,568	12,526,272

### OPPORTUNITY FOR AMERICAN WASHING SOAP.

[Vice Consul A. G. Watson, Aden, Arabia, May 27.]

There have been inquiries at Aden for samples and prices of American soap for washing purposes. The greatest objection to American washing soap already introduced is that it is too soft and is consequently used up more quickly than the French article. This French soap is now retailing at \$5.84 per case of 100 pieces, while American soap is selling at \$4.54 per case of 100 pieces. Undoubtedly the same price can be obtained for American soaps if this principal defect is remedied.

A special trade-mark should be provided for the soap, as, once its reputation is established, it will be sold on its mark. An importer of American soap has informed me that he introduced the American article into this market and another firm was then granted the agency in conjunction with him, but the original introducer was not satisfied and withdrew from the business. It should be impressed on the manufacturer that he must grant a sole agency or he will create dissatisfaction and deprive the importer of a profit. Samples, prices, and other particulars should be furnished in seeking representation here.

Imports of soap by countries for the year ended March 31, 1915, were: United Kingdom and possessions, \$5,073; Italy, \$3,761; United States, \$1,255; Austria, \$355; France, \$38,960; other countries, \$678; total, \$50,082.

[A list of merchants at Aden who are not at present handling washing soap but would probably be interested in the introduction of such goods may be obtained from the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, its district or cooperative offices. Refer to file No. 78808.]

Malaga has lately been buying considerable wheat from the United States, purchases amounting to 18,978 tons in the first six months of this year according to figures furnished by Consul Percival Gasset of that Spanish port.

**NEW TERMS IN WOOLEN TRADE MODIFIED.**

[Consul Rufus Fleming, Edinburgh, Scotland, July 26.]

Certain modifications have been made in the new terms imposed by English and Scotch manufacturers of woolen cloth, which were explained in **COMMERCE REPORTS** for June 15, 1916. The changes were made after many conferences of representatives of merchants' and clothiers' associations with those of the manufacturers' associations.

Under the agreement, which bears date July 12, 1916, all orders or confirmations received by woolen and worsted manufacturers on and after August 1, 1916, are executed subject to the following terms:

1. (a) All goods dispatched in any calendar month (but subject to the delivery of the goods and to the terms of subsection c of this section) shall be paid for in cash, subject to a discount of (I) 4 per cent if paid on or before the 10th of the month following dispatch; or (II) 3½ per cent if paid on or before the 10th of the second month following dispatch; or (III) 3 per cent if paid on or before the 10th of the third month following dispatch; or (IV) 2½ per cent if paid on or before the 10th of the fourth month following dispatch, when, if not previously paid, payment shall be made, unless at the option of the manufacturer he agrees to take a bill or promissory note for a further period not exceeding three months. The bill or note shall be for the amount of the invoice less the discount of 2½ per cent, with the addition of interest on the net amount for the period of the bill or note at the rate of 7½ per cent per annum.

**Conditions of Payments on Other Than Specified Dates.**

(b) If payments are made on dates other than the specified dates above provided, the discount to be allowed shall be the rate provided for the specified date immediately following payment, but interest at the rate of 6 per cent per annum shall be allowed for the period from the date of payment to such specified date upon all amounts so paid before the 10th of the fourth month following dispatch. The manufacturer shall also allow interest at the same rate from the date of payment to the 10th of the first month following dispatch upon any amounts paid before such date.

(c) All goods dispatched in any month, but not delivered in the United Kingdom until after the 5th of the month following, shall be paid for as if dispatched in the month of delivery, but if delivered in the first five days of any month subsequent to the month of dispatch, the goods shall be paid for as if dispatched in the month immediately preceding the month of delivery.

(d) By agreement with a purchaser a manufacturer may sell (I) for net cash; or (II) for payment in cash (less the appropriate discount) on any date mentioned in subsection a; or (III) on any shorter terms or at a lower rate of discount, but in no case shall he sell on longer terms or allow a higher rate of, or extra discount, or any bonus, rebate, commission, or other concession; provided that, apart from agreement, the terms of payment set out in subsections a, b, and c hereof shall prevail.

**Regulation Forbids Any Dating Forward.**

2. No dating forward shall be allowed. Every order shall specify a definite date for completion which shall be subject to the manufacturer agreeing thereto, and every order shall be subject to any conditions of acceptance additional to those herein contained.

3. These terms shall apply only to trade, so far as goods are sold in sterling. but no more favorable conditions shall be granted to purchasers in currency other than sterling.

4. Every piece shall be measured 38 inches to the yard, and no further over-measure or allowance for shrinking shall be given. Provided that sales may be made on a 36-inch basis (a) of classes of goods customarily sold before August, 1914, on a 36-inch basis; or (b) to purchasers who customarily bought before August, 1914, on a 36-inch basis; or (c) where a 36-inch basis is agreed upon between a manufacturer and his customer, but in such case the price shall not be more than 5½ per cent below that which would be quoted on a 38-inch basis.



5. Carriage on goods will be paid by the manufacturer to the primary place of destination, or, in the case of goods shipped direct abroad, to the port of shipment only. If goods are ordered to be delivered to a shrinker, the place of business of the shrinker will be considered the primary place of destination unless the goods are collected free of cost by the shrinker.

6. All patterns 27 inches or more wide, and all patterns of whatever dimensions of an area of 243 square inches or more, shall be paid for in full.

### CONCESSION FOR WATER POWER IN PERU.

The Government of Peru has granted to the Hydroelectric Co., of the Cañon del Pato, a concession for water power in the River Santa to be used for industrial purposes. The concession as published in *El Peruano* of July 12 grants water rights of 45,000 liters per second in a section of the river 500 meters above the confluence of the Santa with the Colcas for a distance of 25 kilometers, following the course of the River Santa. This water is conceded for manufacturing, and may not be used for any other purpose. Definite plans covering the utilization of the water must be presented before December 1 of next year, and the work must be completed within three years from that date.

To guarantee the fulfillment of its obligations in connection with this concession the company must deposit with the Peruvian Government before December 31, 1917, the sum of 20,000 pounds gold (pound=\$4.8665) or its equivalent in national bonds. At least 50 per cent of the company's employees, technical men as well as laborers, must be native Peruvians. The company shall be governed according to the laws of Peru, and the concession can not be transferred without Government permission. If all the section of the river conceded to the company is not utilized at the time specified, the Government may concede the unused part to another applicant. The Government reserves the right to expropriate the property of the company in accordance with terms set forth in the concession.

### AMERICAN CONSULAR OFFICERS ON LEAVE OF ABSENCE.

The following American consular officers are on leave of absence in the United States and will be glad to confer with business men and commercial organizations relative to conditions in their respective jurisdictions. The consul's time is available primarily for personal interviews. He has limited facilities for correspondence, and except in urgent cases letters should be directed to the consulate.

Name.	Post.	Expiration of venue.	Address.
Hale, F. D.....	Huddersfield, England	Sept. 5	Lunenburg, Vt.
Masterson, William W.....	Durban, Natal, South Africa.	Sept. 1	Carrollton, Ky.
Baker, E. Carlton.....	Nagasaki, Japan.....	Aug. 30	Apartment No. 75, The Brunswick, Washington, D. C.
Monaghan, J. C.....	Kingston, Jamaica....	Sept. 1	Avenue A and Fourteenth Street, Bayonne, N. J.
Jewell, John F.....	Chefoo, China.....	Oct. 1	Galeña, Ill.
Kemper, Graham H.....	Erfurt, Germany.....	Sept. 10	Department of State, Washington, D. C.
Goodier, James H.....	Niagara Falls, Canada.	Sept. 1	27 South Hawk Street, Albany, N. Y.
Hazeltine, Ross.....	Port Antonio, Jamaica.	Oct. 1	Department of State, Washington, D. C.
Laing, James Oliver.....	Karachi, India.....	Sept. 30	C/o University Club, Kansas City, Mo.
Leonard, Walter A.....	Colombo, Ceylon.....	Oct. 14	Essex, Iowa.
Osborne, John Ball.....	Havre, France.....	Oct. 21	Department of State, Washington, D. C.

**SWISS TRADE IN ALCOHOL.**

[Consul Walter H. Schulz, Berne, July 15.]

Before the war Switzerland obtained its alcohol from Germany, Austria, Italy, Holland, and Russia, but now only Holland and its possessions and Russia appear to be making deliveries, and these very irregularly. At present large orders are being placed in the United States for it—over \$1,500,000 worth during the past 90 days.

In normal times the price ranged from \$2.18 to \$4.38 per 100 pounds for 95/96° goods, delivered free of charge to Swiss frontier, payable after arrival, with 1 per cent discount. Shipments were executed in tank cars having a capacity of 2,650 gallons. The whole-sale agent's commission was about 1 per cent.

**Annual Consumption—American Alcohol.**

The annual consumption of alcohol in Switzerland is now 1,200 to 1,300 tank cars, or 3,200,000 to 3,450,000 gallons. After the interdiction of the sale and manufacture of absinthe in Switzerland, the nation's yearly alcohol purchases declined by some 92,500 gallons. Approximately 100,000 gallons of alcohol are used for industrial purposes, this being delivered direct to factories and there denatured.

American alcohol first appeared on the Swiss market about a year ago. The first contract worked out at \$0.98 to \$1.02 per gallon c. i. f. Marseille, including war risk, payment against confirmed bank credit at New York without discount. Swiss dealers regret that American alcohol is delivered in wooden barrels of about 50 gallons. They state that barrels containing 150 to 250 gallons are much preferred.

The duty on pure alcohol is \$0.0088 per 100 pounds for each degree; on denatured alcohol, \$0.30 per 100 pounds.

**Imports and Exports by Countries.**

The imports of pure and denatured alcohol into Switzerland during 1914 (the latest statistics available) were:

Imported from—	Pure alcohol.		Denatured alcohol.	
	Pounds.	Value.	Pounds.	Value.
Austria.....	8,351,329	\$275,354	11,953,682	\$457,807
France.....			1,751,572	71,421
Germany.....	1,127,223	48,881	321,433	13,361
Netherlands.....			436,073	16,257
Russia.....	138,891	3,981	475,315	17,061
Total, 1914.....	9,617,443	328,216	14,938,075	574,910
Total, 1913.....	12,280,186	403,143	15,584,914	575,491

The exports consisted of 440 pounds of pure alcohol (value \$68) and 1,102 pounds of denatured alcohol (value \$47); in 1913 they totaled 1,984 pounds (value \$255) and 2,204 pounds (value \$91), respectively. France was the sole destination in both years.

[A list of the principal dealers in alcohol in the Berne consular district may be had upon application to the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce or its district and cooperative offices. Ask for file No. 78993.]

**DECLINE IN DOMESTIC HARNESS BUSINESS OF CUBA.**

[Special Agent H. G. Brock, Santiago de Cuba, July 26.]

There are numerous small saddlery shops and harness-making establishments in Habana, Santiago, and several other cities of Cuba. In fact, there is scarcely a town on the island that does not have at least one shop for the manufacture and repair of harness. The use of automobiles is increasing rapidly, now that the roads throughout the country have been so generally improved, but horses and mules are still extensively used for every day travel.

**Cause of Decline.**

While no statistics are available showing the extent of the saddlery and harness manufacturing industry in Cuba, an investigation just completed covering all parts of the island shows a considerable decrease in the use of harness of domestic manufacture. This falling off first became apparent two years ago, and at least two reasons can be given for the increasing use of imported goods. In the first place, a gradual change has taken place in the type of vehicles commonly used in Cuba. For the old-fashioned two-wheeled cart drawn by oxen, horses, or mules, there has been substituted very generally the four-wheeled farm wagon and the dray. This change has necessitated a new kind of harness, which the domestic manufacturers were not in a position easily to make. The second, and most important factor in the decrease of domestic harness sales, has been a growing willingness on the part of American manufacturers to change their product to meet the peculiar requirements of the Cuban market. Several harness manufacturers in the United States have sent trained men to Cuba to secure samples of the type of harness and saddles in general use, and with these as a model to work by have increased their Cuban sales considerably.

The Cuban Federal cavalry, the rural guard, and the mounted police all use saddles very similar to those used by the United States Army. Most of the leather from which harness and saddles are made in Cuba is tanned in Cuba, principally at Matanzas or Cardenas, on the northern coast.

In the fiscal year 1913-14 Cuba imported from all countries harness and saddles to the value of \$34,016. In 1914-15 this amount was increased to \$52,350. Of this increase 90 per cent was due to greater imports from the United States. The official Cuban statistics of imports of harness and saddlery for the two years follow:

Countries.	1913-14	1914-15
United States .....	\$31,282	\$48,907
Mexico .....		200
Germany .....	630	88
Japan .....	7	600
France .....	1,771	574
Netherlands .....		338
United Kingdom .....	326	1,643
Total .....	34,016	52,350

## TO REVIVE SOUTH AFRICAN DIAMOND INDUSTRY.

[Consul Edwin N. Gunsaulus, Johannesburg, July 6.]

There are strong indications of an early, if not partial, revival of the South African diamond industry, which has been closed down since the beginning of the war, as a result of drastic action taken for the purpose of preserving the diamond market by restricting the output of stones. Closing of the diamond mines affected South Africa from an industrial and economic point of view more seriously than anything else. In fact, with the exception of diamond mining, the country's industrial operations have not suffered to any appreciable extent as a direct result of the war. The gold-mining industry of the Transvaal has made greater progress than ever before, and the working of those mines has been stimulated by the abundance of native labor. Increased activity has also been shown in other branches of mining, so that there has been an expansion of production.

### Great Loss Occasioned by Suspension of Industry.

The loss occasioned by the suspension of the diamond industry in 1914 is shown by comparing recent figures with those of production in 1913, when the mines were in full operation. During that year the yield of diamonds in South Africa amounted to 5,163,547 carats, representing a value of \$55,428,495. During 1915, practically all of the diamonds produced in the Transvaal were from the Klerksdorp-Bloemhof alluvial fields, the production amounting to 5,674 carats, of a value of \$623,238. The combined output of the Transvaal and Orange Free State for 1913, which represented a full year of diamond-mining production, was 2,698,654 carats, valued at \$21,433,852.

The directors of the Premier mine, near Pretoria, recently decided on a small revival of operations, and since January 1, 1916, certain work has been in progress. It is now proposed to commence mining and washing in August, the operations to be limited to about 25 per cent of the normal working.

Although the price of diamonds has been maintained through the cooperation of the big producers in limiting the output, the market is much restricted. America continues to be the principal market for diamonds, while the cutting industry is still mainly centered at Amsterdam.

[A report of the discovery of new diamond fields in the Transvaal was published in COMMERCE REPORTS for Aug. 9, 1916.]

## NEW THEATER IN VANCOUVER.

[Vice Consul G. C. Woodward, Vancouver, British Columbia, Aug. 3.]

Excavation work is under way for a theater building to replace the present Pantages Theater in this city, in which bookings of the Pantages Circuit are shown. It will have a frontage of 103 feet, a seating capacity of about 1,800, will cost in the neighborhood of \$265,000, and be modern in every respect. The exterior will be finished with white glazed terra cotta in Italian renaissance style. The ventilation system will be so arranged that the air in the building will be ice washed during the summer months, have an even distribution, and be changed every two minutes. Especial attention will be also paid to the accessibility of the balcony and gallery. It is expected that the new theater will be opened about December 1, 1916. The manager of the theater is A. W. Gillis, Pantages Theater, Vancouver, British Columbia.

**TRADE EXTENSION WORK IN AUSTRALIA IMPORTANT.**

[Consul General J. I. Brittain, Sydney, July 6.]

Despite the war, business in Australia remains prosperous, and people purchase freely and continue to dress well. There is a slackening in the builders' trade on account of the uncertain conditions and the excessive freight rates on materials, together with general difficulties in obtaining merchandise as a result of scarcity of cargo space.

The hope is expressed here that the recent purchase of cargo steamers by the Australian Government will, to some extent, assist in sending forward the great bulk of last year's wheat crop, which is yet in Australia. The crop prospects for the coming season are very good, as there has been plenty of rain throughout the Commonwealth. The output of mutton, beef, and wool will be curtailed, as there was a heavy loss of live stock from last year's severe drought. The increase in prices, however, will largely compensate for the loss.

**No Certainty as to Conditions After the War.**

No one can accurately predict the conditions that will follow the war, but American manufacturers and exporters seeking to enter Australia, or further extend their trade in these markets, should not anticipate any adverse conditions. It would be advisable to continue persistently and prudently in their efforts to increase American exports.

The largely increased number of American representatives in Australia—men of an energetic and prudent class—greatly assists in increasing our trade. There is great need, however, of the establishment of an American bank in Sydney, through which Americans, and those doing business with the United States, may transact business. The Japanese, with keen foresight, have already established a bank at Sydney to aid their rapidly expanding Australian commerce.

During the year ended June 30, 1916, American vessels arriving at this port numbered 100 and had a total tonnage of 122,032, while during the year ended June 30, 1915, only 33 American vessels arrived, with a tonnage of 576,259. The scarcity of tonnage has brought into service many old sailing vessels. The cargoes of sailing vessels are principally timber from the Pacific coast, although a few have brought general cargo.

[An article on increased American shipping in Australia was published in **COMMERCE REPORTS** for Apr. 1, 1916.]

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**Fiber Used in Making Artificial Hair for Dolls.**

A sample of fiber, known locally in Brazil as "tucum," has been forwarded from Rio de Janeiro by Consul General A. L. M. Gottschalk. It has been exported from Brazil in fair quantities to Germany for use in making artificial hair for dolls. The sample may be inspected at the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, its district or cooperative offices. The name of a person who should be addressed at Rio de Janeiro or New York by those interested in this fiber may also be obtained from these offices. Refer in each instance to file No. 79083.

## FOREIGN TRADE OPPORTUNITIES.

Reserved addresses may be obtained from the Bureau and its district offices. Request for each opportunity should be on a separate sheet and state opportunity number. The Bureau does not furnish credit ratings or assume responsibility as to the standing of foreign inquirers; the usual precautions should be taken in all cases.

**Hatchets**, No. 22180.—A manufacturing company in the United States has forwarded to the Bureau the name and address of a firm in France which desires quotations on 200 dozen hatchets (without handles), weighing from 250 to 275 grams, in cases of 25 dozen. Quotations are also desired on hatchets weighing 900 grams, in cases of 10 dozen. A sample of the hatchet may be inspected at the Bureau or its district offices. (Refer to Miscel. No. 142.)

**Steel carding ribbons**, No. 22181.—An American consular officer in Spain writes that a firm of commission merchants in his district is in the market for steel carding ribbons for attaching to perch machine cylinders used in working up the nap on textiles. A sample of the ribbon may be inspected at the Bureau or its district offices. (Refer to file No. 79072.) Correspondence in English. References.

**Dried roselle calyces**, No. 22182.—A firm in Hawaii writes the Bureau that it desires to find a market for dried calyces of the roselle plant, a vegetable coloring used in the manufacture of jelly. Price, 70 cents a pound f. o. b. Honolulu. A sample of the calyces may be inspected at the Bureau or its district offices. (Refer to Miscel. No. 143.)

**Motorcycles**, No. 22183.—An American consular officer in the Netherlands reports that a dealer in that country wishes to represent American manufacturers of motorcycles. He proposes to buy on his own account for cash. Correspondence may be in English. References.

**Mica**, No. 22184.—A firm in Brazil informs an American consular officer of its desire to communicate with American importers and others interested in the purchase of mica, which the firm is prepared to supply in considerable quantities. A sample of the mica has been received and may be inspected at the Bureau or its district offices. (Refer to file No. 79094.) Correspondence may be in English.

**Metal tubes and sheets**, No. 22185.—An American consular officer in Spain writes that a firm in his district wishes to represent American manufacturers and exporters of brass, copper, and zinc in tubes and sheets. Correspondence in English. References.

**Machinery, yarns, silk, etc.**, No. 22186.—A knitting company in Australia wishes to communicate with American manufacturers and exporters of art silk for making sweaters, mercerized yarn and wool yarn for machine knitting, machines for covering buttons, and knitting-machine needles. Reference.

**New bleaching process**, No. 22187.—An American consular officer in Switzerland writes that a business man in his district desires to communicate with American manufacturers and others interested in acquiring the rights for a newly discovered bleaching process for Tagal hemp and cotton batting. Samples of Tagal hemp and cotton, showing the result of the process, may be inspected, and further information obtained at the Bureau or its district offices. (Refer to file No. 78934.)

## OFFICES OF THE BUREAU OF FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC COMMERCE.

### DISTRICT OFFICES.

NEW YORK: Room 409, Customhouse.  
BOSTON: 18th floor, Customhouse.  
CHICAGO: 504 Federal Building.  
ST. LOUIS: 402 Third National Bank Building.  
ATLANTA: 521 Post Office Building.  
NEW ORLEANS: 1020 Hibernia Bank Building.  
SAN FRANCISCO: 307 Customhouse.  
SEATTLE: 848 Henry Building.

### COOPERATIVE OFFICES.

CLEVELAND: Chamber of Commerce.  
CINCINNATI: Chamber of Commerce.  
CINCINNATI: C., N. O. & T. P. Ry. Co.  
LOS ANGELES: Chamber of Commerce.  
DETROIT: Board of Commerce.  
PHILADELPHIA: Chamber of Commerce.  
CHATTANOOGA: South American Agent, Southern Ry. Co.

# COMMERCE REPORTS



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No. 196      Washington, D. C., Monday, August 21      1916

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## MAXIMUM PRICES FOR WHEAT AND BRAN IN FRANCE.

[Consul Tracey Lay, detailed as vice consul at Paris, July 31 and Aug. 4.]

By a law published in the Journal Officiel of July 30, 1916, regulations were established governing the taxing and the requisitioning of cereals. Dating from August 1, 1916, and continuing during hostilities and for one year following the general demobilization, wheat harvested in France can not be sold or requisitioned on the farm of the producer at a price exceeding 33 francs per 100 kilos (\$2.89 per 100 pounds). This maximum price may be increased to include expenses for transportation and haulage to the mills, storage and other changes, and remuneration of merchants and other intermediaries, provided such expenses do not exceed 1.50 francs per 100 kilos (13 cents per 100 pounds).

The present act also amends article 8 of the law of October 16, 1915, and the law of April 25, 1916 [see COMMERCE REPORTS for Oct. 23, 1915, and May 19, 1916], by increasing the extract percentage serving as a basis of calculation for the fixing of maximum prices from 77 kilos to 80 kilos, i. e., from 77 per cent to 80 per cent.

Article 3 of the present act further amends article 1 of the law of October 16, 1915, which granted the right of collective requisition, by providing that the prefect of each Department of France may directly requisition wheat, flour, or bran, as well as rye, barley, and oats, whether they be held by the producer or deposited in a store, warehouse, or station, or whether they are being transferred by railway or waterway.

### Recent Decree Fixes Price for Bran.

By virtue of a law of April 17, 1916, the French Government was empowered to fix by decree maximum prices for the sale of oats, rye, barley, bran, and their by-products. A presidential decree of August 3, 1916, published in the Journal Officiel of August 4, 1916, fixes the price of bran as follows:

The price of bran delivered at the mill shall not exceed 18 francs per 100 kilos (\$1.57 per 100 pounds). This price may be exclusive

of the cost of all expenses of haulage incident to its transfer from the mill to the consumer not exceeding 1.50 francs per 100 kilos (13 cents per 100 pounds).

The present decree is amendatory to the decree of May 2, 1916, published in the *Journal Officiel* of May 4, 1916. [See *COMMERCE REPORTS* for May 31, 1916.] The effect of the present decree is to raise the maximum price of bran from 16.50 francs per 100 kilos (\$1.45 per 100 pounds) to 18 francs per 100 kilos (\$1.57 per 100 pounds).

### **MOTOR CAR AGENCIES IN PORTUGUESE EAST AFRICA.**

[Consul George A. Chamberlain, Lourenço Marques, June 27.]

A few months ago Lourenço Marques had small hopes of becoming a motoring center, for the simple reason that the town is an oasis of macadam in a sea of sand. This sea of sand, 18 inches deep, extends for miles. But now a bridge in the form of a road is being built which will link up with the good roads of the high veldt, and once the motorist can buy his car and run it comfortably to any farm in Swaziland or the Eastern Transvaal, or even into Johannesburg, this port will suddenly become a rival to Johannesburg as a selling point.

In the meantime the local market for cars is very small and is further reduced by the exorbitant cost of such cars as reach it. Nevertheless it is of increasing interest to manufacturers to establish themselves here at least to the extent of having a few motors in the hands of the public as an ocular exhibit.

Lourenço Marques is the acknowledged gateway to the Transvaal. Through this port flow annually about \$30,000,000 worth of goods. It is 200 miles nearer the eastern Transvaal than is Johannesburg and only 60 miles from the borders of Swaziland; it is a distributing port for a thousand miles of coast.

#### **Suggestions to Manufacturers.**

The following suggestions will be found to apply to local conditions and have already been accepted by one or two progressive manufacturers:

1. As scarcely a single firm in Portuguese East Africa is in a position to run a garage or give large initial orders, it will pay any factory both as a means of advertisement as well as with a view to securing competition for an agency at a later date, to sell to any individual (giving its general export discount) for cash against shipping documents.

2. When agencies are sought by Lourenço Marques houses or upon expiration of present agreements with Johannesburg, the manufacturer should either specify the Eastern Transvaal as open territory or assign it to Lourenço Marques.

3. The manufacturer should invariably limit the margin of ultimate profit to the agent wherever situated. For instance, if the net profit allowed to agents in the United States is 20 per cent it should be stipulated that the South African sellers are to content themselves, say, with 30 per cent profit.

The town of Lourenço Marques, up to the present, is the only field for motoring in the entire Province of Mozambique, and its capacity



is limited to 40 miles of macadam streets. The white population does not exceed 5,000, but in spite of its limited size it supports a taxi company running a dozen cars, and private buyers import about 10 cars annually.

These considerations show how useless it is to send to a purchaser here the usual agency contract obliging the buyer to take so many cars as a starter and to put in a garage before he can get an export discount. At present it is cheaper by \$200 to buy a car from any merchant in the United States at full retail price and import it than to buy the same car from the accredited agents of the manufacturer in South Africa.

#### **Market Sure to Develop.**

If it were not for the fact that Lourenço Marques is bound sooner or later to come into its own as a motoring center and point of departure, it would not pay to try to interest manufacturers in being lenient as well as attentive to this market, but the future is assured, and when it comes it will develop rapidly for the firms that have established a local reputation for their cars.

In the meantime it will pay manufacturers of caterpillar types of motors and tractors capable of negotiating deep and pulverized sand to file with this office their catalogues, price lists, and a statement of general export discount, confidential or open. Had such a company circularized this district two years ago it would by now have established the local government as a good customer. In this regard it is necessary to warn suppliers that fine sand is altogether a different proposition from soft mud and is a problem unsolved, as far as this part of the world is aware. It is not a question of horsepower but one of gravitation and grit-proof bearings.

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#### **BANANA SHIPMENTS FROM PUERTO CORTES RESUMED.**

[Consul Walter F. Boyle, Puerto Cortes, Honduras, Aug. 7.]

The month of August marked the resumption of shipments of bananas from Puerto Cortes, which is to say from the line of the Honduras National Railroad, a productive banana territory that has suffered for some eight months the total lack of a market for its product. Shipments, however, are being made only on a small scale, the Cuyamel Fruit Co. being the company taking fruit and accepting only sufficient fruit to complete the cargoes of ships that have failed to secure full loads at the port of Omoa. However, this company states that it hopes to take full shiploads as soon as it can charter additional shipping.

The Government of Honduras, in order to encourage these shipments, has conceded a reduced freight rate by railroad and free wharfage.

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#### **BERMUDA'S MOTOR-BUS LAW FAILS TO PASS.**

[Consul Carl R. Loop, Hamilton, Aug. 5.]

At the third reading of the bill which was to provide for a restricted motor-bus service in Bermuda [see *COMMERCE REPORTS* for July 11, 1916], the Legislature defeated the bill by a vote of 15 to 14.

**CROP CONDITIONS IN GERMANY.**

[Consul Henry C. A. Damm, Aix-la-Chapelle, July 26.]

The weather has been unusually wet and cool all summer, but it is probable that this will not seriously affect the grain crops. It will delay the harvest from 10 to 14 days. This section of Germany is noted for its abundant rainfall. Records which have been kept for 63 years give an average of 66 millimeters (2.6 inches) for June. This year the rainfall was 99 millimeters (3.9 inches) during June. The highest amount ever recorded for the same month was 163 millimeters (6.3 inches) in 1880. These figures were recently published by the Aachen Meteorological Observatory. At no time during June or July up to the present time has the weather been really warm, and bright, sunny days have been the exception.

It is believed that the grain crops in the neighborhood of Aix-la-Chapelle are in fine condition. The grain has a good stand, the straw is abundantly long and firm, and the ears are large, heavy, and well filled. This is true of all kinds of grain, but especially so of the summer grains. Winter barley is ripe and is being cut; the harvest of the winter rye will soon begin. Summer wheat, barley, and oats look most promising. Comparison with the appearance of the grain fields at the corresponding period last year gives the impression that this year's crop will far exceed that of last year, to which a very dry spring did irreparable injury. In order that the expectations may be fully realized, warm, sunny weather would be welcomed.

The first cut of hay yielded a good quantity, but the quality must necessarily have suffered from the rains. The early potatoes came into the market later than usual, but are of fine quality and seemingly abundant. The outlook for the fall potatoes is promising. Vegetables of all kinds are plentiful.

The crop of early fruit is short this year. Small fruit, currants, gooseberries, and raspberries are producing the normal amount.

**SAMPLES OF COTTON GOODS FROM CHINA.**

Samples of the principal varieties of cotton piece goods imported into China have been received from the consul at Changsha, Nelson T. Johnson [and will be loaned to interested persons and firms upon application to the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce or its district offices. Refer to file No. 77630].

Changsha is an interior port of south-central China, equidistant from Canton and Shanghai, and its trade in cotton goods is fairly representative of the Yangtze Valley. The Changsha trade in velvets is equal to that of some of the larger ports, and that in cotton Italians also is exceptionally large. Among the samples forwarded by Consul Johnson, besides the ordinary sheetings and shirtings, are drills and jeans, T cloths, Italians, Venetians, and lastings, Turkey-red cambrics, flannels, velvets, union and poncho cloth, broadcloth, long ells, Spanish stripes, and Amoy cloth.

Instead of being tied up into unwieldy bundles, the samples are neatly bound into book form. Each is preceded by a descriptive page similar to a label in a commercial museum, giving the English and Chinese names of the cloth, the country from which imported, the weight, dimensions and price, statistics of imports, and native use.

### AMERICAN MANUFACTURE OF BLEACHING MATERIALS.

The total value of bleaching materials manufactured in the United States in 1914 was 54.4 per cent greater than the amount for 1909. The United States Bureau of the Census, which has prepared a preliminary report on its review of the industry for 1914, shows an increased average output for each establishment, the number of which was 48 in 1909 and 51 in 1914.

The products of this industry embrace chloride of lime or bleaching powder, chloride of soda, and other hypochlorites, hydrogen peroxide (or dioxide); sodium and other peroxides (or dioxides); bisulphites of soda, lime, etc.; chlorine, sulphur dioxide, lime-sulphur solutions, etc. This report is confined to these products as articles of commerce and does not embrace those made and consumed in the same plant. Many of the products are now manufactured by the aid of electricity.

The total value of products made for sale in 1914 was \$1,964,403, an amount which exceeded the corresponding figure for 1909 by \$1,748,675. Hypochlorites constitute the most important class, the production in 1914 aggregating 222,152,000 pounds, valued at \$2,578,269, and exceeding that of 1909 by 90.2 per cent in quantity and 44.3 per cent in value. This class consists principally of chloride of lime (bleaching powder), but also includes relatively small quantities of chloride of soda and other hypochlorites. A large amount of these products is made electrically.

The production of hydrogen peroxide, or hydrogen dioxide ( $H_2O_2$ ), in 1914 was 32,594,807 pounds, valued at \$1,303,596, and in 1909 it was 9,925,568 pounds, valued at \$870,541. Because of lack of uniformity in the strength of solutions, the quantities are not comparable, but in value the 1914 product exceeded that of 1909 by 49.7 per cent.

Bisulphites of soda, lime, etc., showed a total production in 1914 of 26,346,000 pounds, valued at \$243,559, representing a decrease of 16.9 per cent in quantity, together with an increase of 7.7 per cent in value, as compared with the output in 1909.

The production of chlorine for sale in 1914 was reported as 12,217,000 pounds, valued at \$472,836. No figures for 1909 are available. The output of other bleaching materials, including sodium peroxide, sulphur dioxide, lime-sulphur solutions, etc., in 1914 was valued at \$366,143.

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### NEW HOSPITALS IN ARGENTINA.

[Consul William Dawson, Jr., Rosario, July 11.]

The Argentine Government has recently accepted tenders for the construction of two new hospitals, one at Posadas, Territory of Misiones, and the other at La Rioja. The hospital at Posadas, to be known as the Hospital Común Regional de Misiones, is to be constructed by Manuel Gaggero, whose bid calls for an expenditure of \$136,529, a reduction of 7.25 per cent from the official estimate. Juan B. Beltrane was the successful bidder for the construction of the hospital at La Rioja, which is to be called the Hospital Común Regional Andino. The accepted bid, which includes 10 per cent for unforeseen expenses, and represents a reduction of 2 per cent from official estimates, involves an expenditure of \$208,390.

**IMPORTED BUTTER POPULAR IN SPAIN.**

[Consul General Carl Bailey Hurst, Barcelona, May 29.]

Although the consumption per capita of butter in Spain is much smaller than in the United States, a considerable quantity is imported. According to the Spanish customs tariff an import duty of 58.35 pesetas per 100 kilos is charged, by paragraph No. 611, on "butter, margarine, coconut butter, or vegetable butter," but the duty is reduced to 40 pesetas per 100 kilos (\$7.72 per 220 pounds) "on butter the product and origin of the countries designated in Groups I and II (so long as the treaty with the Netherlands remains in force." The United States is one of the countries designated. The imports into Spain under this paragraph for the past three years, measured in kilos of 2.2 pounds, and with values stated in pesetas, equivalent to \$0.193 United States currency, were: During 1913, 479,019 kilos, 1,298,141 pesetas; in 1914, 507,325 kilos, 1,374,851 pesetas; in 1915, 471,921 kilos, 1,278,906 pesetas.

**Previous Sources of Supply for Imported Butter.**

The butter imported in bulk has hitherto come largely from France and in lesser quantity from Italy; imported in tins, the chief countries of origin are Denmark and Holland. The tins usually sold weigh  $\frac{1}{2}$  kilo and  $\frac{1}{4}$  kilo, retailing at 2 and 3 pesetas, respectively. The tinned butter is extensively advertised in the larger Spanish cities. If American producers are prepared to put first-class table butter on the Spanish market at prices a trifle lower than those quoted for other imported varieties, there is strong probability that a profitable business can be created. As far as can be ascertained, there is no tinned American butter on the local market at present. The manufacture of butter in Spain is comparatively undeveloped, but is now increasing with the demand for fresh butter such as was formerly imported.

**Should Offer Most Favorable Terms of Sale.**

It would be well for American exporters, after having satisfied themselves of the reliability of prospective importers here, to offer their most favorable terms of sale, in order to retain under normal conditions such trade as may develop. Spanish importers are accustomed to credits of from 60 to 90 days or cash 30 days after receipt of merchandise. Since these are the terms most frequently offered by European manufacturers, the Spanish importers are not inclined to accept less favorable terms, although in the present circumstances they may be prepared to make concessions in regard to payments.

[A list of wholesale dealers in butter and cheese at Barcelona may be obtained from the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, its district or cooperative offices. Refer to file No. 78369. An article on the butter trade of Andalusia was published in COMMERCE REPORTS for July 8, 1916.]

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**Corn Crop in South Africa.**

Vice Consul John W. Dye, of Cape Town, reports under date of July 10, that the corn (maize) crop of the Union of South Africa will be about 7,044,000 bushels short of last year's crop, and that there will be little available for export. The exports of corn in 1915 were about 4,268,000 bushels.

**COSTA RICA IMPORTING AMERICAN BEER.**

[Consul C. Donaldson, Port Limon, June 16.]

Since the beginning of the European war practically all the beer in the Port Limon district has been imported from the United States, as no German beer is now available, and the only English beer ever imported was a heavy ale, of both dark and light quality. The American beer now sold here is principally of a light, mild variety.

The prices vary according to grade. The highest grades are sold for \$2.20 per dozen, \$0.24 per bottle, or \$20 per barrel. The cheaper grades are sold for \$0.20 per bottle, \$2 per dozen, or \$16 per barrel.

All such goods are introduced into this market by local agents or representatives. Established merchants of good standing are accustomed to act as agents for the different makes. Some importers, especially the German houses, have always been accustomed to having their names placed upon the labels of bottles.

The general method of packing adopted by all exporters of beer to this district is 10 dozen bottles, wrapped individually in corrugated paper, to the barrel. The import tariff on beer is 0.15 colones per kilo (about \$0.0325 United States gold per pound).

One agent at Port Limon could effectively cover all the territory in this district, as it is customary here for the large importing houses of Port Limon to supply all commissaries and provision stores along the railway line, or in neighboring towns.

[A list of suggested agents for American beer in the Port Limon district may be obtained from the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, its district or cooperative offices. Refer to file No. 77807.]

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**BIRMINGHAM UNIVERSITY TO HAVE CHAIR OF RUSSIAN.**

[Consul Samuel M. Taylor, Birmingham, England, Aug. 3.]

The Birmingham Chamber of Commerce has raised \$45,000 as a part fund for endowing a Chair in the University of Birmingham for the teaching of the Russian language. It is proposed by the committee having the matter in charge to appeal to the other commercial organizations in the midland counties for further contributions, and little doubt is expressed that a sufficient sum will be secured to make the project a certainty.

It has already been arranged with the university that the name of the Chair shall be "The Birmingham Chamber of Commerce Chair of Russian." Further provisions are that in the arrangements for the establishment of the Russian department provision shall be made for the practical instruction of the students in the language, history, nature, and customs of the Russian people, with special reference to the commercial point of view; that suitable arrangements shall be made for teaching the Russian language at evening classes in the city of Birmingham by the professor or lecturer, preferably at one of the existing educational institutions of the city other than the university.

The Chamber of Commerce has had this matter under advisement for some time, and it is now believed that during 1917 the Chair will be fully established and classes formed.

[Chairs of Russian are to be established also at Leeds and Manchester, England. See COMMERCE REPORTS for Aug. 10, 1916.]

**RECORD BROKEN IN TRADE WITH NOTTINGHAM.**

[Consul C. M. Hitch, Nottingham, England, July 24.]

The second quarter of 1916 has more than maintained the large increase of 76½ per cent in the declared exports from the Nottingham district to the United States that was shown in the first quarter of 1916, as compared with last year. The second quarter's increase over the corresponding period of 1915 amounted to 85 per cent.

The total exports from this district to the United States during the quarter ended June 30, 1916, amounted to \$3,156,702, as against \$1,704,678 for the corresponding period of 1915, an increase of \$1,452,024. The export returns for the first six months of 1916 amount to \$6,407,060, as compared with \$3,547,994 for the first six months of 1915, an increase of \$2,859,066, or 80½ per cent.

The first six months of 1914, just before the beginning of the European war, showed the largest volume of exports to the United States from this district that had ever been recorded up to that time, but the returns for the first six months of this year show an increase of \$1,269,578, or 24½ per cent, over the 1914 period. The items making the largest increases during the quarter ended June 30, 1916, in comparison with 1915, were:

Articles.	1915	1916
Ale .....	\$11,957	\$25,053
Hosiery: .....		
Cotton .....	6,828	13,023
Wool .....	3,708	11,719
Laces: Cotton .....	592,161	1,250,096
Nets: .....		
Cotton .....	483,057	739,119
Silk .....	69,002	301,879
Leather .....	17,077	26,566
Machinery: Second-hand lace machines .....		19,753
Skins: .....		
Salted sheep .....	78,185	148,392
Moleskins .....		11,743
Underwear: Cotton .....	3,231	8,667
Voilings: .....		
Cotton .....	5,334	12,522
Silk .....	944	2,628
Upholstery fabrics .....		10,881
Yarns: .....		
Cotton .....	160,020	260,234
Mercerized .....	2,570	14,366

**Increased American Demand for Laces, Nets, and Yarns.**

The largest increases were in cotton laces, cotton nets, silk nets, sheep skins and cotton yarns. The demand from the United States for laces, nets, and yarns in this market has been on the increase for several months, and the figures for the first half of 1916 are phenomenal, considering the shortage of labor and transportation facilities.

The item of \$19,758 for second-hand machinery, represents a sale of several second-hand Levers lace machines, which were purchased in this market by a firm in Rhode Island, to be used in a new lace factory recently established.

A year ago the exportation of upholstery fabrics was unknown to this district, but in the latter part of 1915 a large curtain manufacturer conceived the idea of making this class of fabrics on a curtain machine having a jacquard arrangement. The experiment proved so successful that a regular industry is being developed and during

the first six months of this year \$14,638 worth of these fabrics were exported to the United States.

The great increase in the exportation of salted sheepskins is due to the large demand among manufacturers in the United States, as these skins are used largely for hatbands, bookbinding, etc. There has been considerable decrease in the manufacture of hats in European countries since the outbreak of the war, and this has given impetus to hat manufacturing in the United States.

#### **Exporters of Moleskins Make Direct Contracts.**

The item of \$11,743 for moleskins is deceptive in appearing to represent a new industry that only recently has been developed between this district and the United States. As a matter of fact, considerable quantities have been shipped heretofore, but were invoiced through London. Exporters in this district have recently made direct contracts with importers in the United States, and moleskins, which are largely used in the making up of costumes and women's dresses, are now being exported direct from this district.

The declared export returns of the Leicester consular agency for the quarter ended June 30, 1916, amounted to \$94,463, as compared with \$61,625 for the corresponding period of 1915, an increase of 53 per cent. The principal increases were: Burnt clay, increased from \$502 to \$1,355; elastic webs, from \$5,138 to \$10,221; hair nets, from \$200 to \$10,707; leather, from \$3,792 to \$12,168; vegetable seeds, from \$,7180 to \$10,082, and show cards, from \$3,997 to \$9,049.

The increases in the exportation of burnt clay, hair nets, and show cards are attributable to the fact that exporters of these commodities have recently established agencies in the United States, and have largely increased their sales through these agencies. The increase in leather exports is due to the lack of demand in this country for the particular class that is being exported, and local dealers have been forced to find other markets for their surplus stocks.

### **PRICE OF COAL INCREASED IN SOUTH WALES.**

[Consul M. K. Moorhead, Swansea, July 27.]

Under the price of coal limitation act the price of coal for consumption in the United Kingdom was limited to a maximum of 4s. (97 cents) above pit-head prices in the pre-war year ending June, 1914. This maximum was fixed on the average increase in cost in June, 1915. Since then the cost of production, due to increase in wages, has risen considerably. On June 1, 1916, a general advance in wages of 15 per cent was granted to the miners, which is said to have added over 2s. (48 cents) per ton to the labor costs.

The Board of Trade has now sanctioned the raising of the statutory maximum from 4s. to 6s. 6d. (\$1.58) above pre-war prices. The result of this increase has been to raise the price of coal to consumers to an almost prohibitive figure. Ordinary soft household coal is now quoted in Swansea by retail dealers, delivered to residences, at £2 (\$9.73) per ton. There is no doubt that by October and November, when the demand for coal for household consumption becomes heavy, the price will again increase. The present retail price of coal is double that of the pre-war period.

**CLOTHING-TRADE OPPORTUNITIES IN SOUTH AFRICA.**

[Consul Edwin N. Gunsaulus, Johannesburg, July 6.]

A recent issue of the South African Export Gazette contained an article on the clothing trade in South Africa, with special reference to the importance of the native demand. It states that, notwithstanding the war, the tailoring and other branches of the outfitting trade have, on the whole, maintained a very satisfactory level of business; that conditions have distinctly improved of late, and during the first four months of this year the imports of apparel and slops from the United Kingdom, as compared with those in the corresponding period of 1915, rose from \$3,611,668 to \$5,680,141—an advance of more than 50 per cent. The review continues:

Whatever disturbing factors have made themselves felt, the trade on account of the white population is at least as good as in normal times; while the chief business in respect of the Kaffir market is exceptionally good. This latter branch has seen some very important developments in recent years. A considerable section of it has tended to approximate yearly more nearly to white standards of quality, while the demand for the poorer qualities has also greatly extended, as the masses of the natives have come more and more under commercial influences. The Kaffir clothing mainly in demand consists of dark tweeds and low-grade meltons, in greys, browns, stripes, checks, and fancy whipcords. Manufacturers and shippers are wisely making every effort to maintain supplies, for the Kaffir trade is of growing size and importance, and will continue long after military needs cease. They realize that to let it slip now may be to sacrifice it permanently to foreign competitors.

The imports of American clothing into South Africa are very small, chiefly because little attention has been paid by American manufacturers to this important line of trade. This market is well worth the careful consideration of our clothing manufacturers, who excel in style and workmanship, but who, for some unexplained reason, have never made serious efforts to obtain a foothold in South Africa.

**AMERICAN CONSULAR OFFICERS ON LEAVE OF ABSENCE.**

The following American consular officers are on leave of absence in the United States and will be glad to confer with business men and commercial organizations relative to conditions in their respective jurisdictions. The consul's time is available primarily for personal interviews. He has limited facilities for correspondence, and except in urgent cases letters should be directed to the consulate.

Name.	Post.	Expiration of venue.	Address.
Hale, F. D.....	Huddersfield, England	Sept. 5	Lunenburg, Vt.
Mason, William W.....	Durban, Natal, South Africa	Sept. 1	Carrollton, Ky.
Baker, E. Carlton.....	Nagasaki, Japan.....	Aug. 30	Apartment No. 75, The Brunswick, Washington, D. C.
Monaghan, J. C.....	Kingston, Jamaica....	Sept. 1	Avenue A and Fourteenth Street, Bayonne, N. J.
Jewell, John F.....	Chefoo, China.....	Oct. 1	Galena, Ill.
Kemper, Graham H.....	Erfurt, Germany.....	Sept. 10	Department of State, Washington, D. C.
Goodier, James H.....	Niagara Falls, Canada.	Sept. 1	27 South Hawk Street, Albany, N. Y.
Hazeltine, Ross.....	Port Antonio, Jamaica.	Oct. 1	Department of State, Washington, D. C.
Lain, James Oliver.....	Karachi, India.....	Sept. 30	C/o University Club, Kansas City, Mo.
Leonard, Walter A.....	Colombo, Ceylon.....	Oct. 14	Essex, Iowa.
Osborne, John Ball.....	Havre, France.....	Oct. 21	Department of State, Washington, D. C.



**DYERS' WAGES ADVANCED BY ARBITRATION.**

[Consul Augustus E. Ingram, Bradford, England, Aug. 3.]

As a result of arbitration by the Board of Trade between the master dyers in Yorkshire and Lancashire and the employees in the trade, an advance in wages affecting 50,000 workers was recently made.

In Yorkshire youths under 18 years of age and women will receive an advance of 2s. 8d. (65 cents) per week, making an increase of 4s. 8d. (\$1.14) since the commencement of the war; and the men will receive an advance of 4s. (97 cents) per week, making an advance of 7s. (\$1.70) over the same period.

The women employees in Lancashire receive an advance of 2s. 7½d. (64 cents), or a total of 4s. 7½d. (\$1.12) since the war began, and the men have an increase of 3s. 11d. (95 cents), or a total war increase of 6s. 11½d. (\$1.69), while the pieceworkers receive an advance of 10 per cent on their earnings or, including the flat rate advance of 2s. (49 cents) and 3s. (73 cents) given them previously, an increase amounting to between 4s. (97 cents) and 5s. (\$1.22) per week.

**To Be Recognized as Dependent on War Conditions.**

The respective advances take effect as from and after June 2, 1916, and are to be regarded as war wages and recognized as due to and dependent on the existence of the abnormal conditions prevailing in consequence of the war. The normal week in Lancashire is 55½ hours, while in Yorkshire it is 54 hours.

In the application by the employees for an advance in wages, it was stated that the prices of foodstuffs alone were more than 60 per cent above those immediately preceding the war, while the prices of fuel and wearing apparel show equally marked advances.

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**STORE DEVOTED TO SALE OF AMERICAN GOODS.**

[Consul George S. Messersmith, Curaçao, July 27.]

For many years there has been a good demand in Curaçao for American goods of all kinds, but the almost exclusive use of American products at this time is perhaps most strikingly shown by the opening recently in Willemstad of a store in which only American goods are sold. The shop is what would be termed in the United States a grocery or a delicatessen store. There is a large variety of canned meats, vegetables, fish, cheese, cakes, crackers, vegetables, coffee, spices, preserves, sauces, candies, and kindred lines.

The shop already enjoys good patronage, and the owner is sending new orders to the United States by almost every mail.

[The name of the owner and manager of the store mentioned may be obtained from the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, its district or cooperative offices. Refer to file No. 79331.]

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**New Brunswick Copper Mines To Be Reopened.**

Consul E. Verne Richardson, of Moncton, Canada, reports that copper mines near Dorchester, New Brunswick, which have been idle for 16 years, are about to be reopened, much of the new machinery that will be installed being already on the ground. Three pits will be worked.

**PROGRESS MADE IN SOUTH INDIA'S COMMERCE.**

[Consul Lucien Memminger, Madras, June 19.]

**Government to Take Charge of Glass Factory.**

Madras newspapers state that a local glass factory which went into liquidation some time ago has been acquired by the Madras Government and is to be opened soon on a commercial basis. Experiments carried out by a member of the staff of the Department of Industries in manufacturing soda-water bottles capable of withstanding a pressure of over 200 pounds have proved successful, it is stated. The bottles made formerly in the local factory burst under the pressure to which they were subjected.

There is a very large sale of aerated waters and flavored beverages, such as lemonade, limeade, roseade (made from rose extract), ginger beer, etc., in South India, and for the bazaar trade, as well as for home consumption, these beverages are nearly all put up in half pint or pint bottles with glass ball stoppers or screw stoppers fitting into rubber washers. The bottles are imported from England. The present supply is not sufficient to meet the demand on account of limited shipments, and prices are rising.

**Carbonated Waters Popular Among People.**

The use of carbonated waters and soft drinks is general not only among the well-to-do native population and the European community, but also among the masses of the people, and probably no article for food consumption introduced into the country by Europeans has gained favor among a greater number of persons than flavored drinks or soda water. They are regularly sold in all bazaars and their consumption even by the poor people seems to be considerable. In the bazaar trade the drinks are not served with ice nor are they ice cooled. The average price per half pint of lemonade or soda in the bazaars is 6 pies (\$.01), the bottle being returned to the vendor. Several local firms manufacturing these drinks mark each bottle with a statement that the contents have not been touched by hand, this being considered necessary to meet the Hindu requirements.

[Names and addresses of manufacturers and dealers in aerated waters in South India who possibly might be interested in receiving catalogues of American manufacturers of fruit extracts, etc., and the name and address of a member of the staff of the Department of Industries who is directly in charge of organizing the new factory mentioned in this report, may be obtained from the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce or its district offices. Refer to file No. 78693.]

**May Establish Paper Mill Near Calicut.**

A firm of general merchants in India, which has offices in New York, is considering a proposal to establish a paper mill at Feroke, near Calicut, on the west coast of Madras Presidency. American manufacturers of paper-making machinery may be interested in this project. It is also stated that new machinery is to be installed in the mill of the Luxmi Paper Mills Co., Punalur, Travancore, India. It is believed that in the case of the latter mill local vegetable materials will be used for pulp, possibly bamboo wood, the uses of which are being investigated by the Government.

[The name and address of the firm that may establish a paper mill at Feroke may be obtained from the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce or its district offices. Refer to file No. 78693a.]

**Compulsory Education Creates Demand for Supplies.**

Compulsory education has been introduced in all the districts of the Native State of Mysore. Under a law recently promulgated, the parents or guardians of all boys completing the age of 7 on or before July 1, 1916, are required to send them to some school recognized by the department of education until they reach the age of 11. In case of default all parents and guardians, it is stated, make themselves liable to a penalty prescribed in the Mysore elementary-education act of 1913. Twenty-eight towns and settlements throughout Mysore are prescribed by the education department as centers where students are to be collected.

The Dewan of Mysore, in a recent public address, stated that the percentage of literate population in the State was only about 8; that of 5,705,359 people, 456,428 had received school education. It is believed that the new law will result in opening up new schools or in the enlargement of the present institutions, which will no doubt cause an increased demand for school supplies of various sorts, such as slate pencils and slates, school desks, books, etc., although it is not yet known whether or not all books used are to be printed in English. American manufacturers of school supplies interested should write to the inspector general of education in Mysore, Bangalore, Mysore, India.

**Gold Production and Number Employed in Industry.**

Mysore had produced 11,255,377 ounces of gold, worth \$206,665,-034, to the end of December, 1914, and of this amount \$81,052,375 has been distributed in dividends and the Mysore government has taken \$10,645,162 in royalties. Of 27,754 mining employees in Mysore, 26,290 are engaged in gold production. In this number are 531 Europeans, 327 Anglo-Indians, and 25,432 Indians, a total of 15,507 being employed on underground and 10,783 on surface work.

**Deputation to Russia from Madras.**

Arrangements are being made by the Government of the Madras Presidency to send an official deputation to Russia, with the object of increasing the trade of South India with that country. Chambers of commerce and business men there will receive information concerning the kinds of products that South India has to offer for Russian markets. Closer business relations are to be encouraged.

Russia now buys oilseeds and spices of South India to a limited extent, but it is believed that sales could be largely increased, and that tea, rubber, etc., produced in this region might find an important market.

The Director of Agriculture of Madras has been selected as the official member of the deputation and will be accompanied by a representative of a local bank and by a representative of the South Indian Chamber of Commerce, an organization composed of native merchants.

**Government Studies Hydroelectric Project.**

The Government of Madras is examining the financial aspects of the Siruvani (Coimbatore district) hydroelectric project which, if it proves successful, will give power sufficient to work any small railway workshops which may be established by the South Indian Railway at Podanur, and also about 3,000 horsepower for

the use of Coimbatore mills, in addition to providing an adequate water supply for Coimbatore and Podanur. American manufacturers interested should write to the Chief Engineer, Public Works Department, Government of Madras, Madras, British India.

#### **American Steamship Visits Tuticorin.**

Shipping statistics recently completed by the collector of customs at Madras for the fiscal year ended March 31, 1916, reveal the fact that an American steamship of 1,714 tons, the *Hanmetal*, entered Tuticorin, a port in the Madras Presidency, on November 15, 1915, in ballast from Bombay via Colombo, and cleared to Singapore on November 18 with 34,000 bags of powdery salt, valued at \$5,515. This is the first merchant vessel flying an American flag that has been in these waters for many years.

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### **VENEZUELA'S MARKET FOR FLOUR.**

[Consul G. K. Donald, Maracaibo, July 31.]

Practically all the flour used in this district is imported from the United States. There are three very popular brands, one favored by the retail trade of Maracaibo, another by the bakeries, and a third by those handling the interior trade. At least one, and possibly all, of these companies send salesmen every year to visit the larger buyers.

In 1914 the imports were 2,361,304 kilos (5,205,739 pounds), valued at \$143,048 gold, of which the United States supplied 2,360,302 kilos, valued at \$142,970. In 1915 the imports amounted to 2,108,858 kilos, valued at \$168,070, all from the United States. Flour for this market is always in the standard bag, never in barrels.

Local firms usually order through commission merchants in New York, the customary terms being 90 to 120 days' time draft, with interest at the rate of 6 per cent per annum.

Correspondence with importers here should be in Spanish, if possible, and prices should be quoted f. o. b. New York. From that port a steamer under the American flag (Red "D" Line) leaves for Venezuela every Wednesday. Credit information may be obtained from El Banco de Venezuela, El Banco de Maracaibo, and El Banco Comercial, all of this city.

[A list of flour importers at Maracaibo may be obtained from the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, its district or cooperative offices. Refer to file No. 79336. An article on American flour in Venezuela was published in COMMERCE REPORTS for Mar. 20, 1916.]

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### **CAST-IRON PIPING FOR ARGENTINA.**

The Argentine public health works (Obras Sanitarias de la Nacion) have issued a call for bids on an order of cast-iron piping, the bids to be opened on October 13. The River Plate Review, in noting this call, adds that the last Argentine order for this class of piping was secured by a British firm. This new contract, on the basis of recent prices, would involve about \$3,000,000. The call is for 31,613 metric tons of straight pipes, conforming to specifications of the Obras Sanitarias light type; 551 tons specials for same; 27,117 tons of straight pipes, conforming to said specifications, heavy type; and 690 specials for same. Inquiries regarding this call should be addressed to "Obras Sanitarias de la Nacion," Buenos Aires.

**CUBAN MARKET FOR RUBBER HEELS.**

[Special Agent H. G. Brock, Habana, July 25.]

The use of rubber heels on shoes is very general in Cuba, especially in the larger cities. Only heels of American manufacture are to be found, at least five well-known brands from the United States being on sale in different parts of the Island. Distribution is effected in some cases through regular shoe-jobbing houses in Habana or the various other port cities; in other cases the heels are purchased through a large shoe-findings wholesaler in Habana, who has a selling organization in each of the six provinces.

Very little advertising of rubber heels is seen outside of the capital city, and it is believed that an aggressive advertising campaign throughout the island on the part of American manufacturers of this product would result in largely increased sales. In some Cuban cities and towns, although a shoe retailer would have a good line of American-made rubber heels in stock, no attempt would be made to advertise this fact to the public. Undoubtedly window display cards of metal or cardboard, or wall posters were forwarded by the manufacturer with the shipment of heels, but in many cases these have never been used, or if used, were soon discarded. It should be emphasized in this connection that advertising matter in English is useless in most parts of Cuba. It is true that English is understood by many Cubans in Habana, but Spanish is the language of the island, and to get real results from an advertisement of any form, it should be printed in idiomatic Spanish.

There is a good sale for rubber heels attached to new shoes, many retailers carrying several lines of men's and women's shoes imported in this way. The usual price charged by a Cuban retailer for attaching rubber heels to a pair of shoes is 70 cents, instead of the standard price of 50 cents common in the United States. This amount seems to be a fair price to the native consumer, and retailers are of the opinion that very few sales are lost because of the price charged. The problem in Cuba, as in the United States, is not one of price, but of convincing the individual that he wants rubber heels on his shoes.

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**DEVELOPMENT OF CHILEAN PORT.**

[American Commercial Attaché V. L. Havens, Santiago, Chile, July 17.]

The *Diario Ilustrado* of Santiago for July 17, 1916, states that "the ship *Don Alberto*, with 1,850 tons of coal for the railways, was unloaded in the port of San Antonio in two days. Coal boats are now arriving regularly and the *Arauco* has also just arrived with a load of metal for the Naltagua Co. The breakwater now protects the anchoring place and there is no danger at any time."

San Antonio port is the closest one to the city of Santiago, and it is expected that in the course of time it will become quite important commercially, notwithstanding the opposition of business men of Valparaiso. It would be well for American shipping firms to keep San Antonio in mind, as, for small boats at least, the time is not far distant when they will be required to call there with coal, cement, and other heavy articles.

## FOREIGN TRADE OPPORTUNITIES.

Reserved addresses may be obtained from the Bureau and its district offices. Request for each opportunity should be on a separate sheet and state opportunity number. The Bureau does not furnish credit ratings or assume responsibility as to the standing of foreign inquirers; the usual precautions should be taken in all cases.

*Magician's supplies*, No. 22188.—A man in Central America asks an American consular officer to furnish him with the name of American manufacturers of magicians' supplies, and apparatus. Business will be done on a cash basis, it is stated.

*Machinery*, No. 22189.—A government official in the Far East asks an American consular officer to place him in touch with American manufacturers of machinery or appliances for the manufacture of soft, school slate pencils.

*Rubber goods and candles*, No. 22190.—A firm in the Netherlands desires to get in touch with American manufacturers and exporters of rubber nipples and tubes for nursing bottles, and Christmas candles.

*Construction materials*, No. 22191.—A firm in Spain informs the Bureau that it desires to be placed in touch with American manufacturers and exporters of construction materials of all kinds.

*Electrical supplies*, No. 22192.—An American consular officer in Australia reports that a business man in his district desires to represent American manufacturers of electrical appliances and machinery, such as electric irons, electric fans, vacuum cleaners, etc.

*Sugar mill supplies, chemicals, etc.*, No. 22193.—The Bureau is informed that a commission agent in the West Indies desires to represent American manufacturers and exporters of sugar mill supplies, such as rails, construction steel, locomotives, cane cars, track automobiles, cane crushers; chemicals, such as muriatic acid (in carboys), superphosphate of lime, sulphate of ammonia, nitrate of sodium, citric acid, caustic soda; fertilizer products, such as dry blood, pulverized bone, guano; iron oxide paints, and barbed wire. Correspondence in English. References.

*General representation*, No. 22194.—A young man in Colombia writes the Bureau that he desires to represent American manufacturers and exporters. No particular line is specified.

*Automobile tires and accessories*, No. 22195.—A Norwegian import firm has informed an American consular officer that it desires to be placed in communication with American manufacturers of automobile tires and accessories. Correspondence in English.

*Bottles, flavoring extracts, etc.*, No. 22196.—A wholesale dealer in East Africa advises an American consular officer of his desire to secure catalogues and price lists, etc., from American manufacturers and exporters of flavoring extracts, and extracts for making sirups; also of glass bottles, particularly druggists' bottles, and various supplies for druggists.

*Golf accessories*, No. 22197.—An American consular officer in Canada writes that the president of a local golf club desires quotations on dozen lots of golf balls, and on other golf accessories.

*Machinery, tobacco, etc.*, No. 22198.—A commercial organization in the United States informs the Bureau that a merchant in Russia is desirous of receiving catalogues from American manufacturers and exporters of machinery, tobacco, matches, rosin, and technical supplies.

## OFFICES OF THE BUREAU OF FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC COMMERCE.

## DISTRICT OFFICES.

NEW YORK: Room 409, Customhouse.

BOSTON: 18th floor, Customhouse.

CHICAGO: 504 Federal Building.

ST. LOUIS: 402 Third National Bank Building.

ATLANTA: 521 Post Office Building.

NEW ORLEANS: 1020 Hibernia Bank Building.

SAN FRANCISCO: 307 Customhouse.

SEATTLE: 848 Henry Building.

## COOPERATIVE OFFICES.

CLEVELAND: Chamber of Commerce.

CINCINNATI: Chamber of Commerce.

CINCINNATI: C. N. O. & T. P. Ry. Co.

LOS ANGELES: Chamber of Commerce.

DETROIT: Board of Commerce.

PHILADELPHIA: Chamber of Commerce.

CHATTANOOGA: South American Agent, Southern Ry. Co.

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No. 197      Washington, D. C., Tuesday, August 22      1916

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## ADVANCE IN BRITISH MAXIMUM IRON PRICES.

[Cablegram from American consul general, London, Aug. 19.]

Minister of Munitions announces an advance in maximum prices for iron and steel to take effect as from July 1 until December 31.

Basic Lincolnshire pig iron from £4 7s. 6d. to £4 12s. 6d.; South Staffordshire, Shropshire, and Worcestershire pig iron, general advance 5s.; special quality, Lord Dudley silicon, from £7 17s. 6d. to £8 7s. 6d.

## NICARAGUAN RAILWAY AGREEMENT.

Formal approval of the agreement between the Nicaraguan Government and the Pacific Railroad Co. of Nicaragua has been given by both houses of the Nicaraguan Congress and is promulgated by the President in La Gaceta of June 28. Under the terms of this agreement the railroad company, which is financed in New York City, will construct and operate a railway from the Atlantic coast to the present Pacific railway system of Nicaragua or to the steamship lines owned by the same company. The total length of the new railway will be about 200 miles, and it will supply much needed transportation facilities from the Atlantic coast.

## RUSSIAN DEALERS SEEK CHANGE IN SHOE PRICES.

[Commercial Attaché W. C. Huntington, Petrograd.]

The Russkoye Slovo of July 15 states that while dealers in footwear are making every effort to comply with the maximum price regulations recently promulgated by the authorities it seems apparent that some action must be taken to meet the troubles arising therefrom. Dealers in Moscow and other cities, it is reported, have stored their stocks of high-grade and low-grade footwear, offering for sale only that of mediocre quality, this being the only grade that may be sold at the price prescribed with some little profit. The trade, however, seems to insist on the better quality, offering to pay more than the regulation price. A deputation of dealers, it is stated, is now in Petrograd making efforts to bring about suitable changes.

**NEW SWISS INSURANCE LAW.**

[Consul Walter H. Schulz, Berne, July 19; see also **COMMERCE REPORTS** for June, 24, 1916.]

Foreign life insurance companies doing business in Switzerland—and nearly 50 per cent of the life insurance taken out in the Republic is written by foreign companies—will soon be required to deposit additional securities if they desire to remain in the field. The new guaranties will be in addition to the \$19,300 cash deposit already required of foreign insurance companies. Two American corporations will be affected.

A draft of the proposed law already has been completed by a committee of insurance experts charged by the Government to report on the subject. The measure will be laid before the Swiss Parliament in the autumn. It will be enacted into law, it is said. By the provisions of the bill foreign companies writing business in Switzerland will be required to deposit with the National Bank of Switzerland acceptable securities to the full amount of their reserves for Swiss business. Three-fourths of the deposit must be in Swiss securities. Home companies will be required to cover half of their premium collections in the same manner.

Of the \$11,322,500 paid by the Swiss in life insurance premiums during 1913, \$5,940,400 went to Swiss companies. The two American companies in the field wrote \$8,298,970 of life insurance business and collected \$390,521; the total premium collections for all foreign companies in that year was \$5,382,100.

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**NOTES FROM NICARAGUA.****Road and Factory Construction.**

Work has been commenced on an automobile road which will connect Bluefields with the rest of the Republic of Nicaragua at an estimated cost of \$120,000 gold, according to Centro-America. A new line of tramways is proposed for the capital.

An ice factory has been established at Leon, another is being constructed at Matagalpa, and a soap factory is being installed in Boaco. The sugar plantation San Antonio is largely increasing its acreage of sugar cane and purposes to install new machinery to the value of \$150,000 to \$200,000.

**New Schools—Proposed Inheritance Law.**

Four new elementary schools have been established in the capital, a school of arts and trades in Granada, and a private school for young women in Matagalpa.

The President has presented to the Nicaraguan Congress a proposed law for inheritance taxes. The bill provides for a tax of 1 per cent on inheritances of direct descendants, 2 per cent on those of other relatives, and 3 per cent on legacies to unrelated persons.

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**COOPERATIVE OFFICE IN DETROIT DISCONTINUED.**

Word has been received from the secretary of the Detroit Board of Commerce that the cooperative office of the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce recently established in that city is to be discontinued. This action was decided upon at a recent meeting of the foreign trade committee of the board and is effective August 21.



**AUSTRIAN MARKET FOR GRASS SEED AFTER THE WAR.**

[Consul Wallace J. Young, Carlsbad, Bohemia, July 18.]

The central authorities at Carlsbad issue a publication for the information and guidance of subordinate officials and of local and school authorities of the political division represented. The last number contains a statement that since the planting of grass seed is unfortunately indulged in only to a very slight degree within the Monarchy, this country has been compelled in normal times to import a great deal of this seed from foreign countries, most of which are now enemy lands; that since this import is now naturally impossible, a large loss of grass seed for the planting of lawns and pastures is feared, if the seed from the wild grass is not gathered and preserved; and that because of this shortage, the Ministry of Agriculture in Vienna has sent to the various agricultural corporations in the several parts of Austria, a publication, "The Gathering and Planting of Grass Seed," and a "Memorandum Regarding the Gathering of Grass Seed." The purpose is to aid in preserving and saving the seed for the coming year. It has been recommended that the school directors be notified of this suggestion, since the services of the school boys will probably be solicited by the various agricultural corporations in the carrying out of this scheme.

**Annual Imports of Grass Seed From Various Countries.**

In the years 1910-1913, inclusive, annual imports of grass seed into the Monarchy amounted to 4,577,000 pounds, valued at \$442,064, or, roughly, 9½ cents a pound. The average annual imports for those years from the five countries sending here the bulk of the imported seed were: Germany, 2,135,816 pounds; Great Britain, 1,434,754 pounds; Italy, 402,119 pounds; Russia, 220,019 pounds; United States, 181,660 pounds. Small quantities of grass seed are also usually imported from Denmark, France, Holland, Roumania, Switzerland, and British India.

Countries now in the war previously supplied ninety-odd per cent of the imported seed. When it is again possible freely to export to the Monarchy there would seem to be a chance for the United States permanently to enter this market on a larger scale.

Before the war lawn-grass seed retailed at \$0.24 to \$0.28 per kilo (11 to 13 cents per pound) and forage-grass seed at \$0.28 per kilo (13 cents per pound). There is a duty on grass seed of 30 crowns (\$6.09) per 220 pounds, according to the general tariff. Under the conventional tariff, which applies to imports from the United States, however, grass seed is admitted free of duty.

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**AMERICAN MACHINERY FOR AFRICAN TOBACCO FACTORY.**

[Consul General A. Gaulin, Marseille, Aug. 2.]

As a result of the publication in **COMMERCE REPORTS** of a "Trade Opportunity" submitted by the Marseille consulate general, a new tobacco factory in North Africa, whose annual output will be about 1,500 tons, is to be entirely equipped with American machinery. An expert is to come over shortly to superintend its installation. It is believed that, as a consequence of this sale, there will soon be an important demand for American machinery in the North African tobacco factories.

**LYON'S SECOND SAMPLE FAIR.**

[Consul J. E. Jones, Lyon, France, Aug. 2.]

Beginning March 1, 1917, and continuing for 15 days, the second Annual Lyon Sample Fair will occupy the attention of the commercial world at Lyon, France. The first fair was opened on March 1, 1916, and although there was scarce time to work out the details of such a great undertaking, it proved, nevertheless, to be an immediate success and gave promise of accomplishing its original purpose of establishing a sample fair in France similar to the great Leipzig Fair annually held in Germany.

This Sample Fair is of great importance to American manufacturers—greater, perhaps, than any other fair of similar kind—because it not only offers an exceptional opportunity to advertise American goods in Europe generally and in France in particular, but also offers a peculiar opportunity to do business with France at once. The French Government on May 11, 1916, issued a decree prohibiting the importation of certain goods, and this prohibition is so extensive that it threatens to materially affect the importations from the United States. However, the mayor of Lyon, who is also a senator, has advised me of his success in obtaining a modification of this decree in so far as it applies to orders taken at the fair. This is an important concession.

**Early Reservations Advisable.**

Too much stress can not be laid upon the advisability of those American firms that contemplate exhibiting arranging the details at the earliest possible moment. It is not too early to reserve space, nor is it too early to make reservations for hotel accommodations. A special department has been organized in the Lyon consulate to deal with all matters relating to the coming fair, and inquiries from those interested are invited.

Those who find it impossible to exhibit should send catalogues printed, if possible, in French and employing the metric system of weights and measures. This consulate is considering the rental of a building at the fair, where these catalogues will be exhibited and everything done to put prospective buyers in touch with American firms. According to statistics furnished by the mayor of Lyon, the net sales during the fair of 1916 aggregated at least \$30,000,000. It is hoped that the next fair will multiply these figures several times. At this next fair the manufacturers of the world will be represented, for already inquiries are coming in from every direction.

It is especially recommended to those who are interested in the coming fair that they refer to the report of the first fair printed in *COMMERCE REPORTS* of May 5, 1916.

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**Chilean Commercial Agent to United States.**

The Government of Chile has commissioned Leon Bonder to visit the United States to study the subject of the raw materials used in various American industries, with a view to increasing the market for those materials which Chile can supply. In connection with the work that he will do for the Government, Mr. Bonder has been commissioned by the National Association of Manufacturers (*Sociedad de Fomento Fabril*) to collect data for a report on the processes employed in the leather belting industry in the United States.

**BUILDING RESTRICTIONS IN ENGLAND.**

[Consul Augustus E. Ingram, Bradford, July 27]

The new defense of the realm regulation, by which, on and after July 20, building and construction work is, with certain exceptions, prohibited, is considered by those engaged in the building trades as designed for the regulation of the steel so largely used in building construction to enable the best use to be made of the materials available.

The Yorkshire Observer states that inquiries among representatives of the building and allied trades in Bradford show that the staple trade of the city may be affected by the new order, unless concessions by the Ministry of Munitions are made. The building trades for 12 months, except for munition purposes, have practically been stagnant, but there are in Bradford several warehouses and works in course of construction which may have to stand unfinished unless permission for progress with the work can be obtained.

As to the future of the building trades, the same publication says that the Yorkshire Federation of Building Trades has advised its members, where possible and desirable, to endeavor to contract for work on the basis of fixed profit on actual cost of time and material, adding the cost of insurance and establishment charges on which to take the percentage of profit, and this plan is being followed by numerous builders in the city.

**Advance in Cost Due to War to be Adjusted.**

Builders are also inserting a clause in their contracts, stating that they are based upon the prices of materials and the rates of wages prevailing at the time of tendering, and providing that any proved advance in cost, unavoidably and exclusively due to war conditions, shall be adjusted on the completion of the work, besides allowing an extension of time where delay in the delivery of material or goods is due to war conditions.

The builder does not anticipate a speedy return to normal conditions, locally, after the war is over. The restoration and rebuilding of the war-devasted countries, which will benefit those who take a hand in it, will swallow up no mean proportion of the available supplies of materials, and this fact, in conjunction with the restricted shipping facilities there will be for some time after the conclusion of hostilities, will tend to keep up the prices of builders' materials.

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**PULP AND PAPER MILL IN MANITOBA.**

[Consul General Frederick M. Ryder, Winnipeg, July 14.]

A pulp and paper mill, having a daily capacity of 100 tons of paper, and employing about 500 workmen, is to be built at Grand Rapids, Manitoba, about 250 miles northwest of Winnipeg. The controlling interest is held by Winnipeg business men, who are holders of extensive timber lands in the vicinity of Grand Rapids, and anticipate the construction of a large sawmill in connection with the pulp and paper industry. The head office of the company will be located in Winnipeg, and the product of the mills shipped by water to this city. The work of construction will be begun in the early spring, but the completion of the plant will probably extend over a period of nearly two years.

**MANUFACTURE OF ACIDS IN THE UNITED STATES.**

A summary of the 1914 census of manufactures with respect to the acid industries in this country has been issued by the United States Bureau of the Census. The figures are compared with those of 1909, and include for each of the various acids the total production, quantities, and values of those produced for sale, and quantities consumed in the establishments in which they were produced. There are also figures relating to the materials used in the industry.

The value of acids produced for sale in 1914, not including recovered or reclaimed acids, was \$30,001,364, an amount which exceeded the corresponding figure for 1909 by \$5,675,762, or 23.3 per cent.

The total production of sulphuric acid in 1914, reduced to 50° acid, Baumé, was 4,047,675 tons (2,000 pounds) and exceeded that in 1909 by 1,285,135 tons, or 46.5 per cent. This production comprised 2,337,977 tons made for sale, valued at \$15,395,183, and 1,709,698 tons made and consumed in the establishments where produced.

The total production of nitric acid in 1914 was 78,589 tons, exceeding that in 1909 by 9,872 tons, or 14.4 per cent. The 1914 output comprised 14,685 tons, valued at \$1,591,625, made for sale, and 63,904 tons for consumption by the maker.

The total production in 1914 of mixed acid, a mixture of sulphuric acid and nitric acid, now used to a considerable extent in the manufacture of explosives and other chemicals, was 112,124 tons, comprising 42,725 tons, valued at \$2,204,480, for sale and 69,399 tons for consumption. The output for sale in 1914 exceeded that in 1909 by 14,134 tons, or 49.4 per cent, in quantity and by \$343,693, or 18.5 per cent, in value.

The total production of acetic acid in 1914 was 75,303,375 pounds, comprising 70,617,637 pounds, valued at \$1,272,294, for sale and 4,685,738 pounds for consumption. The product for sale exceeded that of 1909 by 13,693,864 pounds, or 24.1 per cent, in quantity, but its value was 4.8 per cent less than the corresponding figure for 1909.

The total production of boric acid in 1914 was 8,590,311 pounds, of which practically all—8,584,311 pounds, valued at \$588,981—was for sale. The product for sale exceeded that of 1909 by 3,029,397 pounds, or 54.5 per cent, in quantity and by \$293,205, or 99.1 per cent, in value.

The quantity of citric acid produced for sale in 1914 was 2,657,840 pounds, valued at \$1,516,336, which exceeded that in 1909 by 555,584 pounds, or 26.4 per cent, in quantity, and by \$739,101, or 95.1 per cent, in value. In addition, in 1914 72,103 pounds were reported as made and consumed.

The production of hydrofluoric acid in 1914 was 7,209,248 pounds, comprising 5,373,657 pounds valued at \$325,540 for sale and 1,835,591 pounds for consumption by the maker. The product for sale was 21.5 per cent less in quantity but 10.6 per cent greater in value than that reported for 1909.

The production of muriatic or hydrochloric acid in 1914 was 337,167,882 pounds, of which 170,876,878 pounds, valued at \$1,348,805, was for sale and 166,291,004 pounds was consumed by the maker. The product for sale in 1914 was 15.9 per cent less in quantity and 23.3 per cent less in value than that reported for 1909.

The output of other acids was: Oleic acid, 23,187,579 pounds, comprising 21,932,736 pounds, valued at \$1,301,353, for sale and 1,254,843 pounds for consumption; phosphoric acid, 12,420,191 pounds, valued at \$680,239; stearic acid, 14,351,404 pounds, valued at \$1,242,492; tannic acid, 853,830 pounds, valued at \$287,142. Under the name of "fatty acids" there were reported products valued at \$206,576.

The foregoing are acids for which specific statistics can be given without disclosing the operations of individual establishments. The output of tartaric, carbolic, picric, salicylic, lactic, oxalic, hydrofluosilicic, pyrogallic, gallic, sulphurous, pyroligneous, hypophosphorous, benzoic, and arsenic acids in 1914 aggregated in value \$1,980,816, the acids being named in the order of their values. In addition, there was reported a production amounting to \$59,552 of unclassified acids or those not designated as to kind.

#### **Materials Used in Producing Acids.**

Of the materials used in acid manufacture, only the statistics for the leading ones—namely, sulphur, pyrites, and nitrate of soda—can be given. Furthermore, the consumption of these materials in acid manufacturing can not in all cases be segregated from the consumption in the manufacture of other products, particularly in the explosive industry, and for this reason the figures given relate to the total consumption in the chemical and allied industries. In the manufacture of chemicals and allied products, including fertilizers and explosives, and in the refining of petroleum, in 1914, the consumption of sulphur and pyrites (chiefly pyrites) was 1,663,855 tons, costing \$9,532,677, and of nitrate of soda, 412,748 tons, costing \$19,264,181. The consumption of sulphur and pyrites in 1914 exceeded that in 1909 by 457,142 tons, or 37.9 per cent, in quantity, and by \$1,372,910, or 16.8 per cent, in cost; and the consumption of nitrate of soda in the later year exceeded that in the earlier by 77,416 tons, or 23.1 per cent, in quantity, and by \$4,922,044, or 34.3 per cent, in cost.

The figures for sulphur and pyrites include 1,581,607 tons of pyrites, costing \$7,822,030, representing an increase of 43 per cent in quantity as compared with 1909, and 82,248 tons of sulphur, costing \$1,730,647, representing a decrease of 18.4 per cent in quantity as compared with the earlier year. Of the 412,748 tons of nitrate of soda consumed in 1914, 74,738 tons was used in the acid and chemical industries and in the fertilizer industry for acid manufacture, 147,050 tons in the manufacture of mixed fertilizers, and 190,960 tons by establishments engaged in the manufacture of explosives.

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#### **New South African Business for American Firms.**

An initial order for pencil sharpeners, from which excellent business should develop; an agency for a paper-bag company, which has already booked orders from several large milling companies; a complete year's supply of garden seeds; agencies for several lines of butcher's supplies; an order for an outfit of drills, taps, and dies, with an agency in view; a consignment of glassware; and negotiations that will shortly end in an order for a complete set of store fixtures and a new store front—all this new South African business for American firms has resulted, either directly or indirectly, during the past quarter from information obtained at the Port Elizabeth consulate.

## PIANO TRADE OF SÃO PAULO.

[Vice Consul Robert L. Keiser, São Paulo, Brazil, June 28.]

São Paulo, as a result of the war on the Continent, offers a splendid field for American piano manufacturers. Europe had formerly been the largest furnisher to the market, Germany alone having in average years supplied about 75 per cent of the total importation. Bechstein, Perzina, and Zeiter & Winklemann were the makes most favored. A rapidly growing business in the Steinway (of German manufacture) was cut off by the war. Pleyel and Grotian-Steinweg Nachf. grades were also sold on a small scale.

São Paulo's imports during the past five years of all types of pianos and player-pianos were:

Year.	Total imports.	United States.	France.	Germany.	Great Britain.	Italy.
1911:						
Number.....	607	82	57	440	9	6
Value.....	\$147,401	\$21,193	\$15,087	\$104,941	\$2,826	\$839
1912:						
Number.....	697	142	38	683	21	9
Value.....	\$214,488	\$32,300	\$10,509	\$163,096	\$5,654	\$1,932
1913:						
Number.....	845	100	37	679	4	7
Value.....	\$203,113	\$26,399	\$10,386	\$158,937	\$3,439	\$1,282
1914:						
Number.....	254	15	27	190	5	4
Value.....	\$53,316	\$3,556	\$6,072	\$41,352	\$1,045	\$701
1915:						
Number.....	68	35	2	10	5	10
Value.....	\$18,072	\$9,632	\$410	\$2,617	\$1,292	\$1,810

**Player Pianos from United States—Favored Styles.**

From 30 to 40 per cent of the imports from the United States consisted of player pianos. Only a small proportion of the importation from Europe was of such instruments. It was further noticeable that the majority of the European instruments of this type which did come contained player actions of North American manufacture.

Player actions which do not have all their valves easily accessible are not proper for this market. Moths and other insects enter the air chambers and, unless removed at frequent intervals, these insects do serious damage to felt and leather parts. Any metal parts used in piano construction where they can not be protected by damp-resisting paints are rapidly attacked by rust. German manufacturers substitute wood for metal wherever possible.

Plain cases, especially those of mission style, are not suitable for the São Paulo trade. The most popular designs are those of an ornate nature, including carving of legs and columns between panels. Metal handles and candleholders are used almost without exception. The exposed portion of the keys should measure  $5\frac{1}{4}$  inches.

Only within the last year have the local dealers commenced to stock and sell pianos of recent North American designs, the Casa Steven having established a new house and Murino Irmaos having enlarged their former business. These are the only houses at present which sell pianos of styles other than those which were in vogue in the United States a decade and a half ago. It is estimated that at the present time there are less than 50 new pianos available in the city of São Paulo.

**Prices and Customs Duties.**

The installment business, being new, has proven lucrative to the few dealers engaged in it. Large initial payments are required, these being at least the equivalent of \$100 United States gold, and the installments are seldom less than \$15 per month. The cheapest grades of pianos retail for \$400 upward; the medium grades bring from \$500 to \$800. With the present exorbitant freight rates, the dealers have been forced to accept loss profit in order not to place the retail price on instruments at a figure which would seriously handicap their business. An average upright piano pays approximately \$85 freight between New York and São Paulo at the present time.

The duties on imported pianos, expressed in United States gold and including surtax, are: Upright, \$105; grand, less than 2 meters (6.56 feet) in length, \$116; grand, more than 2 meters in length, \$167. Revenue stamps and other additional charges will add approximately 5 per cent to these customs charges.

From the foregoing figure it will be seen that an average upright piano pays in freight charges and customs duties approximately \$200. The greatest shortage at the moment is found in medium-grade pianos corresponding with those formerly wholesaled in Germany at about 1,200 marks (\$285).

In the absence of direct connections with American manufacturers, some of the local houses are finding it necessary to purchase instruments through New York exporting houses, with rather unsatisfactory results, inasmuch as the purchasing of this class of goods is one which requires that the technical details be carefully treated, which can be done much more satisfactorily if the importer deal direct with the manufacturer. The result of this has been that the local houses have received one or two instruments of many makes, these instruments being in all instances constructed for the North American market and seldom proving satisfactory for the local trade.

**Brazilian Piano Factory.**

F. Effenfelder & Co. have established a factory at Curityba, Parana, Brazil, for the manufacture of pianos. The actions are imported, but the plates are cast and the cases are made in their factory. The piano is of medium grade, and the smallest model retails in this market for the equivalent of \$450 gold.

[A list of the leading importers of pianos in São Paulo may be had upon application to the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce or its district and co-operative offices by referring to file No. 79180. At the same offices, and under the same file number, there may be inspected by interested manufacturers an illustrated European catalogue that shows the styles of cases preferred by the Brazilian piano purchaser.]

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**Consular Trade Work in New Zealand.**

An order for 50 tons of supercalendered printing paper resulting from the publication of a "trade opportunity" in *COMMERCE REPORTS*, an order for furniture that followed the sending of catalogues from the consular files to a leading Auckland furniture dealer, and the establishing of an agency for lead-headed nails with prospects of business amounting to \$100,000 a year, formed part of the new business placed with American firms by New Zealand houses during the past quarter, as reported by Consul General Alfred A. Winslow.

**CENSORSHIP AFFECTS BRITISH FILM MARKET.**

[Consul John M. Savage, Sheffield, England, Aug. 2.]

Moving pictures, or "cinemas" as they are called in this country, have taken a leading place among the forms of entertainment in Sheffield. There are already 38 houses of this class, and 4 which give occasional performances, while the number is steadily increasing. Many of the buildings have been erected for pictures, and several are of imposing appearance. None are licensed for the sale of intoxicating drinks, although this is customary at ordinary theaters, but usually refreshments, both solid and liquid, can be obtained on the premises, and in a few instances separate rooms are set apart for this purpose.

The leading two houses here give daily continuous performances from 2 to 10.30 p. m. Some give daily matinees and two evening performances, and still others biweekly matinees and two evening performances. Prices of admission vary from 2d. (4 cents) to 1s. (24 cents) for adults and half price for children. In addition to the entrance fee, there is a Government tax which varies from  $\frac{1}{4}$ d. (1 cent) to 2d. (4 cents), according to the admission paid.

The entertainment usually includes a "star" film, which runs about 50 to 60 minutes, a "comic," and a "tropical." Many of the last-mentioned relate to events connected with the war, and some, which are taken at the front and show actual happenings, are exhibited with the permission of the military authorities. The whole entertainment usually occupies two hours. The great majority of the films shown at present are of American manufacture, the others being Italian, French, and British.

**British Producers Seek Larger Share of Business.**

Considering the hold this class of entertainment has upon the public and the increasing demand, the question of film production has aroused considerable comment in the press, and the suggestion is frequently made that British producers should put forth efforts to secure a larger share of this important business. Climate, particularly in California, where the majority of American films are produced, gives the American manufacturer a distinct advantage over his British competitor and one that is difficult to overcome.

Before films can be shown they are censored by the British Board of Film Censors, the censor of which was originally appointed by the Exhibitors' Association. The censor is now the appointee of the Government, and negotiations are pending to intrust the work to two censors, one appointed by the Government and the other by the Exhibitors' Association.

It is apparent that the tendency is to exercise a stricter supervision. The increase in juvenile crime, which according to many newspaper reports is growing, is in many instances laid more to certain pictures shown in the cinemas than to the absence of parental control necessitated by the war, and it is urged that these objectionable films would disappear if the film-producing business were more largely in the hands of British manufacturers. The films to which objection is offered are those depicting crime and the use of firearms by unauthorized persons.



In order to preserve the supremacy that American films undoubtedly have in this market extreme care should be exercised not to offer those which may be made the subject of unfavorable criticism.

### TO STUDY ELECTRICAL-GOODS MARKETS ABROAD.

The markets for electrical goods in China, India, Australia, South Africa, and several other countries which are in the Far East are to be studied by a representative of the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce. The war has greatly handicapped the principal European competitors of American manufacturers of electrical goods in the Far Eastern field, and strong efforts will be made to obtain such information as will enable exporters in this country to conduct an effective campaign for trade extension. R. A. Lundquist, consulting engineer of Minneapolis, has been selected for this work.

Much preliminary study is still needed, and Special Agent Lundquist will ascertain the types, qualities, and costs of electric apparatus with which American goods come into competition, as well as look into the general opportunities for the sale of such goods. Before leaving on the trip the special agent will spend some weeks in the principal business and manufacturing centers conferring with manufacturers and exporters.

Mr. Lundquist graduated from the University of Minnesota in 1905 with the degree of electrical engineer, following which he put in six years with prominent electrical houses. Since 1911 he has been in business for himself in Minneapolis, specializing in hydroelectric and transmission-line work. He is the author of "Transmission Line Construction—Methods and Costs," and has contributed numerous articles to the technical press. He is chairman of the Minnesota section of the American Institute of Electrical Engineers.

### AMERICAN CONSULAR OFFICERS ON LEAVE OF ABSENCE.

The following American consular officers are on leave of absence in the United States and will be glad to confer with business men and commercial organizations relative to conditions in their respective jurisdictions. The consul's time is available primarily for personal interviews. He has limited facilities for correspondence, and except in urgent cases letters should be directed to the consulate.

Name.	Post.	Expiration of venue.	Address.
Hale, P. D. ....	Huddersfield, England	Sept. 5	Lunenburg, Vt.
Masterson, William W. ....	Durban, Natal, South Africa.	Sept. 1	Carrollton, Ky.
Baker, E. Carlton. ....	Nagasaki, Japan. ....	Aug. 30	Apartment No. 75, The Brunswick, Washington, D. C.
Monaghan, J. C. ....	Kingston, Jamaica. ....	Sept. 1	Avenue A and Fourteenth Street, Bayonne, N. J.
Jewell, John F. ....	Chefoo, China. ....	Oct. 1	Galesburg, Ill.
Kemper, Graham H. ....	Erfurt, Germany. ....	Sept. 10	Department of State, Washington, D. C.
Goodier, James H. ....	Niagara Falls, Canada.	Sept. 1	27 South Hawk Street, Albany, N. Y.
Haseltine, Ross. ....	Port Antonio, Jamaica.	Oct. 1	Department of State, Washington, D. C.
Leing, James Oliver. ....	Karachi, India. ....	Sept. 30	C/o University Club, Kansas City, Mo.
Leonard, Walter A. ....	Colombo, Ceylon. ....	Oct. 14	Fessenden, Iowa.
Osborne, John Ball. ....	Havre, France. ....	Oct. 21	Department of State, Washington, D. C.
Mansfield, Robert F. ....	Vancouver, Canada. ....	Sept. 15	Rushville, Ind.

**TEXTILE RESEARCH WORK IN YORKSHIRE.**

[Consul Augustus E. Ingram, Bradford, England, Aug. 1.]

An important conference of textile manufacturers, called by the chairman of the West Riding County Council, was held at Wakefield, Yorkshire, on July 28 to consider a plan for promoting textile research and coordinating technical education in the textile industries of Yorkshire. The meeting was fully representative of the manufacturing interests.

Mr. M. E. Sadler, vice chancellor of the University of Leeds, gave an address on the extended service to the textile industries which could be given by the educational institutions of the West Riding. He said that England was being stirred by a new movement of national unity and cooperation. A great rich trade like the textile, with historic memories, wise with the garnered experience of centuries of skill, and famous for its world-wide achievement, was not merely a mode of earning a livelihood or wealth, but a liberal calling, a form of service to the State, and what in the Middle Ages was called an art or mystery. The old guild spirit had now revived; it was felt in the professions of medicine and teaching; it was felt among artists and craftsmen; it was felt in the idealistic side of the labor movement, and the modern state found in this new willingness to cooperate the brightest hope of national advancement.

**Service to be Rendered by Schools and Universities.**

He declared that the technical schools and universities had it in their power to render a twofold service. They could provide training in specialized technology, and in that connection he hoped they would not forget the late learner or the artisan student. "Let us moderns," he said, "leave no Giotto by the sheepfolds." The second service was the furtherance of scientific research. The spirit of research was awake at last in the West Riding, he declared. Young men were ready, manufacturers felt the need, the educational institutions were ready. A new era had begun. Research, however, was often very costly; the speaker gave instances where large sums had been spent in research work, relating to artificial silk, nickel, steel, etc.; but all the firms had an abundant reward, he asserted. The textile industries promised a rich field for research. The glutinous material which composed the fiber of wool was among the substances attracting the notice of a new school of chemists—those who study colloid chemistry; and the colloid chemists were working hand in hand with the physicists.

**Statement Regarding Needs of Nation.**

The following were among the statements made in a printed discussion of the project which accompanied the invitations to the meeting:

Almost without exception industries pass from rule-of-thumb methods to more and more highly developed scientific methods, and that nation which intelligently follows or possibly leads the change is bound to be the dominating nation in the world's markets, in world service. For example, we started the color-making industry, but we did not follow up the scientific development whole-heartedly, with the result that the lead has passed from us to Germany.

With the wider views of the duties and privileges of that commercial enterprise which resolves itself into social service, it is obvious that a much greater strain will be placed upon our industrial and commercial leaders in the future, as compared with the past, and only those who take science as a handmaiden

and introduce scientific method into both thought and action can hope to face satisfactorily the strenuous years which lie before us.

We may be thankful that, so far as the woolen and worsted industries are concerned, we need not follow, but may actually lead in the movement.

#### Conferences Between Textile Leaders and Teachers.

Certain prominent Yorkshire spinners and manufacturers approached the University of Leeds as the institution from which a lead should come. Conferences of both controllers of industry and textile teachers have been held within the university walls, with the result that a very representative executive committee has been elected to place the whole case before the industry, and to ask for that support (moral and financial) which will enable:

(a) The educational net to be cast wide and the whole of the rising generation brought within its folds in order that those capable of profiting by a prolonged education may be selected with care and certainty. (The far heavier expenses of later education will be saved by such careful selection at this comparatively early stage.)

(b) The talented students selected for the prolonged courses to be given every possible advantage in science and technology, the combined courses of study throughout the West Riding leading up to the university and technical college diploma, and finally to degree courses in the University of Leeds.

(c) The development of higher commercial courses in which languages (Russian and Spanish particularly), salesmanship and the psychology of business, industrial economics, science, and technology are so blended that our Consular Service and our commercial representatives in the future may be mentally equipped as they have never been in the past.

(d) The development of research and research methods, so that not only may the University of Leeds and the larger technical colleges of the county be associated in specific researches, but also that, by the development of a school of research, research methods may in the future stimulate the minds and actions of those who are destined to be the leaders of industrial and commercial enterprise.

It may be pointed out that c and d will necessitate considerable expenditure on the development of research in the University of Leeds and in the larger technical colleges of the West Riding, and the provision of traveling and other scholarships in connection with the higher commercial courses outlined.

### INCREASED RATES TO DUTCH WEST INDIES.

[Consul George S. Messersmith, Curacao, July 27.]

The Red D Line of steamships, which has a schedule of one ship a week between New York and Curacao, has again raised the rates of freight between New York and Curacao in both directions. The increases vary from 50 to 100 per cent over the previous rates, and have been effective since July 1, 1916.

The changes in rates for some of the principal articles carried were:

Articles.	Previous rate.	Present rate.
<b>CURACAO TO NEW YORK.</b>		
Fiber (leaves).....	\$0.05 per cubic foot...	\$0.10 per cubic foot.
Woods (cedar, etc.).....	\$0.10 per cubic foot...	\$0.17 per cubic foot.
Alces in cases.....	\$0.12 per cubic foot...	\$0.20 per cubic foot.
Hats, straw.....	\$0.15 per cubic foot...	\$0.22 per cubic foot.
Bananas.....	\$0.25 per bunch.....	\$0.40 per bunch.
Skins in bales.....	\$0.60 per 100 pounds...	\$17.50 per 2,200 pounds.
Coffee, clean.....	\$0.25 per 100 pounds...	\$8.50 per 2,200 pounds.
<b>NEW YORK TO CURACAO.</b>		
Beer, butter, biscuits, lard, cassia, etc.....	\$0.12 per cubic foot...	\$0.18 per cubic foot.
Dry goods.....	\$0.18 per cubic foot...	\$0.25 per cubic foot.
Bran.....	\$0.45 per 100 pounds...	\$0.65 per 100 pounds.
Flour, 96-pound bag.....	\$0.27 each.....	\$0.40 each.

No bill of lading for less than \$5 will be signed.

### TOBACCO CULTIVATION IN ARGENTINA.

The chief of the Industrial Section of Tobacco of the Argentine Department of Agriculture has recently made a report on the cultivation and manufacture of Argentine tobacco. This report, as quoted in the *Revista de Economía y Finanzas* of July 20, states that in spite of the inferior quality of the native tobacco it always finds a market, being used by domestic factories in the proportion of 50 or 55 per cent for the manufacture of cigars and cigarettes. Its market value, however, is much less than that of the imported tobacco, statistics showing that in 1911 of the total amount expended by domestic factories for raw material 25 per cent was for the native tobacco and 75 per cent for imported tobacco. In view of these facts, the Argentine official urges domestic growers to adopt improved methods of cultivation, in order that a better quality of the weed may be produced and profits correspondingly increased.

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### LEEDS'S INCREASED EXPORTS TO UNITED STATES.

[Consul Homer M. Byington, Leeds, England, July 28.]

The exports to the United States declared through the Leeds consulate for the quarter just ended were valued at \$255,348, as compared with \$178,946 for the like quarter of 1915; for the six months ended June 30, 1916, they aggregated \$622,971, as compared with \$375,012 for the first half of 1915. The principal articles exported were leather, machinery, hair, woolens, worsteds, and sausage casings, in all of which increased shipments were noted.

While the exports for the first six months of 1916 show an increase of \$247,959, or 66 per cent, over 1915, they compare unfavorably with January-June, 1914 (before the war), when the declared exports totaled \$1,222,957.

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### FISH LANDED AT NEW ENGLAND PORTS.

The fishing fleet landing fishery products at Boston and Gloucester, Mass., and Portland, Me., during the month of July, 1916, included 301 steam and sail vessels. These vessels landed at Boston 316 trips aggregating 9,415,460 pounds of fish, valued at \$377,702; at Gloucester, 158 trips aggregating 6,966,907 pounds, valued at \$263,111; and at Portland, 195 trips amounting to 1,811,331 pounds, valued at \$37,935. The total for the three ports during the month amounted to 669 trips, aggregating 18,193,698 pounds of fresh and salted fish, having a value to the fishermen of \$678,748.

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### INCREASED CUSTOMS RETURNS AT VANCOUVER.

[Vice Consul G. C. Woodward, Vancouver, British Columbia, Aug. 9.]

The customs returns for the port of Vancouver for the months of June and July, 1916, amounted to \$920,441, a gain of \$257,877 over a similar period of 1915. The month of July, 1916, showed an increase over the month of June, 1916, of \$18,314, and over the month of July, 1915, of \$131,531.

**FOREIGN TRADE OPPORTUNITIES.**

Reserved addresses may be obtained from the Bureau and its district offices. Request for each opportunity should be on a separate sheet and state opportunity number. The Bureau does not furnish credit ratings or assume responsibility as to the standing of foreign inquirers; the usual precautions should be taken in all cases.

*Horse nets*, No. 22199.—The commercial attaché of the Department of Commerce in Chile has forwarded the name and address of a man in that country who wishes to buy nets for his carriage horses. Catalogues are desired.

*Musical instrument wire, etc.*, No. 22200.—An American consular officer in Spain writes that a manufacturer of musical instruments in his district desires quotations on piano-chord pegs and musical instrument wire, as nearly as possible like samples submitted, which may be inspected at the Bureau or its district offices. (Refer to file No. 79102.)

*Copra and fiber*, No. 22201.—A man in the West Indies asks the Bureau for a list of copra and fiber dealers in the United States.

*Sugar*, No. 22202.—An American consular officer in Latin America transmits the name of an importing firm holding a Government concession for the importation of sugar, which desires to communicate with American firms in a position to supply sugar in large quantities.

*Pencils*, No. 22203.—The commercial attaché of the Department of Commerce in France writes that a firm in that country is in the market for small pencils suitable for pocket note books of the cheaper variety.

*Sand filter*, No. 22204.—An American consular officer in the Far East reports that the proprietors of an aerated water plant are interested in a pressure sand filter to pass 30,000 gallons of water in 24 hours, at a pressure of 10 pounds per square inch.

*Cocoa*, No. 22205.—A cocoa dealer in West Africa writes the Bureau that he would like to get in touch with American importers and others interested in the purchase of cocoa, which he is able to supply in lots of 100 tons or more. Reference.

*Druggists' sundries, etc.*, No. 22206.—An American consular officer in Canada writes that an established firm in his district desires to communicate with American firms dealing in drugs, druggists' sundries, confections, and grocers' sundries. Reference.

*Fruit jars, etc.*, No. 22207. A man in India informs an American consular officer that he is desirous of communicating with American manufacturers of airtight bottles and tins and other appliances for preserving fruit and vegetables. Samples should be sent if possible.

*Incandescent lamps*, No. 22208.—The representative of an electric light and power company in South America, who is now in the United States, desires to communicate with manufacturers and exporters of incandescent electric lamps.

*Carpets, etc.*, No. 22209.—An American consular officer in Australia reports that a firm in his district is in the market for carpets and soft furnishing materials, and especially tapestry carpets.

*Handles for brushes, etc.*, No. 22210.—An American consular officer in the United Kingdom writes that a firm of hardware manufacturers in his district is in the market for brush handles 3 feet 6 inches and 4 feet long by 1 inch in diameter; also shovel handles 10½ and 12 inches long by 1½ inches in diameter. Orders for 5,000 brush handles will be placed if terms are satisfactory, it is stated. Quotations f. o. b. American port.

**OFFICES OF THE BUREAU OF FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC COMMERCE.**

**DISTRICT OFFICES.**

NEW YORK: Room 409, Customhouse.  
BOSTON: 18th floor, Customhouse.  
CHICAGO: 504 Federal Building.  
ST. LOUIS: 402 Third National Bank Building.  
ATLANTA: 531 Post Office Building.  
NEW ORLEANS: 1020 Ibernia Bank Building.  
SAN FRANCISCO: 307 Customhouse.  
SEATTLE: 848 Henry Building.

**COOPERATIVE OFFICES.**

CLEVELAND: Chamber of Commerce.  
CINCINNATI: Chamber of Commerce.  
CINCINNATI: C., N. O. & T. P. Ry. Co.  
LOS ANGELES: Chamber of Commerce.  
PHILADELPHIA: Chamber of Commerce.  
CHATTANOOGA: South American Agent, Southern Ry. Co.

## PROPOSALS FOR GOVERNMENT SUPPLIES AND CONSTRUCTION.

[Correspondence should be direct with the offices named, and specifications can usually be obtained at the points where the goods are to be delivered or the work is to be performed. In cases where the time limit is too short to permit firms to submit tenders, they should ask to be placed on the mailing lists of such offices to receive notices calling for future supplies or work of a similar nature.]

*Navy Department supplies*, 3516.—Sealed proposals will be received at the Bureau of Supplies and Accounts, Navy Department, Washington, D. C., to which bureau firms desiring to submit proposals, should apply, giving schedule numbers, for the supply of the following: Schedule 12, crushed stone; schedule 13, ships' library books; schedule 14, compensating binnacles, illuminated 7½-inch compasses, and spheres; schedule 15, nozzles, fire brick, graphite stoppers, fire-brick sleeves, powder tanks, and unannealed-brass tubes; schedule 16, sheet aluminum; schedule 17, precision bench lathe; schedule 18, steam-and-siren whistle; schedule 19, gymnastium shoes, and tinned lard; schedule 20, household furniture; schedule 21, 28½-inch slate-color cotton canvas; schedule 22, hot rolled or forged carbon steel; schedule 23, artificial leather, splint stretchers, and putty; schedule 24, 40-inch wide burlap, billiard cloth, 2-oz. spools linen machine thread, and 5-ply cotton twine; schedule 25, dark deck lanterns, oil-burning running lights, sail needles, galvanized soft-steel wire, galvanized boat anchors, 36-inch bronze wire-screen cloth, bronze wire-screen cloth, iron or steel screen cloth, match hooks with galvanized thimbles, flat-head, copper cut nails, galvanized-iron grommet rings, brass wood screws, galvanized-iron anchor shackles, and flat-head, copper cut tacks; schedule 26, jack plugs for telephone, scoop shovels, composition pipe fittings, steel boiler tubes, low-pressure brass angle and gate valves, and commercial soft sheet brass; schedule 27, spare parts for musical instruments; schedule 28, transmitting radio sets; schedule 29, liquid form wood preservative; schedule 30, sheet emery cloth, brass grommet eyelets, loose pin hinges, bronze strap hinges, cup hooks, cotter pins, etc., bronze drawer pulls, galvanized hammock rings, brass wood screws, and flat-head copper cut tacks; schedule 31, masthead and side combination lanterns, scoop shovels, composition pipe fittings, ¾-inch steam traps, and commercial hard sheet brass; schedule 32, domestic castle soap; schedule 33, vertical tubular boiler; schedule 34, furnishing and installing tin roof; schedule 35, ventilating fans, composition panhead rivets, angles Muntz metal, and plates Muntz metal; schedule 36, medium plate steel; schedule 37, power sewing machines; schedule 38, basswood; schedule 39, complete aeroplanes and power plants; schedule 40, toilet paper, and schedule 10000, American process dry white zinc.

*Repairs at light station*, No. 3517.—Sealed proposals will be received by the lighthouse inspector, Portland, Oreg., for repairs to substructure at Semi-amoo Harbor Light Station, Wash. Further information may be obtained from the above-named officer.

*Mail-handling devices, etc.*, No. 3518.—Sealed proposals will be received at the Office of the Supervising Architect, Treasury Department, Washington, D. C., until October 16, 1916, for mail-handling devices, etc., in the United States post office and courthouse at Detroit, Mich., in accordance with specification and drawings, copies of which may be obtained at the Office of the Supervising Architect.

*Brush and poles*, No. 3519.—Sealed proposals will be received by the Mississippi River Commission, United States Engineer Office, customhouse, Memphis, Tenn., until September 6, 1916, for furnishing about 100,000 cords of brush and poles. Further information may be had on application to the above-named office.

*Construction*, No. 3520.—Sealed proposals will be received at the Office of the Supervising Architect, Treasury Department, Washington, D. C., until September 12, 1916, for the construction, complete, of the United States post office at Orlando, Fla. Drawings and specifications may be obtained from the custodian of site at Orlando, Fla., or at the above-named office.

# COMMERCE REPORTS



DAILY CONSULAR AND TRADE REPORTS  
ISSUED DAILY BY THE BUREAU OF FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC COMMERCE  
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE



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No. 198 Washington, D. C., Wednesday, August 23 1916

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## BRITISH ORDER ON MARINE INSURANCE CONTRACTS.

[Cablegram from American consul general, London, England, Aug. 19.]

Controller Foreign Trade Department makes public license to British underwriters and insurance companies to carry into effect marine insurance contracts made with persons in United States, notwithstanding such persons on statutory black list, provided such contracts were made prior to such persons being placed on list. License applies to any contract for marine insurance or insurance against fire of any other risk of goods or merchandise during transit from shipper's or manufacturer's warehouse until deposited in warehouse on termination of transit where any part of transit is by sea.

## CONSIGNMENT OF TOBACCO TO NETHERLANDS AND SCANDINAVIAN COUNTRIES.

[Announcement of the Department of State, Aug. 22.]

The Commercial Adviser of the British Embassy to-day informed the Acting Foreign Trade Adviser of the Department of State that he received a cablegram last night stating that tobacco shipments bought and paid for prior to August 1 may go forward without interference to Holland up to August 31, without consignment to the Netherlands Oversea Trust, and that guaranties by the British Embassy would not be required with reference to applications for letters of assurance for shipments of tobacco to Scandinavia for the same period. [Previous notices on this subject appeared in **COMMERCE REPORTS** for July 18 and Aug. 10, 1916.]

## NEW COAL YARDS FOR SPANISH PORT.

[Consular Assistant Bartley F. Yost, Barcelona, July 27.]

A Spanish trade publication announces the organization recently in Barcelona of a new concern whose purpose is the handling of coal in bunkers and land depots in Bilbao. The name of the company is not published. Its capital is 500,000 pesetas (\$90,000).

**FURTHER BRITISH IMPORT PROHIBITIONS.**

[Cablegram from American consul general, London, Aug. 19.]

A proclamation dated August 18 prohibits from and after August 21 the importation of the following goods: Chestnut extract, window, sheet and plate glass, glass tableware, and such lacquered wares as were excepted from the prohibition on the importation of furniture, manufactured joinery, and other wood manufactures. (See COMMERCE REPORTS for Apr. 7, 1916.) The prohibition does not apply to goods imported under license issued by the Board of Trade. Commercial circles anticipate that the prohibition on chestnut extract will apply to American extract, but will not prevent importations from France.

**RAILWAY EQUIPMENT IN ASIA, AUSTRALIA, AND SOUTH AFRICA.**

An expert from the Division of Valuations of the Interstate Commerce Commission will represent the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce in an investigation of the field for American railway equipment and supplies in the Far East, Australia, and South Africa.

Frank Rhea is the special agent appointed to make the investigation, and he is already engaged in making arrangements for conferences with manufacturers, contractors, and selling agents, which will be held during a preliminary trip to the principal manufacturing centers in this country. This preliminary trip will be made in September. He will then go abroad to enter upon a careful study of the conditions as they affect railway construction, equipment, traffic, the probable extension or reconstruction of railways, tramways, etc. While all specific opportunities for securing orders will be promptly reported, the real purpose of the investigation is to gather fundamental facts for the American manufacturer.

Those who wish to get in touch with Mr. Rhea before he leaves this country should address the Division of Commercial Agents, Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, Customhouse, New York. This is the new office opened in New York by the Bureau to keep in closer touch with business houses interested in foreign trade.

**SOUTH AFRICA'S PURCHASES OF COTTON GOODS.**

[Consul General George H. Murphy, Cape Town, July 3.]

Data supplied to the Cape Town consulate general by the Statistical Section of the South African Department of Customs and Excise reveal a sharp decline in the imports of cotton manufactures into the Union during May last when contrasted with the like totals for May, 1915. This falling off is distributed among all the chief classes of such manufactures, the official values for the two months being:

Articles.	May, 1915.	May, 1916.
Piece goods.....	\$1,150,400	\$682,500
Blankets, rugs, sheeting.....	198,800	95,000
Shawls.....	15,100	9,000
Hosiery (underwear).....	461,000	328,000
Other manufactures.....	239,200	175,000
Total.....	2,104,500	1,319,500



**CANADIAN FRUIT CROP.**

[Consul Fred C. Slater, Sarnia, Ontario, Aug. 14, 1916.]

The fruit crop for Canada appears to be turning out poorer than was expected earlier in the season; moreover, the quality is inferior. Continual development of apple scab has caused a heavy dropping of young apples, while the remainder is marked with fungus. In the Province of Ontario the apple crop will not exceed that of 1915, which was a year of low production. The only section where the report is more favorable than last year is in the Georgian Bay district, where a slight increase is expected. In Nova Scotia the "drop" was much prolonged, and fortunately the scab has only been general on poorly sprayed orchards. Hence the quality in that section is good. The total apple crop is now estimated at about 600,000 barrels. The fruit commissioner reports that on the whole the crop is not expected to be as large and the quality no better than last year. The British Columbia crop should exceed the 1915 crop.

The Niagara peach crop will be between 60 and 70 per cent of a standard crop. Plums and peaches will produce about one-half of a full crop. Grapes are reported good, promising a full crop in the Niagara district.

**AMERICAN GOODS RECEIVED IN AMERICAN SHIPS.**

[Consul M. K. Moorhead, Swansea, Wales, July 20.]

The American steamer *Bantu*, from New York, completed discharging, on July 5, 1916, the most valuable cargo ever imported into Swansea in an American vessel, so far as there are any available records. This cargo consisted of 5,700 tons of iron and steel products, copper, and gum, valued at \$1,675,130.

Other recent importations from the United States in American vessels into the Swansea consular district were:

Name of vessel.	Port of departure.	Port cargo discharged.	Date in 1916.	Cargo.		
				Kind.	Quantity.	Value.
Vigilancia.....	Savannah....	Port Talbot.....	April 30	Pig Iron..	996	\$14,950
Georgiana.....	do.....	Swansea.....	May 31	do.....	2,500	27,500
Eurana.....	do.....	Port Talbot.....	July 17	do.....	2,999	45,000

**WEEKLY COTTON SHIPMENTS.**

Cotton exports during the week ending August 19, 1916, at the 12 principal customs districts of the United States, were:

Districts.	Bales.	Districts.	Bales.	Districts.	Bales.
Georgia.....	15,142	Philadelphia.....	295	San Francisco.....	1,399
Massachusetts.....	435	South Carolina.....		Washington.....	17,062
Maryland.....		Virginia.....	5,619		
New York.....	21,015	Galveston.....	31,996	Total.....	104,515
North Carolina.....		New Orleans.....	11,552		

Exports of 104,515 bales of cotton during the past week make the total since August 1, 1916, approximately 261,576 bales.

**IRON AND STEEL INDUSTRY IN AIX-LA-CHAPELLE DISTRICT.**

[Consul Henry C. A. Damm, Aix-la-Chapelle, Germany, July 25.]

The iron and steel industry of this district shares in the general activity that this industry is experiencing throughout Germany due to the great demand for various iron and steel products. The demand naturally is in the first place for articles directly and indirectly necessitated by the war, and as high prices are being paid the handicaps, such as high prices of raw materials, increased cost of transportation, high wages, and scarcity of skilled laborer, are in part outweighed. Owing to these limitations and the closing of a large part of the export fields the aggregate output is necessarily smaller than in normal times. The profits earned, however, are good.

Exact figures as to the output of the several mills and factories of the district are not available, but they are included in those of the Rhenish-Westphalian section of Germany, which produces about two-thirds of the entire steel output of ingots and castings of the Empire. The iron and steel industry of the consular district proper is not as important as that of the Barmen district, but there are, nevertheless, a number of large concerns and the present condition in which some of these find themselves serves to illustrate the state of the industry.

**One Company to Double Capital.**

The Stahlwerk Becker Actien Gesellschaft, in Willich, near Crefeld, is typical of a successfully operated concern. It was organized less than 10 years ago with a capital stock of 500,000 marks (\$199,000) which was increased from time to time until it reached 8,000,000 marks (\$1,904,000) before the outbreak of the war. At the annual meeting of the stockholders June 30 last it was decided to increase the capital stock to 16,000,000 marks (\$3,808,000) by issuing new shares. These are to be taken over by a group of banks headed by the Deutsche Bank, and will be offered at 150 per cent. The owners of the old shares will have the privilege of acquiring as many of the new shares as they possess of the old. The company paid 25 per cent dividends in 1914-15, and it is reported that the dividends for 1915-16 will at least not be less than 25 per cent.

The purpose of the increase in working capital is to increase the capacity of the plant. At present the concern is dependent upon outside sources for its raw material, but the intention is to combine all the stages of the process from the production of the ore to that of the finished product within the operations of the company. Ore fields are to be acquired, smelting and blast furnaces built, new tin rolling mills, pipe and tubing works, and coke ovens erected, the electrosteel, pressed steel, and wire-drawing plants enlarged.

The company is satisfied that after the war there will be a large and urgent demand for some time to come for quality steel in the many lines and specialties of production, and it wants to be prepared to contribute in a large measure toward meeting this demand. The firm has a branch in the United States.

**Profits of Other Concerns.**

The Crefelder Stahlwerk Actien Gesellschaft, in Crefeld, declared a dividend of 15 per cent for 1915. The physical value of its plant is stated to be 7,166,128 marks (\$1,705,538), to which have been

added extensions costing 2,198,880 marks (\$523,144) for work connected with war orders. Thus far this year business has been satisfactory, and future developments are viewed with confidence.

Duerener Metallwerke Actien Gesellschaft, in Dueren, paid a dividend of 20 per cent in 1915. It was busy with war orders, and its prospects for the current year are good.

In March, 1916, a new concern was founded at Erkelenz, the Niederrheinische Stahlwerke G. m. b. H., with a provisional capital of 200,000 marks (\$47,600). An already existing plant is to be enlarged and the production of soft steel, quality steel, steel castings, and steel alloys undertaken.

The large foundry and iron works "Rothe Erde," in Aix la Chapelle, is a plant belonging to the Gelsenkirchner Bergwerks-Gesellschaft. It engages thousands of laborers and is as fully employed as the labor conditions permit. The output is reported to be now 80 per cent of that of normal years. Its principal products are half-finished products, heavy iron and steel products such as railway rails and ties, and rolled tin.

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### MARKET IN PORTUGAL FOR CARNIVAL GOODS.

[Consul General W. L. Lowrie, Lisbon, July 29.]

An excellent opportunity is offered in Portugal for the sale of American-made carnival goods. Practically all the imported merchandise of this description came formerly from countries now at war. There is some native production, but not in sufficient quantity to meet the demand. The season lasts for about four weeks in February and March each year and is generally observed throughout the country. For three or four days Lisbon and Oporto are given over to the celebration.

Large quantities of confetti, serpentines, masks, paper hats, and whistles and noise-producing articles of every description are on sale in the stores and from special booths erected for the occasion at central points. Small objects, such as dolls, toys, animals, fans, and artificial flowers and fruits, are thrown by the merry makers and are collected as souvenirs. There is also a good market for small tubes for throwing perfumed water and for cheap masquerade costumes, especially those of a national character, such as Chinese, Japanese, and Indian.

Police regulations are rather strict to prevent the use of any article that might cause injury to the public or to the participants in the festivities.

[A list of Lisbon dealers in carnival goods may be obtained, upon request, from the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce or its district and co-operative offices. Refer to file No. 79447.]

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### American Interests Seek Meat-Freezing Concession.

Consul Samuel Hamilton Wiley, of Asuncion, reports that a representative of American capitalists has petitioned the Paraguayan Congress to make the meat-freezing-plant concession granted to Mr. G. L. Rickard (see COMMERCE REPORTS for Jan. 27, 1915, p. 373) an exclusive right. The persons asking for this amendment agree, in the event of the concession being made an exclusive one, to erect and operate the plant comprehended in the original grant.

**BELFAST A MARKET FOR AMERICAN BOTTLES.**

[Vice Consul Guy H. Hitch, Belfast, Ireland, July 31.]

Owing to the extent to which ginger ale, aerated waters, whisky, and other beverages are bottled in this city, Belfast is an excellent market for the sale of American glass bottles and containers. At present practically all the bottles used by the local trade are procured from English bottle works located in Lancashire and Yorkshire; but, owing to the difficulty in securing skilled labor, these works are often shut down for days, and even weeks, at a time. As a result, those local bottlers who do not order their containers in quantities sufficient to insure having a supply on hand at all times are frequently handicapped by not having enough bottles to fill the orders for beverages which they have previously accepted. Some of the larger local bottlers, however, order 10-ounce ginger-ale bottles in quantities of 1,000 to 3,000 gross.

Ten-ounce ginger-ale bottles, weighing from 16 to 17 ounces, as supplied to the local trade by the manufacturers in England, now range in price from 17s. 6d. (\$4.26) to 20s. (\$4.87), whereas quotations submitted by American manufacturers for similar goods f. o. b. New York average about 17s. (\$4.14) per gross. The carriage from New York to Liverpool and thence to Belfast would make a total cost to local bottlers of about 19s. 6d. (\$4.75) per gross. It is stated by members of the local trade that although American bottles are no stronger than those of British manufacture they are of a better color (clearer glass), and that if the prices for the two were approximately the same the American product would be given the preference.

**Terms and Shipping Routes.**

There are no firms in Belfast engaged in jobbing bottles. Local houses prefer that quotations be made them c. i. f. Belfast and that sufficient time be allowed to receive and inspect the goods before payment is exacted. Owing to the present deranged condition of the market, it is impossible to determine what would constitute a fair average of credit extensions allowed by the bottle manufacturers in England, some of them allowing a discount of  $2\frac{1}{4}$  per cent for cash in 30 days, while others sell on 30 days' credit, but do not give any discount. Some concerns also make an allowance of  $2\frac{1}{4}$  per cent for breakage, whereas others do not accept any responsibility whatever on this account.

Most of the goods shipped from the United States to Belfast are sent from New York to Liverpool and thence to Belfast by the Belfast Steamship Co.'s direct steamers. Under normal conditions there is but one line of steamers, the Head Line, maintaining a regular schedule of sailings from the United States to Belfast. The vessels of this line sail every two or three weeks from Galveston and New Orleans direct to Belfast.

Empty bottles are allowed entry into Ireland free of duty, regardless of the source of their importation.

[A list of the principal Belfast users of mineral-water and whisky bottles may be obtained upon request from the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce or its district and cooperative offices by referring to file No. 79833. A review of the bottle trade of the South of Ireland appeared in Daily Consular and Trade Reports for Oct. 24, 1914.]

**GREEK TRADE IN MILK, BUTTER, AND CHEESE.**

[American consulate general, Greece, July 8.]

One of the principal sources of wealth of the Greek people is the milk industry, which, however, is still conducted in a primitive manner. The principal milch animals of Greece are sheep and goats. Cows are found only in and near the larger cities, on account of the poor pasturage offered by the hilly and rocky country. The capital necessary to supply the rich pastures required by cows, the expensive stables, trained hands, etc., is lacking in Greece.

According to official statistics, there were in old Greece in 1911 3,546,642 head of sheep and 3,238,045 head of goats, valued at \$23,872,876. To these figures should be added 6,000,000 head of sheep and goats scattered through the rich plains of Macedonia and the hilly districts of Epirus, which became Greek territory after the Balkan Wars of 1913.

**Production Could Be Doubled With Scientific Methods.**

It is roughly estimated that of these 12,000,000 head of cattle, only two-thirds are milk-producing, yielding 200,000,000 okes (about 65,898,349 gallons) of milk yearly. This quantity, manufactured into unworked cheese, gives about 60,000,000 okes or 169,290,000 pounds of cheese, valued at \$11,580,000. After this cheese is worked, the value is increased to at least \$15,440,000. It is thought that these figures could easily be doubled if proper care were exercised by shepherds and greater interest shown by agriculturists. To improve the industry the Ministry of Agriculture and Commerce, which was established in 1909, has been doing valuable work, promulgating scientific methods in agriculture, assisting farmers, and elaborating plans for the establishment of agricultural schools through the country.

One of the great drawbacks to the proper development of the milk industry has been the roving life of the shepherds. Most of the shepherds in Greece are nomads, differing in many points from the ordinary Greek, belonging most probably to the Wallachian or Thracian family, and speaking among themselves a language totally different from modern Greek. As a general rule they are not registered in any city or commune, pay no taxes, and consider themselves free from ordinary laws.

**Training for Young Shepherds Proposed.**

The Ministry of Agriculture and Commerce is now considering means of reaching these nomads and inducing them to settle down in a fixed spot. It is hoped that they will register for taxation, that the children will receive an elementary education, and the men serve in the army. If these plans are carried out, the young shepherds will in early youth be trained in the agricultural schools that are in process of formation throughout the country, and return to their homes with a knowledge of modern dairying methods.

For many years past, some of the shepherds have formed a company with many branches, called "Tsilingata." They rent pastures on joint account, sell their products, and divide the profits on the basis of the number of head of cattle that each shepherd owns. The

ministry is trying to improve on this primitive plan, and to instill a spirit of fuller cooperation. In the Peloponnesus, a dairy has been established at Manolada, a property belonging to the Crown. The necessary implements and machinery were provided at the expense of the royal property, and the shepherds from the neighboring country contributed by bringing in the milk of their flocks. The first year's work has been such a success that the profits on the manufactured butter and cheeses have been sufficient not only to pay off part of the capital invested in the plant and buildings, but to give 25 per cent clear profit to the shepherds.

**Young Trees Damaged Extensively by Goats.**

Another source of concern to the ministry is the large number of goats in the country. These animals are most harmful to the young trees, and as long as they are not confined within given limits, it will be impossible to reforest the country. Goats usually do not herd alone, but form portions of larger herds of sheep. The mountain goat produces daily about one quart of milk. As this milk, on account of its flavor, can not be used by itself, it is mixed with the milk of sheep in preparing butter and cheese. In the larger cities there are goats, originally imported from Malta, which produce about 2.16 quarts of milk daily, but as they require richer fodder than the ordinary goat of the country, they have not been introduced into the hilly districts.

Cow's milk is used in this country principally for drinking, the surplus only being manufactured into butter. Sheep's milk is used for the manufacture of butter, of *giaouri* (sour curds), of a popular rice pudding called "*rizzo gala*," and of cheese. All the dairies in Athens now complain of the scarcity of fodder, resulting principally from the small quantity of rain that fell during the winter months and the difficulties experienced in importing straw from the Provinces.

**Fewer Calves Killed on Account of War Conditions.**

Most of the cows found in the larger cities of Greece were formerly imported annually from Russia, the dairies preferring to do this rather than to keep the calves and have to feed them for several years. This year, on account of the difficulty experienced in importing from Russia, many of the calves have not been sent to the slaughterhouse.

Although most of the milk drunk in the larger cities of the Hellenic Kingdom is cow's milk, there are still some people, even in Athens, who state that they prefer goat's to cow's milk.

The cows are milked by dairy hands, and not by milking machinery. An owner of one of the larger dairies in this city states that, although dairies are trying gradually to import sterilizing machinery, it is feared that the ordinary buyer will not appreciate this novelty. Each milk vender is a free lance. The delivery is by a wagon and tin containers, except in the case of the goats, which are driven to the houses of customers and milked at the doors. There is no Government or municipal supervision of dairies.

**Table Butter Used by Richer Class and Foreigners.**

Table butter is regarded as a luxury by the ordinary Greek, and is seen only on the tables of the richer class and those of foreigners.

The demand for cooking butter, although it is found in almost every ménage, is affected by the quantity of olive oil used. The quantity of cow's butter produced in the larger cities is inadequate to meet the internal demand, and large quantities are imported annually from foreign countries. In normal times Russia is the chief source, closely followed by Denmark and Holland.

The statistics obtainable are rather misleading, as in 1913 Germany appears as the principal exporter of butter to Greece, while in 1914 England leads the list. This is explained by the fact that during 1913 Danish butter was imported into Greece through Hamburg and credited to Germany, while in the last two years the movement has been through English ports.

There is only one manufacturer in Greece shipping butter to the various cities of the Hellenic Kingdom. This firm has been established in Corfu for many years. It has no cows and procures its milk from small milk vendors scattered throughout the island. Its butter is very popular throughout Greece. Besides this supply, a small quantity is to be obtained from the King's properties of Manolada, previously referred to, and Tatoi. Most of the butter made in local dairies is somewhat watery and does not keep.

#### **Cooking Butter Made From Sheep's Milk.**

Besides the cow's butter, made exclusively for table use, a considerable quantity of cooking butter is manufactured from sheep's milk. A small quantity of the product is exported annually to the United States for consumption among Greeks living there. In the early spring sheep's butter is also procurable for table use, but as this melts easily, it is not prepared during the warm months. Sheep's butter, when properly prepared, is snow white in color and has an excellent flavor.

Although the larger dairies have for the past 20 years been importing cream separators from Germany and France and there is a good demand for these machines in the country, the cream is separated from the milk in most of the dairies in a primitive manner. In the smaller dairies the milk is poured into shallow dishes and left to stand for several hours. The cream is then skimmed off and made into butter, while the naturally poor liquid that remains is either sold in that form or first mixed with an equal amount of unskimmed milk and then sold. Cream is never seen on the breakfast or tea table in this country, partially skimmed milk being universally drunk.

In the case of the larger dairies where, as suggested, cream separators are in use, it is understood that the skimmed milk is no longer used for drinking purposes, but is either sold to the smaller milk vendors, who in turn sell the inferior liquid to the poorer class of the city, or it is given to bakers and confectioners, who use it in preparing their products.

#### **Cheese Principal Food of Greek People.**

Most of the sheep and goat milk produced is manufactured into cheese, which is the principal food of the Greek people. A Greek peasant generally lives on bread, cheese, and olives. Of the cheese manufactured, nine-tenths is consumed in domestic trade, barely one-tenth being exported to foreign countries. Of the small amount exported annually, the United States receives the largest quantity.

It is said to be feared here that with the return of normal conditions foreign cheeses will be imported via the Junction Line from northern Europe and again oust the Greek cheeses from the local markets. By means of the new line it will be possible to import cheeses, butter, and even fresh milk in perhaps 60 to 100 hours from France, Switzerland, and Austria in refrigerator cars. Only a small amount of cheese is imported at present. The imports, which have never exceeded \$100,000 annually in value, are consumed only in the larger cities of Greece.

It is believed that American dairy machinery, if once well introduced to the Greek market, would make headway against machinery from other countries, and that the demand would increase from year to year. The average Greek business man has a favorable opinion of American machinery, and many of them consider it superior to all other machinery. Most of the dairy machinery in local use, however, has been imported from France, Germany, and England.

#### **Many Have Studied in French Agricultural Schools.**

French machinery is used more than any other because most of the leading agriculturists have studied in French agricultural schools, and naturally prefer to use machinery with which they are familiar. Some dairies prefer German machinery, as it is cheaper and simpler than either the English or French, although it does not last so long.

Great care should be taken in building up a trade in dairy machinery here. The proper method would be to act through a commission agent. There would be many advantages in appointing such an agent, conversant with the language, local conditions, requirements, etc. He would advise the American exporter regarding the manner of doing business, the credit terms offered by competitors, the financial standing of prospective customers and complaints of buyers, and could keep the importers interested in his goods.

At present American firms are in a position to demand "cash against documents," but with the return of peace, when so many countries will again be in the field, trying to capture the Greek market by their tempting offers, these terms will become too harsh. It should be noted that the Greek business man, on the whole, works with very limited capital and requires 2 to 6 months' credit to sell the goods and then pay for them. There are many houses here entirely worthy of credit, and few bankruptcies of any importance have been reported in the last few years.

#### **Shipping Terms Desired by Greek Merchants.**

The Greek merchant desires that all offers should be made him on the basis of c. i. f. port of arrival. He will cheerfully pay more in order to know exactly what the goods are to cost him, rather than take chances with regard to ocean freights, insurance, etc.

All dairy implements and machinery enter free of charge as per royal decree published in the Government Gazette No. 390 of October 20-November 2, 1915, article 1, No. 8.

Although this royal decree states that all agricultural machinery and implements destined to agricultural societies of Greece for their own use or for sale or disposal to their members are exempt from all port duties, octroi, communal, port, or other taxes, yet it is understood that a number of commission agents come within the



provisions of this decree through being members of agricultural societies.

[A list of dairies and commission agents in Athens may be obtained from the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, its district or cooperative offices. Refer to file No. 79324.]

### AMERICAN CONSULAR OFFICERS ON LEAVE OF ABSENCE.

The following American consular officers are on leave of absence in the United States and will be glad to confer with business men and commercial organizations relative to conditions in their respective jurisdictions. The consul's time is available primarily for personal interviews. He has limited facilities for correspondence, and except in urgent cases letters should be directed to the consulate.

Name.	Post.	Expiration of leave.	Address.
Hale, F. D.	Huddersfield, England	Sept. 5	Lunenburg, Vt.
Masterson, William W.	Durban, Natal, South Africa.	Sept. 1	Carrollton, Ky.
Baker, E. Carlton.	Nagasaki, Japan	Aug. 30	Apartment No. 75, The Brunswick, Washington, D. C.
Monaghan, J. C.	Kingston, Jamaica	Sept. 1	Avenue A and Fourteenth Street, Bayonne, N. J.
Jewell, John F.	Chefoo, China	Oct. 1	Galesburg, Ill.
Kemper, Graham H.	Erfurt, Germany	Sept. 10	Department of State, Washington, D. C.
Goodier, James H.	Niagara Falls, Canada	Sept. 1	27 South Hawk Street, Albany, N. Y.
Huseltine, Ross	Port Antonio, Jamaica	Oct. 1	Department of State, Washington, D. C.
Leung, James Oliver	Karachi, India	Sept. 30	C/o University Club, Kansas City, Mo.
Leonard, Walter A.	Colombo, Ceylon	Oct. 14	Essex, Iowa.
Osborne, John Ball	Havre, France	Oct. 21	Department of State, Washington, D. C.
Mansfield, Robert E.	Vancouver, Canada	Sept. 15	Rushville, Ind.

### NEW SCHOOL BUILDING IN COLON.

[Consul Julius D. Dreher, Colon, Panama, Aug. 2.]

The building division of the Panama Canal has begun the erection of a new school building for the accommodation of the children of canal employees residing in Colon and in Cristobal, Canal Zone. The new schoolhouse will be constructed of reinforced concrete, with Spanish tile roof; it will be 174 feet long by 56 feet wide, two stories in height, and in its 18 classrooms it will provide accommodation for all the grades from primary to high school. In addition to the classrooms, there will be on the first floor a teachers' room, lunch room, and toilet rooms, and on the second floor, the principal's room, library, scientific laboratory and study, and toilet rooms. It will be furnished in good style with every appliance and convenience to be found in the best modern school buildings. The cost of the structure is estimated to be \$125,000, and the time required for its completion about 8 months.

### AMERICAN LOAN TO CITY OF BOGOTA.

The American Legation at Bogota, Colombia, reports that a contract for a loan of \$5,000,000 to the city of Bogota has been signed by the American International Corporation of New York City. The loan was unanimously approved July 18, 1916, by the municipal council. The money will be used for the extension of the municipal street railway system, improvement of the waterworks, and the erection of a new market and slaughterhouse.

**SINGAPORE RATTAN MARKET.**

[Consul Harry Campbell, detailed as vice consul at Singapore, Straits Settlements.]

Approximately 90 per cent of the total world's supply of rattan is shipped from Singapore. This does not mean, however, that the raw product originates in the Straits Settlements or Federated Malay States. Of the imports into Singapore during 1913 about 42 per cent came from the Dutch East Indies, 38 per cent from Sumatra, 7 per cent from Sarawak, British North Borneo, and only about 4 per cent from the Malay Peninsula.

The rattan is cut in small quantities by the natives in various islands of the East Indies and sold to Indian or Chinese merchants in the neighborhood or is carried to some near-by settlement and exchanged, usually at a Chinese outpost store, for merchandise. These small supplies of rattan then find their way to a larger center and are bought up by Chinese dealers, who make shipments of a few tons each to Singapore when transportation may be available. In many cases these Chinese dealers are in charge of branches of Singapore houses that also operate small interisland steamers.

**Singapore's Leading Customers.**

As the rattan is delivered in Singapore it is bought up chiefly by a few Americans or Europeans acting as purchasing agents for manufacturers in the United States or Europe. Before the war there were in Singapore several German buyers representing large German manufacturers, Germany at that time taking about 30 per cent of the Singapore supply. This trade is now discontinued, and all of the supply that formerly went to Germany is at present being shipped direct to the United States, Great Britain, or allied European countries.

China (including Hongkong) has always been a fairly large market for rattans, but deals almost exclusively in the cheaper varieties used only to a small extent in the United States and Europe. Before the war Germany stood first, China second, and the United States third in the quantity of rattans purchased at Singapore. Now the United States takes the lead, with China and Great Britain second and third. In value, however, the American purchases have always ranked first.

In 1915 the imports of rattan into Singapore amounted to approximately 425,000 piculs (25,300 long tons), of which 406,000 piculs (24,165 tons) were reexported. For the first five months of the current year the exports of rattan have totaled about 171,000 piculs (10,175 tons). During 1915 approximately 25 per cent (in weight) of the exports from Singapore was destined for the United States, while for the first five months of the present year nearly 40 per cent has gone direct to that country.

**American Purchases Affect Market.**

The local market for rattan was rather dull during the early part of 1915, but as the demand from America increased prices of some of the lower grades advanced as much as 50 per cent. The advanced prices have been maintained during the current year, and the demand, especially from America, appears to be growing stronger. There are at present in Singapore two Americans buying for rattan manufac-

turers in the United States, and it is understood that they secure a very large proportion of the high-grade material.

Their purchases of the medium grades are also increasing, as they have found it necessary to purchase the raw material here, to be manufactured in the United States, whereas in former years they made considerable purchases of the partially manufactured materials of this grade from Germany. Since special machinery has now been installed by these manufacturers for this purpose, it seems reasonable to predict that the United States will retain much of this business after the war closes. There appears to be no good reason why manufacturers in the United States provided with proper machinery can not compete with European countries in the complete manufacture of rattan furniture and other articles from the raw product as it comes from Singapore.

#### **Ocean-Freight Situation.**

Freights have been a rather serious obstacle to shipments to the United States during the past year, the proportionate increase for rattan being greater than for any other product of the country, because of its great bulk as compared with value. In 1913 the ocean freight rate on rattan from Singapore to New York was about \$0.93 gold per 100 pounds, while in February, 1916, it stood at \$6.20. Recently, however, the rates have been lowered and now stand at \$4.65. The freight rate to Pacific ports was raised from \$1.28, in 1913, to the present one of \$3.57 per 100 pounds. For the cheaper varieties the freight often equals and sometimes exceeds the actual f. o. b. Singapore value of the raw material. Recent invoices covering large shipments of average grades sent to America show the freight to be about 25 per cent of the Singapore value.

Large shipments of rattans destined for manufacturers in Michigan have gone forward via the Pacific almost exclusively, as the Pacific rates to such interior points have been cheaper throughout the present war period than the Atlantic. This has not been true, however, of shipments of rattans made to the Atlantic seaboard except for a period of a few months during the latter part of 1915 and the early part of 1916, when the Atlantic rates were so increased that it cost less to send rattan to Massachusetts via the Pacific and then by rail across the continent than by the all-water route via the Atlantic direct to Boston. At present shipments of rattan to interior points of the United States are going forward by way of the Pacific and shipments to the eastern seaboard by way of the Atlantic Ocean.

#### **Direct Trade Suggested.**

While, as stated, a very large proportion of the American buying has thus far been done by representatives of two rattan manufacturers of the United States, several local firms [whose names may be obtained from the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce or its district and cooperative offices upon asking for file No. 78779] also deal in rattans. It is believed that any of these houses might be interested in receiving direct inquiries from the United States. They all correspond in English.

As to payments, it is customary for buyers to establish a documentary credit at three or four months' sight.

[Further details of Singapore's rattan trade are to be found in **COMMERCE REPORTS** for Sept. 4, 1915.]

**NICARAGUAN COFFEE EXPORTS.**

[Consul John A. Gamon, Corinto, July 20.]

Statistics furnished by the Collector General of Customs at Managua show a falling off of 2,617,764 pounds, or 13.8 per cent, in the quantity and one of \$270,495, or 14.5 per cent, in the value of the coffee exported from Nicaragua during the first six months of this year, as contrasted with the shipments during the corresponding period of 1915. The Collector General's figures follow:

Exported to—	1915		1916	
	Pounds.	Value.	Pounds.	Value.
United States .....	5,902,819	\$622,656	7,370,448	\$776,073
France .....	5,713,091	553,627	6,776,033	606,841
United Kingdom .....	3,713,585	396,406	148,882	19,082
Italy .....	2,962,559	250,637	706,163	57,113
Netherlands .....	399,313	42,163	1,330,709	132,640
Denmark .....	152,422	15,003		
Spain .....	132,342	12,407	64,020	5,613
Sweden .....	76,202	7,161		
Canada .....			30,429	3,390
All other countries .....	1,216	130	101	13
Total .....	19,043,549	1,873,170	16,425,785	1,602,676

The United States took about 48.4 per cent (in value) of the half-year shipments in 1916, as against 33.2 per cent in 1915; France purchased 38 per cent in 1916, as against 29.5 per cent for 1915; the United Kingdom, 1.2 per cent, as against 19.7 per cent; Italy, 3.5 per cent, as against 13.3 per cent; and the Netherlands, 8.3 per cent, as against 2.2 per cent.

**Crop Returns and Outlook.**

There are approximately 4,184,650 pounds of coffee in warehouses at Corinto and probably 750,000 pounds at interior points, practically all of which should be afloat before the end of August. Shipments for July and not included in the table above amount to approximately 1,200,000 pounds. In other words there were about 6,134,650 pounds of coffee not shipped at the end of June, 1916.

In 1915 approximately 94 per cent of Nicaragua's total coffee exports for the season left the country before the end of June. In 1916 this percentage dropped to 72.8 per cent. The delay in exporting this year's crop is due primarily to shortage in shipping accommodations to Europe.

Prices for the two years were very nearly the same, with slightly better figures for 1916. The crop, although falling short of expectations, surpassed the 1915 crop by about 3,500,000 pounds.

From present indications, the 1916-17 crop will equal or slightly exceed the 1915-16 crop.

**First Direct American Shipment of Honduran Hides.**

Under date of August 2 Consul Walter F. Boyle reports the first shipment of Honduran hides and deer skins direct from Puerto Cortes to Boston. Heretofore such cargoes have gone by way of New Orleans or New York.

## FOREIGN TRADE OPPORTUNITIES.

Reserved addresses may be obtained from the Bureau and its district offices. Request for each opportunity should be on a separate sheet and state opportunity number. The Bureau does not furnish credit ratings or assume responsibility as to the standing of foreign inquirers; the usual precautions should be taken in all cases.

**Leather, copper wire, etc., No. 22211.**—The commercial attaché of the Department of Commerce in France reports that the head of an organization in Switzerland is in the market for leather of all kinds for watch bracelets; also for the following metals for use in Swiss manufactures: Copper wire for motors, German silver in sheets and bars, nickel of the greatest purity. Full particulars should be stated as to time of delivery, discounts, etc. The purchaser is prepared to pay cash.

**Cabinet wood, No. 22212.**—An American consular officer in Spain writes that a manufacturer of furniture desires quotations c. i. f. destination and samples of "Nogal-Saten" (walnut) cabinet wood. Requirements about 1,000 to 2,000 cubic meters per annum. The wood must be in thickness of 1, 1½, and 2 inches, any width and length. Correspondence in Spanish. Sample of wood has been submitted and may be inspected at the Bureau or its district offices. (Refer to file No. 79101). The manufacturer is also interested in oak and beech woods.

**Machinery, No. 22213.**—An American consular officer in Argentina transmits the name of a company in his district which desires to receive catalogues and full information, prices, etc., regarding machinery and equipment for slaughter and packing houses. Correspondence and catalogues in Spanish, if practicable.

**Agricultural implements, No. 22214.**—An American consular officer in France transmits the name of a commercial traveler who desires to obtain the representation for southern France of American manufacturers of agricultural implements. Correspondence may be in English.

**Lard, starch, etc., No. 22215.**—A commission merchant and manufacturers' agent in an insular possession of a foreign country asks the Bureau to furnish him the names and addresses of the principal producers of lard with branches in New York and England; and of manufacturers of flour, laces, starch, shoe blacking, and canned goods. References.

**Cotton goods, etc., No. 22216.**—A man in Norway wishes to receive quotations and samples of cotton drapery goods, sheetings, twills, drills, satin, printed goods, etc.; also of underwear and union suits.

**Paper, No. 22217.**—The commercial attaché of the Department of Commerce in France transmits the name and address of a man in Northern Africa who is in the market for undulated straw paper, and waxed or oiled paper.

**Laboratory instruments, etc., No. 22218.**—The Bureau is informed that the chief of a laboratory in Russia desires to be placed in touch with American manufacturers of chemical and bacteriological laboratory equipment and instruments of all kinds, including microscopes and surgical instruments, etc. Price lists and catalogues of cotton machinery are also desired.

**Coffee cups, No. 22219.**—A man in northern Africa is in the market for coffee cups, according to a report received from the commercial attaché of the Department of Commerce in France.

## OFFICES OF THE BUREAU OF FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC COMMERCE.

## DISTRICT OFFICES.

NEW YORK: Room 409, Customhouse.  
BOSTON: 18th floor, Customhouse.  
CHICAGO: 504 Federal Building.  
ST. LOUIS: 402 Third National Bank Building.  
ATLANTA: 531 Post Office Building.  
NEW ORLEANS: 1920 Hibernia Bank Building.  
SAN FRANCISCO: 397 Customhouse.  
SEATTLE: 606 Henry Building.

## COOPERATIVE OFFICES.

CLEVELAND: Chamber of Commerce.  
CINCINNATI: Chamber of Commerce.  
CINCINNATI: C., N. O. & T. P. Ry. Co.  
LOS ANGELES: Chamber of Commerce.  
PHILADELPHIA: Chamber of Commerce.  
CHATTANOOGA: South American Agent, Southern Ry. Co.

**PROPOSALS FOR GOVERNMENT SUPPLIES AND CONSTRUCTION.**

[Correspondence should be direct with the offices named, and specifications can usually be obtained at the points where the goods are to be delivered or the work is to be performed. In cases where the time limit is too short to permit firms to submit tenders, they should ask to be placed on the mailing lists of such offices to receive notices calling for future supplies or work of a similar nature.]

**Construction, No. 3521.**—Sealed proposals will be received at the office of the Supervising Architect, Treasury Department, Washington, D. C., until October 2, 1916, for the construction complete of the United States post office at Willows, Cal. Drawings and specifications may be obtained from the custodian of site at Willows, Cal., or at the above-named office.

**Construction, No. 3522.**—Sealed proposals will be received at the office of the Supervising Architect, Treasury Department, Washington, D. C., until September 19, 1916, for the construction of the United States post office at Warrenton, Va. Drawings and specifications may be obtained from the custodian of site at Warrenton, Va., or at the above-named office.

**Construction, No. 3523.**—Sealed proposals will be received at the United States Engineer Office, customhouse, Memphis, Tenn., until September 5, 1916, for the construction of about 2,655,000 cubic yards of earthwork. Further information may be obtained from the above-named office.

**Alterations, No. 3524.**—Sealed proposals will be received at the office of the Supervising Architect, Treasury Department, Washington, D. C., until September 12, 1916, for the alterations, etc., to the building adjacent to the United States post office at Brooklyn, N. Y. Drawings and specifications may be obtained from the Supervising Chief Engineer, 727 Customhouse Building, New York City, from the custodian of the Brooklyn, N. Y., post office, or at the office of the Supervising Architect, Washington, D. C.

**Mail-handling devices, etc., No. 3525.**—Sealed proposals will be received at the office of the Supervising Architect, Treasury Department, Washington, D. C., until October 2, 1916, for mail-handling devices, etc., in the United States post office at Denver, Colo., in accordance with specification and drawing, copies of which may be obtained at the office of the Supervising Architect, Washington, D. C.

**Machinery, No. 3526.**—Sealed proposals will be received at the office of the Supervising Architect, Treasury Department, Washington, D. C., until September 8, 1916, for mail-conveying machinery in the United States post office and courthouse at Philadelphia, Pa., in accordance with specification and drawing, copies of which may be obtained at the office of the Supervising Architect, Washington, D. C.

**Subsistence supplies, No. 3527.**—Sealed proposals will be received at the office of the Quartermaster, U. S. Army, 308 Gumbel Building, Kansas City, Mo., until August 25, 1916, for furnishing potatoes, onions, butter, oleomargarine, bacon, cheese, ham, and yeast.

**Rock, No. 3528.**—Sealed proposals will be received at the U. S. Engineer Office, Queen & Crescent Building, New Orleans, La., until September 20, 1916, for furnishing and delivering 52,000 tons of rock. Further information may be had on application to the above-named office.

**Laundry machinery, No. 3529.**—Sealed proposals will be received at the Medical Supply Depot, U. S. Army, Fort Mason, San Francisco, Cal., until August 25, 1916, for furnishing and installing laundry machinery at the Letterman General Hospital, Presidio, San Francisco, Cal. Further information may be obtained from the Officer in Charge, Medical Supply Depot, San Francisco, Cal.

**Oak and pine lumber, No. 3530.**—Sealed proposals will be received at the U. S. Engineer Office, Customhouse, Memphis, Tenn., until September 11, 1916, for furnishing about 493,000 feet pine and about 10,000 feet oak lumber. Further information may be obtained from the above-named office.

**Beans, No. 3531.**—Sealed proposals will be received at the office of the Quartermaster, U. S. Army, 308 Gumbel Building, Kansas City, Mo., until August 25, 1916, for furnishing and delivering 60,000 pounds of beans. Further information may be obtained from the above-named office.

# COMMERCE REPORTS



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## ESTIMATE OF PARAGUAY'S 1916 TOBACCO CROP.

Under date of July 14, Consul Samuel Hamilton Wiley, of Asuncion, reports that the official estimate of production of tobacco in Paraguay from the 1916 crop places the amount at 22,040,000 pounds, as compared with 15,704,110 pounds produced during 1915.

## ROUMANIA RESTRICTS USE OF MEAT.

[American Minister Charles J. Vopicka, Bucharest, July 10.]

A circular addressed by the Minister of Interior to the prefects of departments and mayors of communities in Roumania prohibits the use of meat throughout the Kingdom on three days each week during summer, this prohibition applying to restaurants and railway stations as well as to the various health resorts. Exception, however, is made in the case of invalids, who may consume poultry on the "meatless" days. The minister's circular reads:

In view of the fact that during summer the consumption of meat is not as frequent, and that on the other hand fresh vegetables are to be found in abundance at this time of the year and constitute a nutriment which can very well replace meat, the Ministry of Interior, upon the advice of the Central Commission for Food Supplies, has decided that the number of days on which no meat is to be consumed will be three per week, and not two as heretofore. We, therefore, beg you to take the necessary measures in order to prevent the sale and consumption of meat on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays, and consequently not to allow the slaughtering of cattle in abattoirs on the eve of these days. You will see that the measures are applied in restaurants and railway stations as well as in all health resorts.

For certain invalids an exception can be made in order to permit them to consume poultry.

## Spanish Bond Issue for Port Works.

Consular Assistant Bartley F. Ycst, of Barcelona, reports that the Port Commission of Tarragona, Spain, has announced the emission of \$75,000 worth of 5 per cent 30-year bonds. These bonds, which have a face value of 500 pesetas, or \$90, are to be sold at par and the proceeds used for harbor works.

**GERMANY MAY INTRODUCE SILKWORM INDUSTRY.**

[Consul Henry C. A. Damm, Aix-la-Chapelle, July 27.]

Much discussion is going on with regard to the growing of raw silk in Germany, thus making the silk industry independent of outside supplies. However, attention is called to the fact that at various times attempts have been made to introduce silkworm culture, but none has been successful. The physical obstacles appear less serious than the technical.

It has been shown that the silkworm and the mulberry tree both thrive in Germany, and it is now proposed to feed the worms on the leaves of the "Schwarzwurzel" (comfrey, *Symphytum officinale*), which grows readily in this country. It is said four or five crops of cocoons could be secured during one year instead of one, as with mulberry leaves. A company, the Deutsche Seidenbau Gesellschaft, has been organized, experiments are continually being made, and good results reported; the worms seem to thrive on the leaves and the silk to be of excellent quality.

The technical difficulties are not so easily overcome. Advocates of the movement think that the culture of the silkworm might give employment to many of the invalids and cripples made by the war. The spinning of the silk of the cocoons, however, requires much experience and skill. In 1913 Germany used 4,300,000 kilos (9,479,875 American pounds) of raw silk, valued at 160,000,000 marks (\$38,080,000). To produce the necessary cocoons for this quantity would require the labor of 400,000 people, and the spinning of the cocoons would call for 20,000 to 25,000 more. It seems quite impossible that within a reasonable length of time a sufficient number of people could be trained for this work, and it is feared the product would cost more than the imported raw silk.

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**ROUTE FOR NEW RAILWAY IN COLOMBIA.**

The Minister of Public Works of Colombia has adopted for the proposed railway from Cali to Popayan the route recommended by a committee of the Colombian Society of Engineers in a recent number of the *Diario Oficial*. This route, which is almost wholly in the valley of the Cauca River, was found to be the shortest and most practicable of the various routes suggested by the Pacific Railway Co. in a report to the Colombian Government in 1915. With the completion of the railway to Popayan, the capital of the Department of Cauca and the terminus of an old commercial road running south through Ecuador, an important region would be opened to shipping through the port of Buenaventura.

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**PLANS FOR SANTO DOMINGO CUSTOMHOUSE.**

The Director General of Public Works of the Dominican Republic has forwarded to the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce a copy of the plans and specifications for a new reinforced concrete customhouse at Santo Domingo City, bids for which will be opened at Santo Domingo on October 24, 1916. These plans and specifications may be examined at the New York district office of the Bureau, Room 409, Customhouse. Refer to file No. 79349b.



**LEGISLATION AND PUBLIC WORKS IN SALVADOR.****Amendment of Employers' Liability Act.**

The law of 1911 fixing the responsibility of employers for accidents to workmen has recently been modified by the Congress of Salvador to apply when power machinery is used in the following work: Construction and repair of buildings, including masonry, carpentering, locksmithing, stonecutting, painting, agricultural and forestry work, and all land and naval construction. Employers are also responsible for accidents to their workmen engaged in cleaning wells, streets, or sewers, in loading or unloading, working in warehouses and in the coal, wood, and lumber industries.

**Banks Increase Capital.**

The Banco Salvadoreño has increased its reserve fund by \$125,000, according to a recent number of *Centro-America*, and the Banco Occidental has increased its capital to £225,000. [See *COMMERCE REPORTS* for May 16, 1916.]

**Water and Lighting Installations.**

The town of Moncagua is to be supplied with water by hydraulic power carrying 21,000 gallons in 24 hours a distance of 3,900 feet and to a height of 160 feet. Other towns installing water systems are San Miguel, Ahuachapan, Usulután, Sonsonate, and San Juan Nonualco. Electric lighting is being installed in Coatepeque and San Vicente, and acetylene lighting in Metapan and Chalatenango.

**Concession for Soap Factory.**

The Congress of Salvador has granted to Fabrian Marciano Trigueros the exclusive right for five years to manufacture the soaps known as Kiamol and Black Balsam of Salvador. The concession, as published in the *Diario Oficial* of July 29, states that Mr. Trigueros is the inventor of these soaps, and the sole right to exploit them is granted as a protection to a new industry.

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**TURKEY ESTABLISHES BUREAUS OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS.**

[Hoffman Phillip, secretary of American Embassy, Constantinople, July 21.]

The Turkish Official Journal for July 7/20, 1916, contains a set of regulations concerning the establishment of bureaus of economic affairs in the cities of Smyrna, Broussa, and Eski-Shehir. These bureaus will be under the direction of the Ministry of Commerce and Agriculture. Their duties will consist in examining economic organizations of a commercial, industrial, or agricultural nature and in assisting the exchange and distribution of imports and products of the country. Among the provisions contained in this set of regulations is one requiring that the directors of these bureaus shall spend at least four months in the year traveling through their districts.

It is to be noted that in establishing this new branch of governmental assistance and control of economic conditions in the Provinces the Ottoman Government has selected the regions which are most highly developed in this respect and which at the same time compose a district offering some of the best opportunities for further development.

**CHANGES IN BRITISH COLUMBIA HARBOR DUES.**

[Vice Consul G. C. Woodward, Vancouver, Aug. 11.]

A change has been made in the by-laws of the corporation of the Harbor Commissioners of Vancouver, establishing a uniform tonnage fee for all classes of vessels. The principal requirement of section 112 of the by-laws, approved May 21, 1914, containing the tariff charges and license fees payable by vessels entering the port of Vancouver, provided that all vessels of 50 tons register or over should pay 3 cents per ton register on each entry, and vessels under 50 tons should pay a flat rate of \$2.50 for each entry, no vessel being subject to the payment of this fee for more than five entries in one calendar year. In September, 1914, the harbor commissioners amended these by-laws by eliminating this section entirely. On July 15, 1916, the former section 112 was rescinded and the following substituted:

Any vessel entering the harbor of Vancouver, B. C., shall, on making her entry, pay harbor dues to the Corporation of the Harbor Commissioners of Vancouver, B. C., at their offices at the rate of 3 cents per net registered ton, for which a receipt shall be given, but no vessel shall pay on more than five entries in any one calendar year.

There is now no distinction based upon the size or class of a vessel. Three cents per net ton is the uniform charge.

[A copy of the by-laws mentioned may be inspected at the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, its district or cooperative offices. Refer to file No. 79455.]

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**SCARCITY OF LABORERS IN CURAÇAO.**

[Consul George S. Messersmith, Curaçao, Dutch West Indies, Aug. 5.]

For the first time in many years, probably for the first time in the history of this island, there is need for more laborers than there are now on the island. The construction of the petroleum refinery near Willemstad (see *COMMERCE REPORTS* for Apr. 6, 1915, and Apr. 29, 1916), gives steady employment to hundreds of laborers who formerly worked at the docks in transshipping cargo and in coaling vessels. The withdrawal of these men has made necessary the importation of laborers from the neighboring islands of Bonaire and Aruba.

A cargo of coal from the United States is now being discharged by women, some 150 being necessary. It is said that this is the first time in the history of the island that it has been necessary to employ women on this kind of work; the circumstance naturally arouses comment here.

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**NEW MUNICIPAL BUILDING IN COLON.**

[Consul Julius D. Dreher, Colon, Panama, Aug. 9.]

The city of Colon has just contracted for the erection of a new municipal building, which is to be situated at the corner of Broadway and Sixth Street. It will have a frontage of 120 feet on Sixth Street and will occupy two blocks with the exception of space to be devoted to grass plats. It will be a reinforced-concrete structure, two stories high, in the style of the Italian Renaissance with modifications.

The new building, which is to be as nearly fireproof as possible, will cost \$50,000.

**AMERICAN FOREIGN TRADE IN JULY.**

American imports for July were valued at 183 million dollars, a falling off of 63 million dollars compared with June. July exports amounted to 446 million dollars, a decrease of 19 million dollars compared with the previous month. But although the total foreign trade for the month fell below that for the record month of June it exceeded that of the previous July by 40 million dollars, and is the July record for American trade.

The foreign trade for the year ending with July last also marks a new high record, being 6,748 million dollars, compared with 4,540 million in 1915. The twelve months' imports aggregated 2,237 million dollars, against 1,658 million last year, and exports 4,511 million, compared with 2,883 million last year.

The favorable balance of trade for July was 263 million dollars, and for the year, 2,273 million. A year ago the export balance was 125 million for July and 1,225 million for the 12 months, while two years ago there was an import balance of 5½ million for the month of July and an export balance of 443 million for the 12 months.

Of the July imports, 64.8 per cent entered free of duty, compared with 64.5 per cent in July, 1915.

The month showed a continuation of the net inward gold movement. For July gold imports aggregated 62 million dollars, as against gold exports of 9 million. Last year July showed gold imports of 17 million and exports of 2 million, while two years ago July gold imports were but 3 million, as against gold exports of 33 million dollars. The net inward gold movement for the 12 months to August 1, 1916, aggregated 441 million dollars, as against 71 million in the preceding year, and a net outward gold movement of 75 million in a like period two years ago.

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**PROPOSED COTTON INDUSTRY FOR LYON.**

[Consul J. E. Jones, Lyon, France, July 20.]

Most of the French cotton-spinning mills are located in the northern and northeastern portions of France, now occupied by the Germans. Thus, for the moment, France is not manufacturing cotton textiles on a scale commensurate with its local demands, and prices have greatly increased.

France receives almost all of its cotton yarns from England, although small quantities come from Egypt and India. In 1915 France imported cotton yarn to the value of 234,170,000 francs (\$45,195,000), against 20,893,000 francs (\$4,032,000) for the preceding year. This enormous increase is due wholly to the closing of the spinning mills of northern France.

There have been several projects to organize a cotton-spinning industry in the Lyonnaise region. Heretofore financial and other difficulties have proved too great an obstacle to success, but after the war a determined effort will be made to create an extensive spinning industry here. Lyon produces tissues of silk and cotton mixed, chiefly destined for oriental countries (China, Manchuria, the Indies), and some cotton velvets and Georgette crêpes, but there is no factory making a specialty of cotton tissues.

**EXPORTS FROM SOUTH INDIA TO UNITED STATES.**

[Consul Lucien Memminger, Madras, July 14.]

The value of articles exported to the United States from the Madras Presidency in the six months ended June 30, 1916, as declared in invoices certified at the Madras consulate was \$4,995,597, or \$477,245 more than for the entire calendar year 1915. As this latter was a record year and the value of exports greatly exceeded the amount in 1914 it appears that the export trade of South India with the United States is steadily increasing—or, at any rate, that there is a favorable market for South Indian produce in America at the present time.

**Skins Rank First—Oil, Pepper, and Coir Yarn.**

Approximately half of the total exports to the United States from the Madras Presidency consists of goat and sheep skins, either raw or in the partly manufactured state known as tanned or dressed. In the half year under review there were exported 275,028 pieces of dry-salted goat skins, valued at \$169,601; 38,000 pieces of dry goat skins, valued at \$24,043; and 8,567,620 pieces of tanned goat and sheep skins, valued at \$2,233,077. All shipments of skins are from Madras. The bulk of these skins go to Boston, where they are converted into finished leather for shoe manufacture, belt making, bookbinding, and other purposes.

The next largest items of export to the United States during the first six months of the current year were: Coconut oil, 5,920,407 pounds, value, \$661,831; black and white pepper, 3,907,093 pounds, value, \$603,156; and coir yarn, 6,781,538 pounds, value, \$287,982. All are products of the west coast of the Presidency, and Cochin is the principal port of shipment. [The pepper trade of South India was described in COMMERCE REPORTS for Feb. 1, 1916.] The Telli-cherry and Alleppey grades are well known in the world markets. A considerable trade with America in coconut oil has grown up in recent years. In addition to its uses for the preparation of nut butter, margarine, soap, pomades, etc., the product has been especially in demand, it is said, for the making of glycerine for munitions. Exports to the United States in the calendar year 1915 amounted to 6,265,097 pounds, worth \$593,558.

**Natural Indigo and Other Leading Articles.**

The European war, by shutting out synthetic dyes from most countries, has caused a revival of the indigo industry in India, and Madras indigo has found a good market in the United States. Exports during the half year ended June 30, 1916, totaled 121,492 pounds, valued at \$242,661; in 1915 they aggregated 70,191 pounds, valued at \$107,882. The textile mills of New England are among the largest users of Madras indigo. The price of the raw product in Madras at the end of May was 8 rupees (\$2.60) per pound. [Among other references in COMMERCE REPORTS to India's revived natural-indigo industry were the reviews in the issues for Jan. 28, Oct. 11, and Dec. 31, 1915.]

Other leading articles of South Indian produce exported to the United States in January–June, 1916, were, in the order of their importance, sandalwood (1,213,474 pounds, value, \$226,844); nux

vomica, turmeric, copra (\$83,791); palmyra fiber (\$52,650); rubber (80,352 pounds, value, \$46,801); senna leaves (319,349 pounds, value, \$46,307); coir mats and mattings (\$20,945); lemon-grass oil, ginger, and chillies.

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### HOW THE WAR HAS AFFECTED THE WORLD'S BUSINESS.

How the war has affected business in the principal belligerent and neutral countries is shown in a report prepared by the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce for Senator Simmons, chairman of the Senate Committee on Finance. The countries covered are the United States, Canada, England, France, Germany, Austria-Hungary, Italy, Russia, Spain, Sweden, Argentina, Brazil, Australia, British India, British South Africa, Egypt, and Japan. The following general conclusions are drawn:

Business activities were fairly normal in the various countries of the world during the two years preceding the outbreak of the war.

In every country, including the United States, there was a decided decline in business activity after July, 1914.

The period of business depression following the outbreak of the war lasted from four to six months in most of the neutral countries. In the belligerent countries the upward trend did not begin until the last few months in 1915.

There was a slight depression in business activity in the United States in the latter part of 1913 and early in 1914, but in the spring and summer of 1914 there were signs of recovery. The outbreak of the war, however, caused a decided decline.

The United States at the close of the period, April, 1916, had entered upon a period of business activity which has had no parallel in the history of the country.

To indicate the business activities of the various countries covered by the report, statistics are printed showing imports and exports of merchandise, imports and exports of gold, receipts of railways, bank clearings, business failures, postal, telegraph, and telephone receipts, building operations, production of pig iron, and prices of commodities. Complete figures could not be obtained for all countries, but as the report stands it contains the most complete and reliable collection of statistics and diagrams that have been issued on the subject under one cover since the war started.

The report has been published as Senate Document No. 477, and contains 75 pages.

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### MUNICIPAL ELECTRICAL ENTERPRISE IN CANADA.

[Consul E. Verne Richardson, Moncton, New Brunswick, Aug. 12.]

The municipalities of Richibucto and Rexton, in Kent County, New Brunswick, are at the present time engaged jointly in the construction of a dam on the Kouchibouguac River for the purpose of supplying the two towns with electric light and power. The plant will be designed to develop about 250 horsepower, and the entire scheme calls for the expenditure of \$25,000 to \$30,000. Work on the dam is well under way, the station has been begun, and it is possible that the commissioners may be in position to furnish light by the end of 1916.

**COTTON SITUATION IN GERMANY.**

[Consul Henry C. A. Damm, Aix la Chapelle, July 27.]

The cotton spinning and weaving industry in and around Muenchen-Gladbach is much less employed than it was this time last year. War orders are not nearly so large as a year ago, because the military authorities seem to have supplies on hand which now need only to be supplemented and replaced. There is practically no work for civilian needs on account of the lack of raw material not subject to confiscation.

The prices of cotton three-cylinder yarns made of American fiber now prevailing at Muenchen-Gladbach are, per avoirdupois pound, f. o. b. mill: Cops, No. 24 English, extra, \$0.407 to \$0.411; No. 20, \$0.385 to \$0.394; No. 16, \$0.379 to \$0.387; No. 12, \$0.374 to \$0.383; Nos. 4 to 10, \$0.37 to \$0.379. For yarns of American fiber mixed with other, but at least one-third American, No. 20, \$0.372 per pound. For yarns less than one-third American, also yarns of East Indian or similar fiber, and yarns with the addition of linters, artificial cotton, and other fibers not cotton, No. 20, \$0.359 per pound on cops. Coarser yarns are correspondingly cheaper.

Prices for free (from confiscation) or imported yarns, per avoirdupois pound: No. 20, extra, \$0.897 to \$0.901; No. 16, water, \$0.894 to \$0.898; No. 12, water, \$0.891 to \$0.896. [Yarn prices of July, 1915, were published in *COMMERCE REPORTS* for Aug. 24, 1915, p. 956.]

The following maximum prices per pound are quoted for raw materials: Raw cotton—fully middling, American, \$0.286; Bengal fine, \$0.227. Cotton waste—American and Egyptian strips and combings, \$0.216 to \$0.248; linters, \$0.194. By reason of the scarcity of raw material and the high cost of yarns, prices for finished cotton goods are high, but the demand remains good for all classes of tricot, woven, and knit articles.

**Spinning Profits—Suggested Introduction of Metric System.**

The Crefelder Baumwollspinnerei Actien Gesellschaft earned a dividend of 8 per cent in 1915. At the meeting of the stockholders held some months ago it was stated that the mill is supplied with sufficient raw material to keep it going until the end of this year, under the present limitations as to working hours and use of material. The concern formerly used Egyptian raw cotton but is now working with American. It is producing yarns as fine as No. 140.

The question of substituting the metric system for the English system of numbering cotton yarns is being widely discussed in Germany. A committee of German cotton-spinning organizations, representing 96 per cent of the 12,000,000 spindles in the Empire, met in January last and decided unanimously to recommend to the Imperial Government the introduction of the metric system of numbering yarns, allowing due time for effecting the change. The committee and certain Government authorities consider the present time favorable for making the change. To accomplish it Germany must produce the necessary machinery, and therefore, it is argued, the change to the metric system should be made now, so that the machines can be built accordingly. The Chamber of Commerce of Muenchen-Gladbach has declared against the proposition, taking the view that such a radical change could be effected through international agreement only.

**Maximum Prices for Raw Cotton and Yarns.**

On May 26, 1916, the following maximum prices for raw cotton and cotton yarns established by the Government went into effect:

Table I. (a) Raw cotton, American: Ordinary, \$0.281; good ordinary, \$0.25; low middling, \$0.266; middling, good color, 28 millimeters (1.10236 inches), \$0.28; fully middling, good color, 28 millimeters, \$0.287; good middling, good color, 28 millimeters, \$0.293; fully good middling, good color, 28 millimeters, \$0.298; middling fair, good color, 28 millimeters, \$0.304. For variations as to class, staple, and color the customary increases and decreases are allowed.

The maximum prices for East Indian cotton range from \$0.226 to \$0.254. For African, especially Egyptian and sea-island cotton, the range of prices is from \$0.283 to \$0.54, the latter being for the best class of sea island. For the best grade of Asiatic cotton the maximum price is \$0.28, and for Peruvian and Brazilian cotton \$0.324. Lower grades, correspondingly cheaper.

(b) Linters, best linters, fancy, Bremen standard, fit for spinning, \$0.194.

(c) Cotton waste—strips and combings, best quality, \$0.248; other waste of Egyptian growth, \$0.216.

(d) Artificial (reworked) cotton, from \$0.194 to \$0.243, according to material and quality.

Table II. (I) Cotton yarns, ordinary, three-cylinder system, on cops: (1) American cotton, No 20 (English), \$0.394; if from cotton of fully good middling and better, \$0.415. (2) Of at least one-third American cotton, No. 20, \$0.372. (3) Less than one-third American cotton, or entirely of East Indian or similar, or containing linters, waste, or artificial cotton, \$0.362. Prices for yarns above or below No. 20 are higher or lower than the No. 20 quotations according to a fixed schedule.

**Quotations on Other Grades.**

(II) Bigogne yarn on cops, No. 6 English, \$0.351.

(III) Two-cylinder yarns, on cops, No. 6, \$0.351.

(IV) The maximum prices for yarns of Egyptian or sea-island cotton depend upon kind of yarns, whether carded or combed, and upon wages for spinning.

(V) Yarns from waste, artificial cotton, or a mixture of both, on cops, No. 6, vary according to method of spinning and quality of material from \$0.226 to \$0.302.

As in Group I the prices for II, III, and V increase and decrease as to finer or coarser grades, respectively.

(VI) Threads, knitting, and darning yarns, twice or more twisted, have the same maximum prices as ordinary yarns, with the following additions per pound: Up to No. 12 English, \$0.052; Nos. 14/20, \$0.069; Nos. 24/26, \$0.076; Nos. 28/32, \$0.086; No. 36, \$0.103; Nos. 40/42, \$0.112; Nos. 50/54, \$0.138; No. 60, \$0.162; No. 80, \$0.216; No. 100, \$0.27; No. 120, \$0.334; No. 139, \$0.431. Numbers 140 and above are not subject to maximum prices.

(VII) Yarns and threads improved in any way, as dyed, mercerized, etc., are subjected to a suitable increase in price. Compensation for loss in weight to 7 per cent is allowed.

(VIII) Deals with special packings.

(IX) Yarn and thread waste, best white or Egyptian (mako) threads, \$0.178.

**FOREIGN TARIFFS.****AUSTRALIA.**

[Statutory Rules, 1916, No. 103.]

**Marking of Infants' Foods.**

The following new regulations have been issued under the Commerce (Trade Descriptions) Act, 1905, replacing those promulgated in 1913 (see Foreign Tariff Notes No. 10, p. 97):

"In the case of infants' food, which, when prepared as directed by any statement or statements in the trade description applied thereto (1) does not conform approximately in proportional composition to human milk, in regard to fat, proteids, and sugars, or contains starch in excess of 1 per cent, there shall be written the words 'This food should not be given to infants under the age of six months, except under medical direction,' in bold sans-serif capital letters of not less than six points face measurement. The said words shall be the first words on the label and no other words shall be written on the same line or lines; (2) contains starch in a proportion not exceeding 1 per cent, but otherwise conforms approximately in proportional composition to human milk in regard to fat, proteids, and sugars, there shall be written the words 'This food should not be given to infants under the age of one month except under medical direction,' in bold sans-serif capital letters of not less than six points face measurement. The said words shall be the first words on the label, and no other words shall be written on the same line or lines."

It is also provided that infants' food shall not contain "any woody fiber, nor any mineral substance which is insoluble in acid, nor any preservative substance." Infants' food is defined to be "any food described or sold as an article of food suitable for infants."

**Marking of Articles of Apparel.**

It is now required that the statement of the nature of the principal material of which articles of clothing are composed shall, wherever practicable, be applied by means of indelible stamping.

[The regulations set forth in Tariff Series No. 17B (supplement to Customs Tariff of Australia) are modified in accordance with the above changes.]

**CANADA.**

[Customs Memorandum No. 2024B, July 17.]

**Removal of Prohibition on Animal Products from Illinois.**

The prohibition of the importation into Canada of various animal products, as well as of hay, straw, fodder, and manure, from the State of Illinois has been repealed by a ministerial order in effect July 17, 1916. [This prohibition, which was occasioned by the presence of foot-and-mouth disease in the United States, was put into effect November 9, 1914 (see Foreign Tariff Notes No. 15, p. 55), and was at first applicable to such imports from the entire United States. It was limited in January, 1916, however, to products imported from Illinois.]

**FRENCH INDO-CHINA.**

[Consul Lawrence P. Briggs, Saigon, June 5.]

**Temporary Reduction on Condensed Milk.**

By a decree of the Governor-General of French Indo-China, dated May 19, 1916, condensed milk and malted milk of United States or Australian origin are to be admitted into that colony at the minimum rates of duty until October, 1916. [Under the French customs tariff, to which most imports into French Indo-China are subject, condensed milk from the United States is dutiable under the general tariff at a much higher rate than imports from countries entitled to the minimum tariff.]



GREECE.

[Board of Trade Journal, July 20.]

**Abrogation of Tariff Increase.**

The increase of 10 per cent in the duties on articles imported into Greece (see **COMMERCE REPORTS** for July 21, 1916) has been withdrawn and the extra duties already collected are to be refunded.

PERU.

**Tobacco Monopoly.**

A very interesting report relative to the state monopoly of tobacco in force in Peru has been received from Commercial Attaché William F. Montavon, Lima, and a copy will be loaned to those interested upon application to the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce.

RUSSIA.

[Vice Consul Felix Cole, Petrograd, May 30.]

**Temporary Reduction on Paper.**

The import duty on paper of all kinds not specified in the Russian customs tariff [tariff No. 177.2(b)] has been reduced from 6.60 to 0.825 ruble per pood, the lower rate to remain in effect until the end of the war (ruble, par value, \$0.515; pood, 36.1128 pounds). [Paper bearing watermarks is not admitted at the reduced rate.]

SALVADOR.

**Reduction on Silos.**

The American Legation at San Salvador has transmitted a decree published in the *Diario Oficial* for March 28, 1916, providing for the free admission into Salvador of silos of galvanized iron or steel, together with their bolts, rivets, and accessories, which were formerly dutiable at \$0.03 per kilo. Such articles are still subject, however, to the customhouse charges for handling, etc.

[*Diario Oficial*, Apr. 12.]

**Exemption of News Print Paper.**

A decree of April 11, 1916, transmitted by the American Legation at San Salvador exempts from import duty ordinary news print paper imported into Salvador, which was formerly subject to a duty of \$0.03 per kilo.

[*Diario Oficial*, May 25.]

**Reductions on Tar and Starch.**

According to presidential decrees dated May 24, 1916, the duties on tar and on starch imported into Salvador have been reduced from \$0.10 to \$0.02 per kilo.

URUGUAY.

[*Diario Oficial*, Jan. 11.]

**Exemptions in Favor of Meat-Packing Industry.**

An Uruguayan law of January 8, 1916, extends for five years the period during which building material and machinery for the construction of meat-packing establishments are to be admitted free of duty into Uruguay. The exemption from duty of such articles was previously authorized for a period of five years by a law of July 13, 1911 (see *Foreign Tariff Notes* No. 4, p. 15).

**CHILEAN DEMAND FOR PAPER AND BOOKS.**

[Consul General L. J. Keena, Valparaiso, July 17.]

Practically the only size of book paper known in Chile is 77 by 110 centimeters (30 $\frac{3}{4}$  by 43 $\frac{3}{4}$  inches). Glazed and M. G. printings run from 25 to 50 kilos, principally 25 to 35 kilos (kilo=2.2 pounds). Azure laid book papers for countinghouse books (ledgers, etc.) run from 45 to 65 kilos in the size mentioned. All measurements are expressed in the metric system.

The unit of paper measure is the ream of 500 sheets. Ream weight is the weight per ream of paper measuring 77 by 110 centimeters, and only this one standard of weight is used. The only size paper quoted in inches which can ordinarily be substituted for 77 by 110 centimeters is 30 by 40 inches.

The preferred packing for print and book papers exported to Chile is to have reams in paper wrappers baled in sacks of about 250 kilos.

Chilean printers, in general, buy their paper from importing and jobbing houses, as very few of them would be in a position to establish a foreign credit.

I am informed that the sizes of paper used in Chile do not correspond with the standards of the other South American countries.

**Chile's Purchases of Books in Foreign Countries.**

The countries, in order of importance, which have supplied the books purchased abroad for the Chilean market in the past three years were: In 1913, Great Britain, Germany, United States, Spain, and France; in 1914, Germany, Spain, United States, France, and Great Britain; in 1915, Spain, United States, Great Britain, France, and Argentina.

From Spain is received the major part of books in Spanish; those from Great Britain are principally in English and those from the United States are principally technical and scientific works. The English books received here are principally cheap colonial editions of English novels or of translations into English. The Spanish books also are very cheap editions, most of which can be retailed here from 60 to 90 cents, United States currency. The market for higher-priced books in any language is small except for those on technical subjects.

The books received from Germany are in different languages and come principally from some of the polyglot publishing houses of Leipzig. These are reprints of more expensive foreign editions. There is also a steady demand for French books, ordinarily of the novel type, in paper covers, sold in Paris at retail for 3 francs 50 centimes (\$0.68) and sold locally at retail for about 90 cents, United States currency.

**Conditions Under Which American Books Can Be Sold.**

If in the United States we can produce foreign editions (those exclusively for sale outside of the country) at a price which will compete with those published by Spanish, French, English, and German publishing houses, they should find a fair market in Chile, even though most of the principal booksellers are of British or German nationality. There is practically no market, however, for American novels in editions which retail at home for \$1 to \$1.50, United States currency, per volume. For primary and secondary schools the American textbooks which have been translated into

Spanish, so far as this office has any knowledge, are too well done and too expensively made and bound.

School books in general are printed in the country and are edited by Chilean educators. It is improbable that any general adoption of American school books could be effected in Chile. Some, however, are imported from Paris and Leipzig. They are imported bound and not in sheets for completion in local binderies.

Halftone plates are made in Chile, the metal plates of zinc, copper, etc., being imported. All other raw material for plate making is imported, and the work of producing the block (line, halftone, three-color, etc.) is done locally.

In general, Chile knows very little about American graphic arts. The country is far more a disciple of Germany and England, though in general both English and German work of this type is reproduced and not imported.

[A classified list of the paper imports of Chile, with countries of origin, together with other information regarding the trade, was included in Special Consular Reports No. 73, "Paper and Stationery Trade of the World," which may be obtained at 50 cents per copy from the district or cooperative offices of the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce or from the Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington, D. C.]

#### AMERICAN CONSULAR OFFICERS ON LEAVE OF ABSENCE.

The following American consular officers are on leave of absence in the United States and will be glad to confer with business men and commercial organizations relative to conditions in their respective jurisdictions. The consul's time is available primarily for personal interviews. He has limited facilities for correspondence, and except in urgent cases letters should be directed to the consulate.

Name.	Post.	Expiration of leave.	Address.
Hale, F. D. ....	Huddersfield, England	Sept. 5	Lunenburg, Vt.
Masteron, William W. ....	Durban, Natal, South Africa.	Sept. 1	Carrollton, Ky.
Baker, E. Carlton. ....	Nagasaki, Japan. ....	Aug. 30	Apartment No. 75, The Brunswick, Washington, D. C.
Monaghan, J. C. ....	Kingston, Jamaica. ....	Sept. 1	Avenue A and Fourteenth Street, Bayonne, N. J.
Jewell, John F. ....	Chefoo, China. ....	Oct. 1	Galea, Ill.
Kemper, Graham H. ....	Erfurt, Germany. ....	Sept. 10	Department of State, Washington, D. C.
Goodier, James H. ....	Niagara Falls, Canada.	Sept. 1	27 South Hawk Street, Albany, N. Y.
Haseltine, Ross. ....	Port Antonio, Jamaica.	Oct. 1	Department of State, Washington, D. C.
Lain, James Oliver. ....	Karachi, India. ....	Sept. 30	C/o University Club, Kansas City, Mo.
Leonard, Walter A. ....	Colombo, Ceylon. ....	Oct. 14	Essex, Iowa.
Osborne, John Ball. ....	Havre, France. ....	Oct. 21	Department of State, Washington, D. C.
Mansfield, Robert E. ....	Vancouver, Canada. ....	Sept. 15	Rushville, Ind.

#### Addresses of Chilean Farmers and Manufacturers.

The Government of Chile has asked the national agricultural and industrial societies for a list of Chilean producers who desire to do business with the United States. This list will be sent to the Chilean consul general in the United States, who is continually receiving requests for such addresses from American merchants and exporters. El Progreso Nacional for June urges all Chileans interested in foreign trade to send in their names.

**OREGON PORT SEEKS BETTER SHIPPING FACILITIES.**

[Commercial agent in charge of branch office, Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, Seattle.]

Recognizing the need of better shipping facilities, particularly for Columbia River traffic, and determined to take some action looking to improvement, about 40 of Portland's representative business men met with the directorate of the chamber of commerce and adopted plans which, it is believed, will solve the question.

There are being built in Portland and its vicinity by private capital about \$5,000,000 worth of ships, but these are not all destined to operate from that port or from Columbia River points. With the view of financing a shipbuilding company for the construction of ships to operate between Portland and Alaska, Puget Sound, San Francisco, and other ports on the Pacific Coast, this project was inaugurated.

The plan is to raise a tax of 1 mill a year for five years, the fund to be disposed of by the commissioner of docks, port of Portland, or a special shipping commission authorized by legislative act, in the form of a subsidy or bonus for steamship lines that will give the service needed.

**Propose Extraordinary Efforts to Regain Lost Shipping.**

It was claimed that the war in Europe was responsible for loss of shipping at Portland, and that the trend in the Northwest set against them in earlier days, on account of inadequate channels. Now that they have suitable channels, it was declared to be imperative that they use extraordinary means to regain lost shipping and that Portland take a fair share of future increases.

The Federal Government has expended more than \$15,000,000 at the mouth of the Columbia River to make the great channel through which to enter the Columbia River basin. Other millions are being spent by the Government to finish the river channels between Portland and the entrance, and the belief was expressed by those present at the meeting that strong efforts should be made to obtain sufficient capital for perfecting plans that will make these waterways, constructed at such great outlay, serviceable to the community, with fleets of steamships operating there.

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**ARGENTINE-BOLIVIAN RAILWAY CONSTRUCTION.**

[Consul William Dawson, Jr., Rosario, June 28.]

By a decree of June 24, 1916, the Argentine Government has approved the plans and estimates prepared by the Administration of State Railways for the extension of the Central Norte line to the Bolivian frontier to meet the La Quiaca-Tupiza line. The plans call for the construction of 1,568 feet of track, a culvert and a stone bridge across the La Quiaca River, and an expenditure of \$30,109. This includes one-half of the cost of the bridge, as the Bolivian Government will pay the other half.

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Samples of soap for washing purposes, such as would find a market in Aden, Arabia, have been forwarded by Vice Consul A. G. Watson, and may be inspected at the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, its district or cooperate offices. Refer to file No. 78808.

**GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS FOR SALE.**

The following were among the publications received in stock for sale by the Superintendent of Documents, at Washington, during the week ended August 19:

*Standards for Electric Service* (Standards Bureau Circular 56).—Survey of State and municipal regulations, with ordinances which are suggested for adoption by Public Service Commissions. Price, 45 cents.

*Determination of Aluminum as Oxide* (Standards Bureau Scientific Papers 286).—Treats of the precipitation of aluminum hydroxide, washing the precipitate, separation from other elements, ignition and weighing of the precipitate, with conclusions drawn from procedure recommended and experiments outlined. Price, 10 cents.

**PROPOSED CANADIAN NORTHERN RAILWAY CO. HOTEL.**

[Vice Consul G. C. Woodward, Vancouver, British Columbia, Aug. 8.]

The agreement of the Canadian Northern Railway Co. with the city of Vancouver for terminal facilities provides for the purchase of a site, and the construction thereon of a 250-room hotel, in a section of the city removed from the proposed terminal station. The company has now applied for the elimination of this clause of the agreement, substituting therefor a provision for the construction of a 450-room hotel, at an approximate cost of \$500,000, immediately adjacent to the proposed terminal building, on a portion of the land reclaimed from False Creek for its railway terminals under the above-mentioned agreement.

**ADVERTISING IN PERU.**

The Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce has received from Commercial Attaché William F. Montavon, at Lima, copies of circulars issued by a local advertising agency outlining its facilities for handling the advertising of American firms in Peru, together with copies of the announcements of advertising rates established by the different periodicals circulating in Peru. It is believed that these will be of interest to American firms desirous of extending their sales in Peru, as well as to advertising agencies interested in the foreign field. Copies of the circulars will be loaned upon application to the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, Washington. Refer to file 1706.

**OFFICES OF THE BUREAU OF FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC COMMERCE.****DISTRICT OFFICES.**

NEW YORK: Room 409, Customhouse.  
BOSTON: 16th floor, Customhouse.  
CHICAGO: 504 Federal Building.  
ST. LOUIS: 402 Third National Bank Building.  
ATLANTA: 521 Post Office Building.  
NEW ORLEANS: 1020 Hibernia Bank Building.  
SAN FRANCISCO: 307 Customhouse.  
SEATTLE: 848 Henry Building.

**COOPERATIVE OFFICES.**

CLEVELAND: Chamber of Commerce.  
CINCINNATI: Chamber of Commerce.  
CINCINNATI: C., N. O. & T. P. Ry. Co.  
LOS ANGELES: Chamber of Commerce.  
PHILADELPHIA: Chamber of Commerce.  
CHATTANOOGA: North American Agent, Southern Ry. Co.

## FOREIGN TRADE OPPORTUNITIES.

Reserved addresses may be obtained from the Bureau and its district offices. Request for each opportunity should be on a separate sheet and state opportunity number. The Bureau does not furnish credit ratings or assume responsibility as to the standing of foreign inquirers; the usual precautions should be taken in all cases.

*Printing catalogues*, No. 22220.—An American consular officer in Brazil writes that a local merchant desires prices, terms, samples, and full information regarding the printing of illustrated catalogues of various sizes. The merchant is in the market for from 3,000 to 4,000 catalogues. Correspondence, if possible, should be in Portuguese.

*Fibers and bark*, No. 22221.—A man in Brazil has transmitted to an American consular officer samples of the following fibers and bark, which he is prepared to supply: Embira Vermelha, Guaxima, Embiraussó, Amboreira, and Marueleiro (bark). These samples may be inspected at the Bureau or its district offices. (Refer to file No. 79175.)

*Leather and hides*, No. 22222.—The commercial attaché of the Department of Commerce in France reports that a manufacturer in northern Africa is in the market for leather and hides in wholesale quantities.

*Snap fasteners*, No. 22223.—A firm in the United Kingdom informs an American consular officer that it desires to purchase large quantities of press studs, or snap fasteners. A sample may be inspected at the Bureau or its district offices. (Refer to file No. 71315.)

*Automobiles, lumber, etc.*, No. 22224.—A manufacturers' agent in Spain asks the Bureau to place him in touch with the manufacturers of automobiles and exporters of coal, petroleum, and lumber, with a view to securing the representation for that country.

*Beer*, No. 22225.—An American consular officer in Newfoundland writes that a broker and commission merchant in his district desires to be placed in touch with manufacturers in the United States of beers containing less than 2 per cent of alcohol which could be sold in Newfoundland under the prohibition act which goes into force January 1, 1917.

*Machinery*, No. 22226.—A commercial agent of the Bureau in the United States reports that quotations are desired by a man in Mexico for the requisite machinery and equipment of a factory for the manufacture of safety matches, a factory for the manufacture of absorbent cotton, and a factory for the manufacture of sewer pipe running from 6 inches to 12 inches in diameter. Prices f. o. b. factory showing weight and freight rate to Laredo are desired. Detailed specifications and prices for the equipment of each of the factories in the smallest unit that can be operated economically should be submitted. Terms, one-fourth with order and balance draft attached to bill of lading.

*Agricultural machinery*, No. 22227.—A commercial agent of the Bureau reports that the governor and director of agriculture in a territory of East Africa have expressed a desire to receive information and catalogues on American oil-burning farm tractors, and on stump pullers, for small farms.

*Refrigerator cars*, No. 22228.—The commercial attaché of the Department of Commerce in Chile reports that information and quotations on eight refrigerator cars are desired by a firm which is planning the construction of a slaughterhouse in that country. Correspondence in English.

*Hardware*, No. 22229.—An American consular officer in France writes that a firm in his district desires to represent American manufacturers of small hardware, such as files, locks, padlocks, shears, forks, rakes, knives, pincers, hammers, etc. Reference.

*Calico prints*, No. 22230.—A firm in Norway informs an American consular officer that it desires to purchase, on its own account, cash against documents, port of shipment, calico prints. Representation for Norway of a calico manufacturer is also desired. References.

# COMMERCE REPORTS



DAILY CONSULAR AND TRADE REPORTS  
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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE



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No. 200

Washington, D. C., Friday, August 25

1916

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### BRITISH RESTRICTION ON CHESTNUT EXTRACT.

[Telegram from American Embassy, London, Aug. 19.]

According to the London Gazette of August 18, 1916, the import into Great Britain of chestnut extract will be prohibited after August 21.

### AUTHORIZED INCREASE IN NICARAGUAN TARIFF.

[Telegram from American minister, Managua, Aug. 22.]

The Nicaraguan Congress has recently approved a law authorizing an increase in the rates of duty of from 60 to 80 per cent of the tariff. The collector of customs at Managua states that this is merely an act to give extensive authority for a slight increase in the tariff on certain articles.

### SHIPMENT OF TOBACCO TO NEUTRAL EUROPEAN COUNTRIES.

[Announcement of the Department of State.]

A cablegram dated August 22 received by the Department of State from the American Embassy at London confirms the information received from the Commercial Adviser of the British Embassy with reference to shipments of tobacco to neutral European countries, but places the date before which the tobacco must have been bought and paid for at August 4 instead of August 1.

[For previous notice on the subject, see COMMERCE REPORTS for Aug. 23, 1916.]

### BRITISH INDIAN AGRICULTURAL EXPERT.

William Roberts, agricultural expert at the Lyallpur College, Punjab, British India, is now in the United States studying conditions under which cotton is grown and marketed and other agricultural problems. He is interested in cotton machinery and agricultural implements, such as plows, harrows, and hoes. Mr. Robert's itinerary will include visits to the following places on or about the dates mentioned: Chicago, August 29; Memphis, September 5; New Orleans, September 10; San Francisco, September 29. Up to the dates mentioned, letters to Mr. Roberts may be addressed in care of the district offices of the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce at New Orleans, Chicago, and San Francisco, and to the secretary of the Chamber of Commerce at Memphis, Tenn.

**MOTION PICTURES IN DUTCH WEST INDIES.**

[Consul George S. Messersmith, Curaçao, Aug. 9.]

The showing of motion pictures in Curaçao, if not actually prohibited by the authorities, was so discouraged by them that few films were shown here for some time. The poverty of the people and the lack of work made it inadvisable that the poorer people, who are very fond of photoplays, should spend their money for this or any other form of amusement. Now that there is plenty of work on the island [see *COMMERCE REPORTS* for Aug. 24, 1916] two cinemas [whose addresses may be obtained from the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce or its district and cooperative offices by reference to file No. 79498] have recently been opened, and they are allowed to give as many performances as they find will be patronized. One is an open-air theater. Each is now giving three shows a week. One of the principal clubs in Willemstad occasionally gives a motion-picture entertainment on the club tennis courts, and the innovation is very popular.

The films used are principally of French origin, with the legends in Spanish, which language is spoken or understood by practically everyone here, although the familiar dialect of the natives is *Papiemento*. Films in which love is the central theme are the most popular. The comedy reels come from England.

It is believed that American films would prove popular here, especially good comic films and those portraying the romantic side of western life. The legends may be in English, as the better classes understand that language. However, Spanish is always to be preferred.

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**NEW MEAT-PACKING COMPANY ORGANIZED IN PARAGUAY.**

[Consul Samuel Hamilton Wiley, Asuncion, Paraguay, July 10.]

The *Frigorifico Paraguay-Carne Conservada*, capitalized at 250,000 pesos gold (\$241,250), was organized in Asuncion during July to erect and operate a meat freezing and packing plant. The organizers of the company are all residents of Paraguay, and it is probable that local capital will finance the enterprise.

The company intends to erect a freezing and canning plant with a daily capacity of 300 animals. The products of this plant will consist of chilled cuts of meat, canned meats, meat extract, and packing-house by-products of all kinds. The necessary ground has already been purchased at Asuncion on the shore of the Paraguay River. The machinery will be American, of the latest design. The power used will be electricity, motor attachments to all machines. The plant will consist of packing plant, can-making installation, barrel and box making machinery, machine shop, gas plant, two refrigerating installations, two large engines with boilers, pipes, etc., and two dynamos.

While arranging for the purchase of the machinery and awaiting its arrival, a hand canning installation, available here, will be utilized and canned boiled beef for export to Great Britain will be manufactured. The plant of this company will be managed by an American who was formerly manager of a packing plant at San Salvador, Paraguay.



**BOTTLES NEEDED IN MANCHESTER DISTRICT.**

[Consul Ross E. Holaday, Manchester, England, July 27.]

There is a scarcity of glass bottles of all descriptions in the Manchester consular district, although the shortage is not so acute to-day as it was six or nine months ago. The local demand is large, but, so far as can be ascertained, only small quantities of American-made goods of this description reach the market. During 1915 glass bottles to the value of \$1,946 were imported from the United States directly to the port of Manchester via the Manchester Ship Canal. In the previous year there were no importations from the United States.

The competition from European countries, which has heretofore been severe, has now ceased owing to war conditions. In the past American bottles have not been successfully introduced here. A local jobber informed this office that bottles should be made after English patterns, as size and shape are important factors. He further stated that, while it is the custom in the United States to sell bottles by weight, in England they are sold by the gross. Importations of American goods are usually made through Manchester, Liverpool, and London.

A list of the large users of glass bottles in Manchester—firms using medicine, whisky, ale, and mineral-water bottles—is forwarded [and may be obtained from the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce or its district and cooperative offices, upon request. Refer to file No. 79322.] It might be advisable to submit samples to the jobbers in this list, as they have notified the consulate that they are in the market, provided satisfactory terms, sizes, and shapes can be arranged for. The usual terms of sale in Manchester are stated to be  $2\frac{1}{2}$  per cent discount for cash in 30 days from the date of the invoice, or three months, net. There is a good demand here at present for medicine bottles, 1-dram size and upwards.

**REPORT OF TEXTILE COOPERATIVE ASSOCIATION.**

[Consul Henry C. A. Damm, Aix-la-Chapelle, Germany, July 27.]

The Rhenish-Westphalian Textile Cooperative Association, with headquarters at Muenchen-Gladbach, has just issued its report for 1915. During that year 2,756 plants belonged to the organization—which is a mutual-liability insurance concern—as against 2,850 in 1914, a decrease of 94. The number of hands employed averaged 119,424 as against 144,659 in 1914, a decrease of 25,235. Of the operatives 28,293 (decrease, 4,536) were employed in Muenchen-Gladbach, 19,897 (decrease, 2,900) in Aix-la-Chapelle.

Wages paid within the organization amounted to \$26,032,600 in 1915, against \$36,207,475 in 1913, a normal year. (There were 38,464 more hands employed in 1913 than in 1915.) The average yearly wages paid to operatives, including females and youths, were: In 1915, \$217.36; in 1914, \$217.29; in 1913, \$229.32; in 1912, \$226.87. The decrease is due to the fact that since the outbreak of the war the proportion of beginners, females, and youths among the laborers is much greater than in previous years.

The sum of \$183,100 was paid out as compensation to laborers injured through accidents in 1915. During the period from October 1, 1885, to December 31, 1915, \$3,323,800 was expended for this purpose.

**MERCHANT SHIPPING AND THE WAR.**

The annual volumes of Lloyd's Register of Shipping for the year ending June 30, 1916, which are generally accepted as an authoritative statement of the world's merchant shipping, have been received by the Bureau of Navigation. Lloyd's figures include only vessels of 100 gross tons or over and do not include river vessels or unrigged craft. Following is the statement of the number and tonnage of merchant vessels under the flags of various nations (steam, gross tonnage; sail, net tonnage) for June 30, 1916, and, for comparison, the corresponding figures for June 30, 1914, just before the outbreak of the European war.

Flag.	1914		1916		Increase (+) or decrease (-).
	No.	Gross tons.	No.	Gross tons.	
British.....	11,828	21,045,049	11,141	20,901,999	- 143,050
American:					
Sea.....	2,490	2,970,264	2,587	3,790,578	.....
Great Lakes.....	610	2,352,764	602	2,318,223	.....
Philippine Islands.....	74	45,146	66	40,080	.....
Total.....	3,174	5,368,194	3,245	6,148,881	+ 780,687
German.....	2,338	5,459,296	1,953	4,161,552	-1,307,744
Norwegian.....	2,191	2,504,722	2,255	2,771,022	+ 266,300
French.....	1,576	2,319,438	1,610	2,216,643	- 102,795
Italian.....	1,160	1,668,296	1,210	1,896,534	+ 228,238
Japanese.....	1,103	1,708,386	1,151	1,847,453	+ 139,067
Dutch.....	803	1,496,455	792	1,608,916	+ 12,461
Russian.....	1,248	1,053,818	1,251	1,068,502	+ 14,684
Swedish.....	1,456	1,118,086	1,390	1,025,020	- 93,066
Austro-Hungarian.....	445	1,055,719	396	862,618	- 163,101
Danish.....	832	820,181	864	857,602	+ 37,421
Spanish.....	647	898,823	606	829,836	- 68,987
Greek.....	485	836,668	439	733,276	- 103,392
Portuguese.....	210	120,331	267	334,491	+ 213,660
Brazilian.....	448	323,929	428	303,800	- 20,129
Belgian.....	182	252,124	149	272,160	- 79,964
Argentine.....	313	221,681	303	214,477	- 7,204
Chilean.....	123	125,917	122	119,714	- 6,203
Turkish.....	368	133,158	179	106,768	- 82,370
Other countries.....	513	458,481	384	487,862	+ 29,381
Total.....	30,836	49,069,552	30,167	48,683,136	- 406,416

Results of the changes wrought by two years of world warfare are perhaps less marked than has been generally supposed. The world's merchant shipping is less by 406,416 gross tons than at the outbreak of the war, while during the two years just before the war merchant shipping increased from 44,600,677 tons in 1912 to 49,089,552 tons in 1914.

Since the outbreak of the war the shipping of neutral nations has gained 827,019 tons; and the shipping of the allies has gained 269,740 tons, while shipping under German, Austro-Hungarian, and Turkish flags is 1,503,215 tons less.

**Gain in American Ships.**

The greatest gain has been made by the American merchant marine; indeed the gain of American ships in ocean trade, 820,000 tons, is nearly as great as the gains of all other nations combined. This increase is mainly due to the ship-registry act of August, 1914, which permitted American owners of ships under foreign flags to obtain the American flag and register. To this act is also attributable part

of the losses of British, German, and all other foreign shipping, as by that act 350,000 tons of shipping under the British flag, 150,000 tons under the German flag, and 125,000 tons under other foreign flags, owned by Americans, secured American registry. British tonnage thus transferred is greater than the net British loss during the war. The German merchant marine is the heaviest loser, 1,307,744 tons, almost wholly through the transfer to other flags, either under our registry law or through capture by the allied powers. Very few German merchant vessels, except auxiliary cruisers sunk by gunfire in battle, have been destroyed. The German total in the table is incomplete, as it does not include some ships building in German yards in the early months of the war [see COMMERCE REPORTS July 25, 1916].

### **JAPANESE TUNGSTEN PRODUCTION AND EXPORTS.**

[Vice Consul M. D. Kirjassoff, Yokohama, July 27.]

According to the Official Gazette, tungsten and molybdenite have been added to the list of goods that are prohibited to be exported from Japan without special permit from the Minister of Agriculture and Commerce, the new ordinance to take effect after July 29, 1916.

An American exporter of tungsten ore is of the opinion that this ordinance will only affect irregular shippers, who are unwilling or unable to satisfy the authorities that their shipments are not intended for German or Austrian accounts. The ordinance is not expected to affect the price materially. The price of tungsten is now, f. o. b. Yokohama, about 40 yen per unit, the ore generally averaging 65 per cent; the cost per ton, for 65 per cent ore, is thus 2,600 yen, or, at the present rate of exchange, a little more than \$1,300.

The tungsten mines of Japan proper are the Kiwada mine in Yamaguchi Ken, with a production of 25 to 40 tons of ore per month; the Taketori mine in Ibaraki Ken, which produces 10 to 11 tons a month; and several small mines, with a combined production of about 75 tons per month. The mines of Chosen (Korea) produce between 50 and 60 tons each month. Japan also imports small quantities of tungsten ore from Manchuria through Chosen. Attempts were made to obtain tungsten from Siam, but it was found that the ore thus imported contained a large percentage of tin, which greatly reduced the value.

The exports of tungsten ore from Japan in 1915 were as follows: United States, 85 tons; France, 214; United Kingdom, 110; total, 409 tons. The estimated shipments for this year, up to July 20, were 480 tons, most of this amount being sent to the United States.

### **IMPROVED TRAIN SERVICE, CHILE TO BOLIVIA.**

[Consul Thomas W. Voetter, Antofagasta, Chile, July 28.]

The Antofagasta & Bolivia Railway Co. announces that beginning August 1, 1916, there will be placed in service an additional train between Antofagasta, Chile, and La Paz, Bolivia. The train service will then be as follows: International trains, with dining and sleeping car service, will depart from Antofagasta Tuesdays and Saturdays at 8.40 p. m., arriving at La Paz on Thursdays and Mondays at 4.10 p. m. Returning, the trains will leave La Paz at 1 p. m. on Tuesdays and Fridays, arriving at Antofagasta on Thursdays and Sundays at 6.30 a. m.

## FOREIGN HOPS AND NATIVE BEER IN BRAZIL.

[Consul General Alfred L. M. Gottschalk, Rio de Janeiro, July 22.]

A number of inquiries have been received at the consulate general at Rio de Janeiro concerning the production of beer in Brazil, and it has been difficult to satisfy these owing to the fact that the latest published statistics of the production of the country are those for 1913. This office has been able, however, to secure advance figures from a reliable source that will be of interest to the American trade.

## Imports of Hops.

In 1915 Brazil's imports of hops amounted to 638,145 pounds, valued at \$195,306, as compared with 647,145 pounds, worth \$248,735 in 1914, and 780,895 pounds to the value of \$354,170 in 1913. The quantity and value of the imports by countries for the three years are shown in the following table:

Countries.	1913		1914		1915	
	Pounds.	Value.	Pounds.	Value.	Pounds.	Value.
Argentina.....			2,205	\$1,145	1,984	\$967
Austria-Hungary.....	283,741	\$126,514	149,575	72,125	91,748	20,056
Belgium.....					992	303
France.....	212	47	20	8		
Germany.....	486,800	223,843	317,034	148,919	361,558	120,884
Italy.....			15,170	4,240	38,197	11,250
Netherlands.....			2,407	1,418	16,852	2,883
Portugal.....			1,177	1,060	85	35
Russia.....					17,637	8,175
Sweden.....					1,101	324
United Kingdom.....	1,636	848	3,014	1,038	14,795	4,086
United States.....	7	3	161,226	20,638	82,543	22,798
Uruguay.....	7,116	2,885	4,416	2,635	9,707	1,988
All other countries.....	603	30	502	2,635		
Total.....	780,895	354,170	647,145	248,735	638,145	195,306

## Production of the Brazilian Breweries.

There is little or no market for foreign beers here, the domestic industry having been developed to an extremely creditable point by Germans or Brazilians of German extraction. The domestic brews, the Brahma, Polonia, Fidalga, and Antartica, have a well-established popularity and are as good as those of most foreign countries.

The production of the Brazilian breweries for each of the four years 1911-1914 is shown in the following table:

	Bottles.	Value.		Bottles.	Value.
Beer of high fermentation:			Beer of low fermentation—		
1911.....	47,285,377	\$3,825,385	Continued:		
1912.....	53,532,742	4,330,799	1913.....	88,731,873	\$19,123,280
1913.....	51,918,378	3,200,297	1914.....	83,692,934	24,699,415
1914.....	42,349,631	12,493,161	Draft beer:		
Beer of low fermentation:			1911.....	a 690,899	634,745
1911.....	50,917,139	10,973,539	1912.....	a 904,805	831,267
1912.....	70,817,400	16,262,578	1913.....	a 1,020,474	937,353
			1914.....	a 1,033,112	1,153,679

a Gallons.

Only very small quantities of English ale, stout, and porter are to be seen here.

**SOUTH INDIA TO IMPROVE CATTLE BREEDING.***[Consul Lucien Memminger, Madras, June 23.]*

The Government of India has sanctioned the creation of a deputy directorship of agriculture for the Madras Presidency, to deal with questions affecting cattle breeding and dairy operations. The appointment of a special officer for this work is considered an important progressive measure, for although South India is rich in live stock and several breeds of indigenous cattle are of good repute abroad as well as locally, European authorities generally assert that the breeding of stock, particularly of cattle, in this country is of the most unsatisfactory character.

**Official Statistics of Live Stock in Madras Presidency.**

According to official statistics there were in July, 1915, in the Madras Presidency 34,743,779 head of live stock. Among these were 5,379,124 cows, 3,750,654 buffaloes, 5,876,358 young stock (calves and buffalo calves), 10,760,309 sheep, 7,423,388 goats, 49,339 horses and ponies, 1,161 mules, and 138,123 donkeys. In addition there are many cattle, including a famous distinct breed, in the native State of Mysore, which, although a part of South India, is under local government separate from that of the Madras Presidency and has no accurate statistics at present available concerning the cattle there. Estimating the number roughly at 5,000,000, which is probably very conservative, the total of live stock for the entire region known as South India would be about 40,000,000, or 20 per cent of the grand total in India. The latter comprises 30,000,000 bulls and bullocks, 22,000,000 cows, 13,000,000 buffaloes, 26,000,000 young stock, 18,000,000 sheep, 25,000,000 goats, 2,500,000 horses, donkeys, and mules, and 393,308 camels.

The term "cattle" as used in India usually refers to the bovine animals indigenous to the country, of which the most marked feature, as distinguished from cattle in Europe, is the hump on the shoulders. A group of bovine animals quite apart from these and also indigenous is that of the tame buffaloes, large, massive creatures, which are semiaquatic and which the best writers usually designate specifically as "buffaloes" instead of as cattle.

**Indian Cattle Valuable Chiefly as Beasts of Burden.**

While Europe and America may be said to rear cattle mostly for milk and meat, in India their chief value is as beasts of burden. Horses are all but unknown in Indian agriculture, the bullock being almost exclusively employed for tillage and transport. For draft purposes cattle are in more general use than buffaloes, especially in the drier parts of the country, but buffaloes are very largely used in the low-lying rice tracts. For dairying buffaloes are perhaps more profitable than cows, as they give richer milk and more of it, but they require more feeding. The poorer people depend largely on the milk of goats, of which there is a very large number throughout India.

Cattle breeding in India is carried on mainly in the noncultivated tracts of central and southern India, southern Punjab and Rajputana, where distinct breeds with definite characters have been preserved. The best known draft breeds are Hansi, Nellore, Amrit Mahal (Mysore), Gujarat, Malvi, and the finest milch cows are the

Sahiwal (Punjab), Gir (Kathiawar), and Sind. Owing to the encroachment of cultivation on the grazing areas, well-bred cattle, it is said, are becoming scarce and some of the breeds are threatened with extinction. One of the greatest difficulties in improving cattle in India is the fact that in all Presidencies large herds of village or mongrel cattle are to be met with. Many of them are worthless, being too weedy even to put into the lightest plow, but they are allowed to exist and to eat the ration of the most profitable ones. Religious sentiment among the vast majority of the people is averse to destroying cattle, as among the Hindus the bull has always been considered sacred.

#### Important Breeds Among Those of South India.

Indian cattle, like those of Europe or America, vary in most districts either as to size, form, and symmetry, or as to the growth and length of their horns, according to the varying local peculiarities of the climate, soil, and fodder. In the region known as South India the preeminent breeds of cattle are the "Mysore" and the "Ongole," sometimes also known as the "Nellore." On account of its prepotency the Mysore holds first rank.

The Ongoles are very beautiful in appearance and for their special purpose are unsurpassable, but they differ in almost every respect from the Mysore. They are huge in size, extremely docile, and suitable for steady, heavy draft, whereas the Mysore cattle are especially adapted to road work, as they are quick, very high spirited, and have extremely hard, sound feet. Reared chiefly in the districts of Nellore and Kistna, the Ongole cattle from early times enjoyed the reputation of being among the best milking breeds in India. Collectively, they are heavily-built animals of a mild and gentle disposition. The head is erect on a short, stout neck. The horns are short and stumpy, and give to the head a curious and characteristic appearance, the bulging forehead forming a very obtuse angle. The prevailing and true color is white, with gray or black points, and frequently the bulls are black about the neck and shoulders—broken colors indicate impurity of breed.

Although formerly it has been held that the Ongole cattle degenerate rapidly when removed to other localities, the Government of the Philippine Islands made the experiment of importing some of these cattle (12 in all) into the Philippines from Madras a few years ago, and the results appear to have been very satisfactory.

In point of size Nellore cattle are inferior to the Gujarat of north-western India or the Nagar of Rajputana and Hyderabad. Other Madras breeds besides the Nellore or Ongole are the Alambadi of Salem and Coimbatore; the Baragur, of the hills of Coimbatore; the Kangayam, of Madura; the Palikolam (Jellicut) cattle, of Madura; the small Trichengodi cattle, of Salem; the artificially spotted cattle, of Tanjore; and the Punganur cattle, of North Arcot.

#### Noted for Swiftmess and Powers of Endurance.

The cattle of Mysore and Coorg are celebrated in India both for swiftmess and for their spirit and powers of endurance. Authorities state that if cattle breeding could anywhere in India be viewed as having attained the position of a recognized feature of agriculture, the honor would doubtless have to be assigned to Mysore. Two kinds exist side by side, each serving its own particular purpose. The first

and by far the most numerous is that of the nadudana of the villages. This is the agricultural stock and main source of dairy produce, such as it is, of the State. The second is the doddadana, or big cattle. This embraces the following special breeds: Amrit Mahal, Hallikar, Chittaldrug Mahadeswara, Betta, etc.

The first mentioned—the Royal Amrit Mahal—is the most highly prized. The animals are large and powerful, chiefly kept by the well-to-do, and are capable of performing quick journeys of long distances with a light and moderate load. The finer breeds are pure colored, the inferior often mottled. There is no extra development of the dewlap to interfere with their trotting action. Their eyes are deep set, and the forehead bulges above the eyes and slopes backward. The ears are short and pointed. The horns, which spring together, take a backward sweep, gradually diverge, and near the extremity curve gracefully upward and forward. All of the cattle mentioned, even the nadudana breeds, are powerful draft animals but poor milkers.

South India also has some of the famous little trotting bullocks, "gainis," a breed unsurpassed for swiftness, but quite small. Some of these animals, even when full grown, are no bigger than a large dog. They are much used in light carts.

Except in the northeastern part of Madras all Indian cattle are horned. The hump is prominent and more highly developed in some breeds.

#### South India Conducts Numerous Cattle Fairs.

Numerous cattle fairs are held throughout South India, and dealers regularly take droves of cattle to these markets for sale. In a country in which by far the greater portion of the population exists by agriculture and in which cattle play a most important part, a demand for them is never wanting. It has sometimes been declared that cattle represent the capital of the native farmer, and in fact it would be difficult for the Indian cultivator to get on without his cattle. The operations of plowing, harrowing, sowing, and thinning the crop and of lifting water from wells for irrigation purposes are carried on almost entirely by bullock power. The crop when cut is removed to the thrashing floor, and there trodden out by the cattle, and transported by them to the market. The standing of the ryot is usually estimated by the number of cattle he owns and the number of plows he works. The total number of plows in use by farmers in the Madras Presidency in July, 1915, was 4,288,884, most of which were bullock plows. Agricultural carts numbered 998,128.

Haymaking is not practiced by the Indian cultivators. Moreover, the cost and difficulty of transport preclude the equalization of supplies; hence in seasons of drought the greatest hardships have to be endured and the first indication of famine is the increasing death rate of the cattle. Despite efforts of the Government veterinary authorities to stamp out cattle diseases in India, serious and special diseases are common, notably rinderpest, anthrax, foot-and-mouth disease, and pleuropneumonia.

#### Sheep and Goats of South India.

Goats in South India are inferior to those in the northern part of the country—in Nepal and in the Deccan—and are quite unlike the Himalayan and Syrian breeds of the extreme North. The

South Indian varieties are gaunt in appearance and badly proportioned, but hardy and active, and can exist on almost any kind of vegetation. They are valued for their meat and milk and, unlike bovine animals, are slaughtered for food by the Hindus. The hair of plains goats is of no value. Skins of goats, as well as of sheep, form an important article of export from India to foreign countries, particularly to the United States, and Madras is a chief port of shipment.

There are certain well-marked breeds of sheep in South India, and two of these, the black-headed sheep of Coimbatore and the woolly sheep of Mysore, are regarded by authorities as among the breeds of most value as Indian stock for improvement. One well-known writer names Coimbatore first and Mysore second, as among the best four Indian breeds, the two others, according to him, being the Rajputana and Patna.

Many of the sheep of India, especially those on the plains, afford a kind of hair rather than wool. They are reared chiefly for mutton, as their fleeces, like the hair of the village goats, are comparatively valueless. The breeds mentioned, however, are exceptions, as they give fairly good wool, which may possibly be improved by giving the flocks careful attention. The majority of those who have investigated the subject, however, incline to the view that, except in certain tracts, there is very little hope of India becoming of much greater importance than at present as a source of wool supplies. Interest is more keenly directed toward facilitating imports from the mountainous countries bordering on India than toward any effort to improve the wools of the plains.

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### KAOLIN DEPOSITS IN PARAGUAY.

[Consul Samuel Hamilton Wiley, Asuncion, July 14.]

There has recently been considerable interest evinced by Argentine capitalists in deposits of kaolin in Paraguay. There are numerous large deposits of this mineral in Paraguay. The principal one is located at Tobati, 30 miles from the line of the Paraguay Central Railway, and is estimated to contain 7,800,000 cubic yards of kaolin. The kaolin of this deposit is said to be of a good quality, suitable for the manufacture of china, etc. As yet, however, no extensive investigations of the extent of the deposits or of the properties of the kaolin have been made.

It is said that a company capitalized at about \$2,500,000 will be formed in Argentina to extract the kaolin from the Tobati district and to manufacture products therefrom.

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### OIL COMPANIES IN CHILE.

The Chilean Government has recently authorized the establishment in Chile of agencies of the International Petroleum Co. (Ltd.) of Canada. Government approval is also given, in the *Diario Oficial*, the petition of the South American Petroleum Co. (Compania Sud-Americana de Petroleos) to increase its capital stock to 2,000,000 pesos (\$280,000). The scarcity of coal in Chile is leading to a great increase in the production and use of oil. The northern section of the Chilean State railways is preparing to use oil as fuel.



**BRITISH COLUMBIA TIMBER NOTES.**

[Vice Consul G. C. Woodward, Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada, Aug. 9.]

**Forestry Pests—Timber Returns.**

Dr. Gordon Hewitt, of the entomological section of the forestry department of the Dominion Government, and four assistants are in Vancouver for the purpose of carrying on the work of extermination of the insects which have attacked the large trees in Stanley Park and the forests of British Columbia.

The timber returns for June, 1916, issued by the Department of Lands at Victoria, shows that the total scale of saw logs for the Province amounted to 120,023,869 feet board measure, in addition to 375,905 linear feet of poles and piles and 28,840 cords of ties and shingle bolts. The total timber sales for the month are estimated at 6,195,500 feet of saw logs, 19,800 linear feet of poles and piles, and 300 cords of bolts, the estimated revenue derived therefrom being \$10,206.

**New Logging Device—Removing Tree Tops With Dynamite.**

A British Columbia logging company has adopted what is known as the "high lead" system of logging, embracing the utilization of a combined yarding and loading engine mounted on a steel car, the steam for both engines being provided by one boiler. To accomplish the use of the "high lead" it is necessary to utilize a "spar tree" of a height of, say, 150 to 200 feet. To this tree is attached a 36-inch block, through which the line is passed from the engine and carried out a distance of 600 to 1,100 feet, where the logs are hooked on and brought to the railroad and loaded directly from the guy line onto the car. It is estimated that 25 cars of logs can be loaded daily with this system, when conditions are favorable.

Another system in use in this section is the removal with dynamite of tops of trees selected for spars. The tree is ascended with climbing irons and the dynamite tied to the tree trunk at the point where the top is to be removed and set off with a fuse of sufficient length to enable the workman to descend to the ground and get to a safe distance before the explosion of the charge. This method of removing the tops is said to be much safer and more economical than with the use of a saw or ax, in which case it is necessary for the workman to remain in the tree until the top has fallen.

**Proposed Operation of Swanson Bay Mills.**

It is reported that a company has been organized to take over the interests of the Swanson Bay Forests, Wood Pulp and Lumber Mills (Ltd.), situated on Swanson Bay, Millbank Sound, a few miles south of Ocean Falls. The company is to be known as the Empire Paper & Pulp Mills (Ltd.) and is capitalized at \$2,500,000. It is thought that this company is subsidiary to the British Columbia Sulphite Fiber Co., which has large mills at Mill Creek, Howe Sound, and has also commenced preparations for construction of a large paper and pulp mill at Quatsino, Vancouver Island, British Columbia.

The Swanson Bay Mills were constructed about 11 years ago and operated until the latter part of 1908, at which time the plant and timber holdings were disposed of to an English syndicate. It is stated that this company operated at a heavy loss until the latter part of 1911, the mills being closed since that date.

**FOREIGN DEMAND FOR PHOTOGRAPHIC MATERIALS.****UNITED KINGDOM.**

[Consul J. S. Armstrong, Jr., Bristol, England, June 2.]

At the time the war broke out the cinematograph industry in the Bristol district was in a state of active development. In the past two years, however, the evolution of this trade has been brought virtually to a standstill. As investors do not like to risk their money when conditions are uncertain, it has been practically impossible to organize new companies. Bristol does not possess as many picture theaters as the average city of equal population in the United States would have, but it is quite probable that, had it not been for the war, the number would have been very much larger. Persons engaged in the business believe that when the war is over there will be a boom in this industry, as its hold on public favor is considered permanent.

**Amusement Tax Increases Cost.**

The admission to the best class of theaters is from 6 pence to 1 shilling (12 to 24 cents). Adding to this the amusement tax, which has recently been imposed, the cost ranges from 14 to 28 cents. The cheaper theaters usually charge an entrance fee of 3 to 4 pence (6 to 8 cents United States currency).

Although the new taxation on amusements is believed to have brought about only a slight reduction in the size of audiences at cinematograph theaters, many persons who were heretofore willing to pay a shilling and go to the best seats now have adopted the habit of going to the cheaper sections, thus reducing the profits of the proprietors.

The British Government has imposed a tax on the imports of films into this country. According to the local customs authorities, the rates on films imported for the exhibition of pictures or other optical effects by means of a cinematograph or similar apparatus are: Blank films and raw films, two-thirds cent per linear foot, 1½ inches wide; positives, 2 cents per foot; negatives, 10 cents. All imports are required to be entered on a special form of entry, with a declaration by the importers as to the correctness.

**American Companies Maintain Offices in London.**

American films used in Bristol do not usually come to this city directly from the United States. Most of the large American film companies have their own offices in London, and motion-picture material used in the Provinces of England is usually distributed from that city. The majority of motion pictures shown in the local theaters are either American or French. American films, however, largely predominate, while British products are considerably in the minority. Cowboy and western films are popular. The greatest demand is for clean dramas, and long 4 or 5 reel photoplays are meeting with an ever-growing popularity.

It is believed that when the depressing effect of the war has disappeared the sale of American films in this country will be even more extensive than at present. British producers find it difficult to compete with American manufacturers on account of the superiority of the California climate as a center for this industry.

[Lists of film renters in Bristol and Gloucester, of film-trade associations in England, and of picture houses in the Bristol consular district may be obtained from the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce or its district offices. Refer to file No. 77537.]

**RUSSIA.**

[Consul Felix Willoughby Smith, Tiflis, May 1.]

**Dry Plates in the Caucasus.**

The trade in photographic dry plates in the Caucasus is principally in the hands of two firms at Tiflis. Terms granted by foreign manufacturers are notes payable six months from date of the bill of lading and 2 per cent discount if paid within 60 days. These drafts are delivered against documents. Freight and all shipping charges are paid by purchasers. The cases must be tin or zinc lined and soldered. Cost of packing should be included in manufacturers' quotations. Correspondence should be in Russian, and if that is impracticable French may be used. The most popular sizes in centimeters of 0.39 inch, and the retail prices per dozen are:

Sizes.	Prices prior to war.	Present prices.	Sizes.	Prices prior to war.	Present prices.
9 by 12 .....	\$0.38	\$1.02	4½ by 6 .....	\$0.15	\$0.38
12 by 16½ .....	.61	1.26	6 by 9 .....	.22	.51
10 by 15 .....	.43	1.07	18 by 24 .....	1.22	2.52
13 by 18 .....	.64	1.40	24 by 30 .....	1.53	3.57

**Formerly from Continental Sources.**

Most dry plates before the war were imported from Continental sources. The duty on these is rubles, 6.60 per pood (\$3.36 per 36.1128 pounds). Invoices must state gross weight of cases, weight of zinc or tin on which duty is paid as for zinc or tin sheets, and weight of plates including their permanent packing.

The best routes now available are via Archangel and Vladivostok. If the former is preferred, it might be safest to ship through the American Express Co. In normal times the most direct and cheapest lines from New York and Philadelphia were the American Levant Line and the Nord Deutscher Lloyd to Batum.

[The names of two dealers in photographic supplies at Tiflis may be obtained from the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce or its district offices. Refer to file No. 77286.]

**SIAM.**

[Vice Consul Carl C. Hansen, Bangkok, Apr. 19.]

**Small Proportion from United States.**

The value of the imports of cameras into Siam for the fiscal year ended March 31, 1915, was \$2,131, against \$2,662 for the preceding year. During the last two years about one-half of the total number of cameras imported into the country came from the United Kingdom, and the rest from Japan and Germany. The value of the share the United States had in these imports was only \$71 and \$63 for the fiscal years 1914 and 1915, respectively.

Photographic plates, cinematograph films and other photographic materials were imported to the value of \$69,759 for the fiscal year 1915, as compared with \$62,704 for the preceding year. Of the photographic materials imported during 1915, France supplied \$22,038 worth, United Kingdom \$17,032, Japan \$4,010, the United States \$340, and all other countries \$26,339, of which \$24,292 worth was credited to the transshipment port of Singapore.

**Class of Plates Recently in Demand.**

During the past two years plates of British make have been most in demand, and of these the "Ilford" brand has had the largest

sale. The sizes in general use are limited to the whole plate, 10 by 12 inches, the three-quarters,  $6\frac{1}{2}$  by  $8\frac{1}{2}$  inches, the one-half,  $4\frac{1}{2}$  by  $6\frac{1}{2}$  inches, and the quarter,  $3\frac{1}{2}$  by  $4\frac{1}{2}$  inches. The retail prices per dozen plates in Siamese currency are 8, 4, 2, and 1 tical (1 tical=37 cents in United States currency) according to sizes. The plates are shipped in tin-lined packing cases which, together with the freight and all charges, are paid for by the consignee. The terms of European houses generally are 30 days draft against documents.

The Siamese customs require the net weight of the plates, exclusive of all packing, to be declared in the customs entry. A duty of 3 per cent ad valorem is levied on the value of the goods, including cost of packing and all charges to the port of entry.

[A list of dealers in photographic supplies at Bangkok may be obtained from the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce or its district offices. Refer to file No. 77129.]

### INCREASED PERUVIAN CUSTOMS REVENUES.

[Consul General William W. Handley, Callao-Lima, July 29.]

The total revenues of the eight principal maritime customhouses on the Pacific coast of Peru and the customhouse at Iquitos on the Amazon River during the first six months of 1916 amounted to \$2,168,145, in comparison with \$1,689,716 during January-June, 1915. This large increase may be attributed more to the recent law levying an import duty of 10 per cent and 5 per cent on an extensive list of articles that previously were free of duty than to a noticeable increase in the quantity of merchandise imported.

It is regarded as not improbable that these and other fiscal revenues will be further increased during the last half of the year, as the economic situation of the country has rapidly improved during the past three months. Bank balances are higher, the gold guaranty for the emission of paper money has been augmented from between 20 and 30 per cent to an average of 36 per cent, and exchange is again normal.

### REPORT OF ARGENTINE PUBLIC HEALTH WORKS.

The Obras Sanitarias de la Nacion has issued its report for the year 1915, and the figures show an increasing revenue notwithstanding the difficult conditions that have existed for the past two years. In 1915 the sum of \$3,506,486 was spent on new works in Buenos Aires and \$8,728,875 in the Provinces. The net income from the old works was 6.95 per cent.

### OFFICES OF THE BUREAU OF FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC COMMERCE.

#### DISTRICT OFFICES.

NEW YORK: Room 409, Customhouse.  
BOSTON: 18th floor, Customhouse.  
CHICAGO: 504 Federal Building.  
ST. LOUIS: 402 Third National Bank Building.  
ATLANTA: 521 Post Office Building.  
NEW ORLEANS: 1020 Miberna Bank Building.  
SAN FRANCISCO: 807 Customhouse.  
SEATTLE: 848 Henry Building.

#### COOPERATIVE OFFICES.

CLEVELAND: Chamber of Commerce.  
CINCINNATI: Chamber of Commerce.  
CINCINNATI: C., N. O. & T. P. Ry. Co.  
LOS ANGELES: Chamber of Commerce.  
PHILADELPHIA: Chamber of Commerce.  
CHATTANOOGA: South American Agent, Southern Ry. Co.

**AMERICAN CONSULAR OFFICERS ON LEAVE OF ABSENCE.**

The following American consular officers are on leave of absence in the United States and will be glad to confer with business men and commercial organizations relative to conditions in their respective jurisdictions. The consul's time is available primarily for personal interviews. He has limited facilities for correspondence, and except in urgent cases letters should be directed to the consulate.

Name.	Post.	Expiration of leave.	Address.
Hale, F. D. ....	Huddersfield, England	Sept. 5	Lunenburg, Vt.
Masterson, William W. ....	Durban, Natal, South Africa.	Sept. 1	Carrollton, Ky.
Baker, E. Carlton. ....	Nagasaki, Japan. ....	Aug. 30	Apartment No. 75, The Brunswick, Washington, D. C.
Monaghan, J. C. ....	Kingston, Jamaica. ....	Sept. 1	Avenue A and Fourteenth Street, Bayonne, N. J.
Jewell, John F. ....	Chefoo, China. ....	Oct. 1	Galea, Ill.
Kemper, Graham H. ....	Erturt, Germany. ....	Sept. 10	Department of State, Washington, D. C.
Goodier, James H. ....	Niagara Falls, Canada.	Sept. 1	27 South Hawk Street, Albany, N. Y.
Hazeltine, Ross. ....	Port Antonio, Jamaica.	Oct. 1	Department of State, Washington, D. C.
Laine, James Oliver. ....	Karachi, India. ....	Sept. 30	College University Club, Kansas City, Mo.
Leonard, Walter A. ....	Colombo, Ceylon. ....	Oct. 14	Fesset, Iowa.
Osborne, John Ball. ....	Havre, France. ....	Oct. 21	Department of State, Washington, D. C.
Mansfield, Robert E. ....	Vancouver, Canada. ....	Sept. 15	Rushville, Ind.

**FINANCING PUBLIC WORKS IN COLOMBIA.**

The Colombian Government has recently authorized certain municipalities to contract loans for public works, in accordance with a law of 1913 governing this procedure. In its issues of July 7 and 10 the *Diario Oficial* publishes the following: "The Municipal Council of the District of Zaragoza of the Department of Antioquia is authorized to contract a loan for \$15,000 gold, to be used in constructing an iron aqueduct and installing an electric plant in that district; the Municipal Council of the District of Mosquera, Department of Cundinamarca, to contract a loan for \$10,000 gold for establishing a public aqueduct and an electric plant; the Municipal Council of the District of Concepcion, Department of Antioquia, to contract a loan for \$5,000 gold for the installation of an electric plant.

**WORK BEGUN ON STUDY OF BLUE CRAB.**

A representative of the United States Bureau of Fisheries has begun a study of the life history, habits, and conservation of the blue crab. Part of July was devoted to preliminary observations of the crab fishery of Chesapeake Bay. Tentative plans were formed in reference to the methods and localities for future observations and experimental work.

**New Wage Scale for Austrian Miners.**

Vice Consul Robert S. Townsend, of Carlsbad, reports that wages for miners in the district of Bohemia have been fixed at 85 cents a day for overseers; 69 cents a day for ore diggers, ore handlers, mechanics of all classes, and stokers; 57 cents for workmen over 20 years of age; 45 cents for workmen between the ages of 16 and 20; and 28 cents a day for boys and women.

## FOREIGN TRADE OPPORTUNITIES.

Reserved addresses may be obtained from the **Bureau and its district offices**. Request for each opportunity should be on a separate sheet and **state opportunity number**. The **Bureau** does not furnish credit ratings or assume responsibility as to the standing of foreign inquirers; the usual precautions should be taken in all cases.

*Furniture, etc.*, No. 22231.—The commercial attaché of the Department of Commerce in Peru writes that a manufacturer and dealer in furniture desires to enter into direct relations with American manufacturers of upholsterers' supplies, moldings, and ornaments for furniture in brass and wood; mirrors, inexpensive bedroom and dining-room sets, and office furniture in wood; of high-grade metal office furniture and equipment; and carpets and rugs. Reference.

*Copper, etc.*, No. 22232.—An American consular officer in Switzerland writes that a manufacturer of copper kitchen utensils, etc., desires to communicate with American firms in a position to supply raw copper in rods and sheets as well as half-finished products. Correspondence in German.

*Hosiery, shoes, etc.*, No. 22233.—A merchant in the West Indies informs an American consular officer of his desire to receive catalogues of imitation silverware, shoes, and hosiery. Catalogues and correspondence may be in English, but French is preferred.

*General representation*, No. 22234.—An American consular officer in Venezuela reports that an established firm in his district desires to obtain general agencies of American manufacturers and exporters. Correspondence preferably in Spanish. No particular line is specified.

*Stationery, cutlery, etc.*, No. 22235.—A commercial agent of the Bureau writes that the representative of a firm in Russia, who is now in the United States, desires to get in touch with American firms handling hosiery, cutlery, gloves, stationery, and draftsmen's instruments. Cash will be paid against documents in New York. Reference.

*Pharmaceutical products, chemicals, etc.*, No. 22236.—An American consular officer in Portugal reports that a firm in his district is in the market for dyes, chemicals, and pharmaceutical products, benzine, etc. Correspondence may be in English and should state conditions and prices in detail, preferably c. i. f. destination.

*Knitting machines, etc.*, No. 22237.—An American consular officer in the United Kingdom reports that a firm in his district is in the market for machines for knitting hosiery, capable of producing goods from yarns of which samples are submitted. Further information may be obtained and samples inspected at the Bureau or its district offices. (Refer to file No. 79307.)

*Agricultural machinery*, No. 22238.—A commercial agent of the Bureau in East Africa reports an interest in small farm tractors; also in a maize cleaning and drying plant.

*Needles*, No. 22239.—An American consular officer in India writes that a firm in his district desires to be placed in communication with hosiery-needle manufacturers in the United States. Requirements about 20,000 annually. Further information may be obtained from the Bureau or its district offices.

*Pumps, machinery, etc.*, No. 22240.—The Bureau is informed that the authorities of a city in South America have expressed a desire to receive catalogues of pumps for cleaning out wells, and of machinery for digging, working, and otherwise obtaining water for stock and family use from artesian wells. Correspondence in Spanish.

*Hosiery, novelties, etc.*, No. 22241.—The representative of a firm in France, who is now in the United States, desires to communicate with firms handling wool and cotton tissues, gloves, hosiery, novelties, and fancy articles. Reference.

# COMMERCE REPORTS



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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

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No. 201      Washington, D. C., Saturday, August 26      1916

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### EXPORT LICENSES FOR RUSSIAN GOODS.

The commercial attaché of the Imperial Russian Embassy has been advised by the Russian Minister of Finance that the following procedure must be followed in the payment for all goods purchased in Russia and exported to the United States:

If an American importer desires to purchase commodities in Russia for exportation to the United States he must in each instance furnish to the Russian commercial attaché a guaranty that the value of the shipment in dollars has been deposited to the credit of the "Section Etrangère, Ministère Finances," with the National City Bank, of New York City, so that the Minister of Finance may pay to the Russian exporter the equivalent of these dollars in rubles, at the rate as fixed by the Chamber of Compensation in Petrograd the day the dollars were deposited in New York City.

It will therefore be necessary for American importers to furnish to the Russian commercial attaché the following data: (1) Letter from the National City Bank stating the amount that was deposited by the American importer to the credit of the account "Section Etrangère, Ministère Finances"; (2) statement of the quantity of the commodity and the value; (3) the name and address of the Russian exporter to whom the license to ship should be given.

### LOAN FOR EXTENSION OF COLOMBIAN RAILWAY.

The Colombian Congress has authorized the Government to contract one or more loans for a total sum not to exceed \$400,000, to be used in the extension of the Tolima Railway to Ibagué. The authorization as published in the Diario Oficial specifies that the loan will be guaranteed by a mortgage on the railway, including the part already constructed. The usual interest rates and the amortization will be covered by the proceeds of the railway, secured by 2 per cent of the proceeds of the Atlantic customhouses.

Consular Assistant Bartley F. Yost, of Barcelona, reports that published statistics place the production of cane sugar in Spain for the first half of the current year at 3,744 metric tons (metric ton = 2,204.6 pounds), as compared with 5,011 tons for January-June, 1915.

**BRAZIL AN IMPORTANT SOURCE OF HARDWOODS.**

[Consul General A. L. M. Gottschalk, Rio de Janeiro.]

While it is true that the great resources of the Brazilian Republic, richer in forest tracts than any other Republic in Latin America, have been exploited only in small part, and while the coming of new railways and avenues of communication will produce a notable increase in the country's output, there are already many firms here which are able to furnish foreign customers with Brazilian hardwoods in almost any desired quantity, subject to a reasonable notice—say 90 days—for shipment.

Much of the vast Brazilian forest is so inaccessible as to cause the despair of the foreign lumberman, who is trained to have a clear view of the country and to estimate its output at so many trees per acre or hectare. For this reason it is sometimes hard to control the supply or to set prices. One tree situated near by costs the lumberman a small sum, and another can be brought to the coast only at a much greater cost. The supply, however, is in a measure controlled by certain large firms upon whom reliance may be placed when prices have been given and a steady supply promised.

**Jacaranda Best Known to Foreign Buyers.**

Of all the woods of Brazil, the Jacaranda (*machacritum*, French; *palissandre*, vulg.) is known perhaps to a greater number of foreign buyers than any other. It is found here in all its varieties—Jacaranda violeta (*cabiuna*), Jacaranda cipo, Jacaranda rosa, Jacaranda ta, etc.—and with its remarkable undulations in the grain and delicate shadings is considered one of the handsomest woods in the world's markets. It is sold in North America, France, and Germany, and is used extensively in making the higher-priced articles of furniture and in cabinetmaking generally.

Persons well acquainted with the local output and the uses to which the various kinds of wood are put abroad classify the Brazilian hardwoods as follows:

Woods for building purposes on land and in water—Peroba amarella, Peroba parda, Peroba rosa, Vinhatico amarello, Cedro rosa, Bicuhiba, Ipe tabaco, Sapucaia, Jequitiba rosa, cacunda, Oleo copahyba, Pequia marfim, Arariba rosa, Sucupira amarella, Angelim pedra, Canella parda, Massaranduba, Araca, Guarabu (roxinho), Goncalo alves, Garapa, and many others similar to these.

Woods for hydraulic work particularly—Massaranduba, Oleo copahyba, Roxinho, Garapa, Ipe tabacco, Angelim pedra, arariba rosa, Cacunda, Jatahy, Peroba rosa, Peroba parda, Sapucaia, and many others similar to these.

Woods for carved work, the manufacture of expensive furnitures, etc.—Jacaranda, Goncalo alves, Pequia marfim, Oleo vermelho, and many others similar to these.

Woods for railway ties (used by the railways of Brazil)—Canella capitao mor, Canella prego, Canella preta, Canella sassafras, Ipe tabaco, Oleo pardo, Jatoba roxo, Oiti, Peroba rosa, Piuna, Sapucaia, Sucupira, Ubatam verm., Angelim pedra, Massaranduba, Oleo jatahy, Arapoca amarella, Arariba rosa, Canella amarella, Canella parda, Gibatao, Gurabu, Morindiba, Peroba, amarella, Angelim amargoso, Camboatá vermelho, Canella cravo, Oleo copahyba, Araiba, Canella bagre, Canella cheiro, Peroba rosa, Arariba amarello, Canella batalha, Canella vermelha, Jequitiba.



The woods are always logged in different sizes, from  $3\frac{1}{2}$  meter lengths to 12 meters, and their circumferences range from 1.40 to 2 meters (meter=3.28 feet).

#### Descriptions of Woods.

*Pequiá marfim* (ivory *Pequiá*) is of a clear yellow color, reminding one of old ivory by its aspect, of compact grain and almost invisible pores. It is employed in cabinetwork, moldings, embossed work, carved work, etc. It takes varnish very well.

*Peroba rosa* is rose colored, with dark veins, very compact grain, and no apparent pores. It is considered excellent for naval construction and cabinetmaking, and is frequently employed for furniture.

*Araribá rosa* is considered a low wood; when worked on it exhales an agreeable perfume; it resists warmth and rain for many years. It is used for cabinetwork and coopering. The Indians formerly extracted from this wood a rose-colored dye with which they stained their mats and baskets. It is also used for beams.

*Sucupira amarella* is yellow, with a very compact grain. It is used in naval and other construction, and is considered a first-class wood. Stakes, beams, etc., are made of it.

*Ipê tabaco* has a greenish dark-gray color. It produces a yellowish powder between the grain, called by carpenters "tobacco of *Ipê*," because it causes sneezing when inhaled. The bark of this wood possesses medicinal properties.

*Sapucaia Vermelha* is of a reddish-yellow color, with compact tissue, longitudinal pores, and very thin fibers. This tree produces fruit in the shape of an oval capsule, containing almonds covered with a white sweetish meat, the shells being used for drinking cups. It is employed in naval construction and by joiners and cabinet-makers. It is also used for beams and hydraulic stakes.

*Peroba amarella* is of a yellowish gray color, with few veins and of a compact fiber. It is considered an excellent wood and very much used in construction, in railroads, etc. This kind of *peroba* is the most used in the city of Rio de Janeiro, where it replaces oak for medium-priced furniture.

*Angelim pedra* is of a yellowish color, with very visible pores. It is often considered of the second class, but splendid for naval and other construction, because of its resistance. It is also employed for beams, rafters, shingles, etc. It has the property of being very bitter, and therefore never is attacked by worms.

#### *Cacunda* Extensively Employed in Making Furniture.

*Cacunda* is clear yellow, with longitudinal veins and almost invisible pores. It is considered a very fine wood for both civil and naval construction. It is one of the most abundant woods in Brazil, and is extensively employed in manufacturing furniture. It can also be used for hydraulic construction.

*Canella parda* is dark gray with very compact grain. It is considered very good for interior work, beams, shingles, boards, etc.

*Massaranduba* has a dark red color and almost invisible pores with very compact grain. Its fruit contains a sweet, milky juice that is used in place of cow's milk and which, 24 hours after having been extracted, turns into an elastic mass very similar to rubber in its raw state. The fruit possesses nourishing, pectoral, and emolient prop-

erties. The bark is very rich in tanning and dyeing properties. It is considered a first-class wood for use under water and for boats and railway ties, and of the very best kind for beams.

Cedro (cedar) has a clear rosy color, and the Cedro Rosa has an odor similar, some people consider, to that of roses. It is used in civil and naval construction, in joinery and scrollwork, canoes and boats, boat planks, frames, rulers, furniture linings, cigar boxes, moldings, etc.

Vinhatico is a beautiful wood and possesses a yellow color with a very visible grain and veins. The veins themselves form ellipses around its darker core. It is considered wood of superior quality and is employed in Brazil for cabinetmaking. It is very much used in construction, in planks, doors, canoes, furniture moldings, etc.

Araçá is of a greyish color, with the exception of the Araçá Vermelho variety, which tends more to red. The Araçá Branco gives very good fruit. The wood is much used for beams, as it is very hard and resistant. The Araçá Piranga is used in both naval and civil construction, owing to its elasticity and hardness. The Araçá de Pomba is used for tool handles and also for engineering instruments.

Guarabú (Rôxinho) is of a purple reddish color, very easily distinguished. It is used in construction and hydraulic work, for beams, carriage wheels, wainscoting, interior work, stockades, etc.

One of Most Beautiful Woods and Also One of Hardest.

Gonçalo Alves, by reason of its brilliant undulations, is considered one of the most beautiful woods in Brazil and is also one of the hardest. It is excellent for construction and is sought for furniture, moldings, and inlaid work. It is used very much for <sup>artistic floors</sup> ~~mouldings~~ of <sup>the second</sup> ~~the~~ class; is used for inlaid work, floors, ceiling, etc.

Jequitibá rosa is rose colored, tending to red; has a very visible grain, with the local name <sup>rose grain</sup> ~~red~~ <sup>the second</sup> ~~the~~ class; is used for inlaid work, floors, ceiling, etc.

Bicuiba or biguiba (oil-nut tree) reminds in many ways of cedar, but is darker, less porous, and has not the cedar's odor. It is considered a good wood for construction, and is very much used for shingles, ceilings, furniture, linings, rafters, beams, and for general hydraulic work. The bicuiba branca gives a fruit from which a medicinal butter is extracted. The bicuiba vermelha gives a medicinal oil. When an incision is made in the bicuiba tree it yields a very thin juice which turns from white to red under the action of the air. Its almond reminds one of the common nutmeg.

Olêo copahyba (capivi tree) produces a wood which is similar to mahogany, without its fine markings, has a very agreeable odor, and by its applications is considered wood of very high grade. It is employed in all kinds of construction. It is the best wood for hydraulic work on account of its resistance to dampness. It gives a medicinal oil which is popular. It is very resinous and its resin is valuable.

Garapa is a wood of a clear and clean yellowish color. It has great qualities of resistance and hardness, a good grain, and is very much liked. It has very compact fibers. It is used generally for construction, and is very well regarded for use in making spokes for wheels and for every kind of work where great resistance is expected of relatively thin pieces.

## Figures Show Exports for Three Years.

The statistical department of the customhouse at Rio de Janeiro gives figures showing the exports of various kinds of Brazilian hardwoods, from 1913 to the end of 1915. These exports, with weights given in kilos of 2.2 pounds and values in United States currency, were:

Kinds and countries of destination.	1913		1914		1915	
	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.
<b>Acapu:</b>						
Portugal..... kilos..	6,896	\$966				
<b>Cedro:</b>						
Germany..... do.....	200	16				
United States..... do.....					151,605	\$1,381
United Kingdom..... do.....	400	27			219,480	5,010
Portugal..... do.....					81,000	710
Total..... do.....	600	43			452,085	7,101
<b>Jacarandá:</b>						
Germany..... do.....	535,790	33,013	858,700	\$37,205		
Belgium..... do.....	18,784	818				
United States..... do.....	741,759	39,835	1,194,100	46,253	1,815,438	81,651
France..... do.....	1,001,045	64,138	565,870	26,878		
United Kingdom..... do.....	123,884	5,409	114,820	3,760	24,631	846
Total..... do.....	2,463,690	145,388	2,709,432	116,735	1,839,972	82,498
<b>Massaranduba:</b>						
United Kingdom..... do.....					40,000	770
Portugal..... do.....	104,900	3,668	24,000	600	338,600	5,568
Total..... do.....	104,900	3,668	24,000	600	378,600	6,338
<b>Paó Brazil:</b>						
Chile..... do.....					30,500	1,143
United States..... do.....					9,000	337
Total..... do.....					39,500	1,481
<b>Pinho:</b>						
Argentina..... planks..					10,558	9,190
Uruguay..... do.....					17,521	15,396
Total..... do.....					28,079	24,587
<b>Pinho:</b>						
Germany..... boards..	500	301				
Argentina..... do.....	380,940	184,292	212,366	91,690	1,140,274	373,954
Uruguay..... do.....	60,102	35,036	81,892	39,356	76,858	25,799
Total..... do.....	441,542	219,630	297,258	131,046	1,217,162	399,754
<b>Sebastião de Arruda:</b>						
Germany..... kilos..	73,338	3,936	24,644	991		
Belgium..... do.....	207,660	11,144				
United States..... do.....	15,410	627				
France..... do.....	421,452	22,617	8,420	339		
Total..... do.....	717,860	38,524	33,064	1,330		
<b>Not specified:</b>						
Germany..... do.....	287,529	6,238	625,498	13,465		
Argentina..... do.....	583,615	8,166	879,150	21,226	1,226,257	7,229
Belgium..... do.....	96,802	6,379	188,000	4,450		
United States..... do.....	28,875	823	78,378	1,909	27,264	1,047
France..... do.....	138,017	9,476	171,915	3,957	23,648	2,232
United Kingdom..... do.....	4,114	703	7,073	220	37,180	1,045
Italy..... do.....	31,532	2,330			15,300	500
Portugal..... do.....	30,653	2,987	122,420	2,935	89,168	2,391
Uruguay..... do.....	1,091,700	7,563	249,900	3,156	61,912	565
Total..... do.....	2,298,837	44,668	2,322,334	51,319	1,480,929	15,011
<b>Not specified:</b>						
Argentina..... pieces..	1,799	9,608	824	4,191	485	4,473
Italy..... do.....	1,179	44,600				
Paraguay..... do.....	7,917	70,038	4,037	21,031		
Uruguay..... do.....	40	53	250	240		
Total..... do.....	10,935	121,209	5,121	25,466	485	4,473

**Set of Samples Collected for American Importers.**

An unusually complete set of samples of Brazilian hardwoods has been collected at the request of the American consulate general by a firm in Rio de Janeiro. The firm is an important one here. It is believed that American merchants can obtain sufficient information regarding business houses here from the American agents of the following banks to which the firm mentioned refers: British Bank of South America (New York agents, the Bank of New York, 48 Wall Street, New York City); London & Brazilian Bank (Ltd.), (New York agents, London & Brazilian Bank (Ltd.), 56 Wall Street New York City); and London & River Plate Bank (Ltd.), (New York agents, the Merchants' National Bank, 42 Wall Street, New York City). The firm's lumbering is done in the Brazilian States of Minas Geraes, Rio de Janeiro, and Espirito Santo. It offers to supply any quantities desired, subject to 90 days' notice for shipment, delivered at Rio de Janeiro or Victoria, Brazil.

[Thirty-one samples of Brazilian hardwoods may be inspected at the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, its district or cooperative offices. The name of the firm that furnished the samples, together with a list of other exporters of Brazilian hardwoods at Rio de Janeiro, may be obtained from these offices. Refer in each instance to file No. 79087. A previous article on the Brazilian hardwood supply was published in COMMERCE REPORTS for July 15, 1918.]

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**INTERNATIONAL ELECTRIC AND MAGNETIC UNITS.**

"The International System of Electric and Magnetic Units" is the subject of Scientific Paper No. 292, which has just been published by the United States Bureau of Standards. The paper gives full descriptions of the existing methods of measurement and those which have been proposed, and states the advantages of the methods already approved.

All electrical measurements in the various countries are based on certain standards kept at bureaus of standards. These standards represent the units, such as the volt and ampere, in terms of which measurements are expressed. Several different systems of electric and magnetic units have been proposed from time to time. These systems have been put forward as having noteworthy advantages in a theoretical way over the units which are ordinarily used. A careful study, however, has shown that the advantages of the proposed systems are not such as to justify a general change of units. In fact, Scientific Paper No. 292 shows that the ordinary units are in many ways superior to those proposed.

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**NEW BANK BUILDING FOR CHILEAN PORT.**

[Consul Thomas W. Voetter, Antofagasta, July 28.]

The Banco Español de Chile will erect at Antofagasta a new building to be occupied by the branch of that bank in this city. This may offer an opportunity for the sale of vaults, safes, or other appliances used by banks. The head office of the bank is at Santiago, Chile.

**JAPAN'S FOREIGN TRADE INCREASING RAPIDLY.**

[Consul General George H. Scidmore, Yokohama, Aug. 2.]

The Japanese customs authorities have compiled the figures of Japan's foreign trade for the six months ended June 30, 1916. There were substantial increases in both imports and exports.

The exports of merchandise amounted to \$234,078,526, an increase of \$84,063,888 over the corresponding period of 1915. The imports of merchandise were \$189,649,816, an increase of \$45,711,611. The excess of exports over imports was \$44,428,710, compared with about \$6,000,000 during the corresponding period of 1915.

Exports of gold and silver coin and bullion were valued at \$1,786,924, compared with \$12,869,690 during the corresponding period of 1915.

Imports of gold and silver coin and bullion likewise show a reversal of conditions in the two periods. Their value in 1916 was \$14,944,892; in 1915, \$1,685,024.

Customs duties collected amounted to \$7,654,158, showing a decrease of \$34,533, compared with the corresponding period of 1915. Such a decrease of revenue, when considered in connection with the marked increase of imports, indicates a decided change in the character of goods purchased by Japan.

Exports to the United States for the first half of 1916 amounted to \$71,883,580; for the first half of 1915, \$39,064,002, an increase of \$32,819,578; imports from the United States for the first half of 1916, \$45,670,717; for the first half of 1915, \$27,428,280; increase, \$18,242,437.

**Classes of Exports Which Show Greatest Increases.**

Of exports which show the greatest increase, the articles mentioned in order of importance are: Raw silk, cotton underclothing, cotton tissues, cotton yarns, copper, silk waste, sulphur, porcelain, buttons, lumber, coal, toys, matches, hats and caps, silk handkerchiefs, camphor, tinned crabs, and isinglass.

The countries which appear to have shared in this increase of exports from Japan, in the order of their importance, are the United States, China, Great Britain, Russia, British India, Australia, Dutch Indies, France, Canada, Egypt and other parts of Africa, Philippine Islands, Hawaii, and Indo-China.

Of imports which show the greatest increase, the articles mentioned in order of importance are: Raw cotton, iron and steel bars, rods, and plates, iron and steel ingots, pig, etc., lead, nails, rubber, pulp for paper making, paper, machinery, and wool. Noticeable decreases in imports appear under the heads of rice, wheat, beans and peas, sugar, sulphate of ammonium, hemp, china grass, phosphorite, oil cake, and kerosene.

The countries which have shared in the increase of imports into Japan, in the order of their importance, are the United States, British India, China, Great Britain, Australia, Egypt, Sweden, Chile, and Norway.

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An agency for American buttons has been established in Marseille through information supplied to the manufacturer by Consul General A. Gaulin, of that French port.

**RECORD EXPORTS FROM HONGKONG TO UNITED STATES.**

[Vice Consul A. E. Carleton, Hongkong, British China, July 20.]

According to the records of the Hongkong consulate general for the first six months of the present year the value of goods shipped from this port to the United States was \$5,363,000, the largest in the history of this office, the nearest approach to these figures having been in 1913, when the exports during January-June amounted to \$3,182,004. For the first six months of 1912 the shipments had a declared value of \$2,635,311; in 1914, \$2,630,258; in 1915, \$3,019,248.

The items of merchandise which have caused this large increase in Hongkong's trade with the United States are rice, tin, cassia vera, antimony, and shelled peanuts. The exports of rice have never been exceeded; those of tin were exceeded only in 1913, and then by a narrow margin; the cassia trade has been exceptionally large, and previous exportations for similar periods were far below the record for 1916. Antimony was first listed as an important item in 1915, and the exports for 1916 were three times as great, notwithstanding the Hongkong restrictions and the high freight rates. Shelled peanuts were exported to the value of \$127,209, which figure has been exceeded but once since 1912.

**Principal Articles Involved in Past Five Years.**

The value of these and other leading exports to the United States during January-June of each of the last five years was:

Articles.	First six months—				
	1912	1913	1914	1915	1916
Rice, cleaned and broken.....	\$594,445	\$778,226	\$714,401	\$1,367,218	\$2,157,448
Tin.....	908,448	1,275,227	630,522	503,161	1,122,263
Cassia.....	80,794	103,304	69,554	45,507	320,577
Antimony.....				30,840	91,960
Peanuts, shelled.....	4,253	25,533	201,957	43,002	127,209
Human hair.....	56,271	82,224	15,283	21,123	24,579
Rattan furniture.....	33,252	38,574	61,362	27,675	22,397
Seagrass furniture.....		30,433	50,262	34,007	24,418
All other.....	957,848	848,483	896,917	946,915	1,472,170
Total.....	2,635,311	3,182,004	2,630,258	3,019,248	5,363,000

**Losses and Gains in Colony's Philippine Trade.**

The feature of the Hongkong-Philippine trade is the general average on the value and nature of the declared exports from month to month and from year to year. The notable exception to the rule was in 1912, when the exports for the first six months amounted to \$3,543,078—explained by the failure of the rice crops in the Philippines and the necessity of extraordinary importations of this cereal. For similar periods of other years the value of the exports from this colony to the islands was: 1913, \$2,006,368; 1914, \$1,518,287; 1915, \$2,399,952; 1916, \$2,157,334. In 1916, the rice exports were some \$400,000 less than in 1915, silk declined about \$10,000, cement \$30,000, and lard \$8,000.

On the other hand cattle shipments increased from \$278 to \$51,096 through the withdrawal of the prohibition by the Philippine Government of shipments of cattle from Hongkong. Cotton manufactures advanced from \$129,934 in the first six months of 1915 to \$132,615 in the corresponding period in 1916; cotton yarn in this item represented a value of \$38,627 in 1915 and \$74,730 in 1916. Beans, which

are listed under the general head of "vegetables," were exported to Manila to the value of \$14,254 in 1915 and \$24,918 in 1916; these values represent, respectively, 1,001,810 pounds and 1,516,530 pounds of beans.

**Leading Philippine Purchases—Hongkong-Hawaii Cargoes.**

The principal articles of export from Hongkong to the Philippine Islands for the first six months of 1912-1916 and their declared values were:

Articles.	First six months—				
	1912	1913	1914	1915	1916
Cattle.....			\$334	\$278	\$51,096
Cement.....	\$135,855	\$114,100	56,250	51,257	21,141
Cotton and manufactures.....		90,527	72,026	129,934	132,615
Lard.....	60,028	34,819	43,590	58,787	50,096
Rice.....	1,845,521	652,892	323,381	1,421,54	1,028,290
Silk.....	90,297	106,703	112,305	126,343	116,481
Matches.....		14,603	17,394	8,094	33,804
Wood and manufactures.....	38,899	33,799	25,646	19,921	15,817
All other.....	1,371,578	958,826	867,459	563,894	707,994
<b>Total.....</b>	<b>3,543,078</b>	<b>2,006,368</b>	<b>1,518,287</b>	<b>2,399,932</b>	<b>2,157,334</b>

As to the Hongkong-Hawaiian trade, the exports from here are practically the same from year to year. The declared value of these shipments in January-June, 1916, was \$150,971; in the first semester of 1915, \$119,799. Fish (valued at \$19,345 in the first six months of 1916, against \$17,861 in the corresponding period of 1915), fruits and nuts (\$10,205, against \$8,544 last year), meat and dairy products (\$11,242, against \$8,397), spirits and wines (\$19,925, against \$17,584), tea (\$13,937, against \$10,356), and vegetables (\$15,591, against \$9,329) were the most important articles entering into this trade during the half year just ended.

**AMERICAN CONSULAR OFFICERS ON LEAVE OF ABSENCE.**

The following American consular officers are on leave of absence in the United States and will be glad to confer with business men and commercial organizations relative to conditions in their respective jurisdictions. The consul's time is available primarily for personal interviews. He has limited facilities for correspondence, and except in urgent cases letters should be directed to the consulate.

Name.	Post.	Expira- tion of venue.	Address.
Hale, F. D.....	Huddersfield, England	Sept. 5	Lunenburg, Vt.
Masterson, William W.....	Durban, Natal, South Africa.	Sept. 1	Carrollton, Ky.
Baker, E. Carlton.....	Nagasaki, Japan.....	Aug. 30	Apartment No. 75, The Brunswick, Washington, D. C.
Monaghan, J. C.....	Kingston, Jamaica.....	Sept. 1	Avenue A and Fourteenth Street, Bayonne, N. J.
Jewell, John F.....	Chefoo, China.....	Oct. 1	Galena, Ill.
Kemper, Graham H.....	Erfurt, Germany.....	Sept. 10	Department of State, Washington, D. C.
Goodier, James H.....	Niagara Falls, Canada.	Sept. 1	27 South Hawk Street, Albany, N. Y.
Hazeltine, Ross.....	Port Antonio, Jamaica.	Oct. 1	Department of State, Washington, D. C.
Leing, James Oliver.....	Karachi, India.....	Sept. 30	C/o University Club, Kansas City, Mo.
Leonard, Walter A.....	Colombo, Ceylon.....	Oct. 11	F'seev, Iowa.
Osborne, John Ball.....	Havre, France.....	Oct. 21	Department of State, Washington, D. C.
Mansfield, Robert E.....	Vancouver, Canada.....	Sept. 15	Rushville, Ind.

## MOVEMENT OF COAL AND COKE.

The movement of coal and coke over 12 leading eastern railroads during May and five months ending May, 1915 and 1916, follows:

MAY.

Classes and railroads.	Originating on line.		Received from connections.		Total.	
	1915	1916	1915	1916	1915	1916
<b>FOR REVENUE ONLY.</b>						
<b>Anthracite:</b>	<i>Short tons.</i>	<i>Short tons.</i>	<i>Short tons.</i>	<i>Short tons.</i>	<i>Short tons.</i>	<i>Short tons.</i>
Baltimore & Ohio.....			93,608	78,194	93,608	78,194
Buffalo, Rochester & Pitts- burgh.....			12,234	20,024	12,234	20,024
Buffalo & Susquehanna.....			464	289	464	289
Chesapeake & Ohio.....	99	30	1,268	718	1,367	748
Erie.....	584,171	655,915	96,601	82,411	682,775	738,326
Huntingdon & Broad Top Mountain.....			31	124	31	124
Pennsylvania.....	491,010	458,142	481,985	498,949	972,995	957,091
Pittsburgh, Shawmut & Northern.....			866	438	866	438
Virginian.....	145		151	460	296	460
Western Maryland.....			33,136	24,962	33,136	24,962
Total.....	1,075,425	1,114,087	722,437	706,569	1,797,862	1,820,656
<b>Bituminous:</b>						
Baltimore & Ohio.....	2,230,429	2,004,552	492,792	498,891	2,723,221	3,103,443
Buffalo, Rochester & Pitts- burgh.....	592,356	666,500	6,873	3,855	599,229	670,352
Buffalo & Susquehanna.....	73,519	94,894	46	40	73,565	94,931
Chesapeake & Ohio.....	1,782,034	2,311,838	129,281	232,256	1,911,315	2,544,094
Erie.....	16,586	12,511	467,334	624,910	483,920	637,421
Huntingdon & Broad Top Mountain.....	52,148	54,870	22,388	24,026	74,536	79,496
New York Central (Buffalo and east).....	462,728	590,354			462,728	590,354
Norfolk & Western.....	1,841,490	2,187,851	311,302	623,998	2,152,792	2,811,849
Pennsylvania.....	3,103,581	3,488,436	289,747	437,614	3,393,328	3,926,050
Pittsburgh, Shawmut & Northern.....	146,361	258,960	649	194	147,010	259,154
Virginian.....	256,812	365,391	32,569	43,917	289,381	409,308
Western Maryland.....	266,763	314,121	450,832	294,153	717,595	608,274
Total.....	10,824,807	12,950,278	2,203,813	2,784,451	13,028,620	15,734,729
<b>FOR COMPANY FUEL.</b>						
<b>Anthracite:</b>						
Erie.....	14,202	20,915	69		14,354	20,915
Pennsylvania.....	8,773	10,601	11,572	15,041	20,345	25,542
Total.....	23,075	31,416	11,624	15,041	34,699	46,457
<b>Bituminous:</b>						
Baltimore & Ohio.....	302,931	495,239	5,583	14,869	308,514	510,108
Buffalo, Rochester & Pitts- burgh.....	40,819	61,185			40,819	61,185
Buffalo & Susquehanna.....	7,643	4,383			7,643	4,383
Chesapeake & Ohio.....	160,603	185,928			160,603	185,928
Erie.....	152,515	103,708	82,380	113,186	234,895	216,894
Huntingdon & Broad Top Mountain.....	2,436	2,258			2,436	2,258
New York Central (Buffalo and east).....	209,313	152,288			209,313	152,288
Norfolk & Western.....	215,062	231,904	24,123	50,455	239,185	282,359
Pennsylvania.....	544,288	587,468	32	67	544,320	587,535
Pittsburgh, Shawmut & Northern.....	6,279	13,837			6,279	13,837
Virginian.....	17,931	27,340		47	17,931	27,387
Western Maryland.....	44,971	52,177	29	2,176	45,000	54,353
Total.....	1,704,791	1,917,715	112,147	180,790	1,816,933	2,098,505
<b>COKE FOR REVENUE AND FUEL.</b>						
Baltimore & Ohio.....	213,316	275,783	87,002	86,121	300,318	361,904
Buffalo, Rochester & Pitts- burgh.....	33,681	31,328	10,784	16,960	44,445	48,288
Buffalo & Susquehanna.....	49,259	29,108			49,259	29,108
Chesapeake & Ohio.....	10,088	38,203	11,715	10,039	21,803	48,245



MAY—Continued.

Classes and railroads.	Originating on line.		Received from connections.		Total.	
	1915	1916	1915	1916	1915	1916
<b>COKE FOR REVENUE AND FUEL—Continued.</b>	<i>Short tons.</i>	<i>Short tons.</i>	<i>Short tons.</i>	<i>Short tons.</i>	<i>Short tons.</i>	<i>Short tons.</i>
Erie.....			75,736	120,821	75,736	120,821
Huntingdon & Broad Top Mountain.....	8,711	4,417		139	8,711	4,556
Norfolk & Western.....	76,897	172,998	2,373	10,371	79,270	183,369
Pennsylvania.....	654,362	981,540	217,819	247,900	872,181	1,229,440
Western Maryland.....	4,497	7,412	19,882	7,590	24,379	15,002
Total.....	1,050,791	1,540,792	425,311	499,941	1,476,102	2,040,733

FIVE MONTHS ENDING MAY.

<b>FOR REVENUE ONLY.</b>						
<b>Anthracite:</b>						
Baltimore & Ohio.....			526,828	678,329	526,828	678,329
Buffalo, Rochester & Pittsburgh.....			77,043	79,989	77,043	79,989
Buffalo & Susquehanna.....			3,049	2,913	3,049	2,913
Chesapeake & Ohio.....	716	406	4,344	4,184	5,060	4,590
Erie.....	2,978,328	3,361,735	554,836	723,920	3,533,164	4,085,655
Huntingdon and Broad Top Mountain.....			133	259	133	259
Pennsylvania.....	2,451,064	2,567,959	2,120,899	2,384,190	4,571,963	4,952,149
Pittsburgh, Shawmut & Northern.....			5,675	5,267	5,675	5,267
Virginian.....	342	144	177	1,009	519	1,153
Western Maryland.....			136,226	140,018	136,226	140,018
Total.....	5,430,450	5,930,244	3,429,210	4,020,078	8,859,660	9,960,322
<b>Bituminous:</b>						
Baltimore & Ohio.....	9,182,220	11,377,340	2,548,062	3,018,539	11,730,282	14,395,909
Buffalo, Rochester & Pittsburgh.....	2,793,519	3,868,961	16,572	16,343	2,810,091	3,885,304
Buffalo & Susquehanna.....	396,382	599,997	165	126	396,547	599,223
Chesapeake & Ohio.....	7,620,487	10,229,500	472,930	1,022,075	8,093,417	11,251,575
Erie.....	77,135	99,260	2,383,718	3,793,977	2,460,853	3,883,257
Huntingdon and Broad Top Mountain.....	272,119	332,224	111,916	161,156	384,035	493,380
New York Central (Buffalo and east).....	2,415,492	3,445,089			2,415,492	3,445,089
Norfolk & Western.....	7,829,462	10,429,573	856,392	2,069,946	8,785,854	12,499,519
Pennsylvania.....	14,932,623	17,741,135	1,590,028	2,783,355	16,522,651	20,524,490
Pittsburgh, Shawmut & Northern.....	865,876	1,227,025	2,470	3,244	868,320	1,230,269
Virginian.....	1,327,124	1,920,055	176,057	299,303	1,503,181	2,219,358
Western Maryland.....	1,344,024	1,480,595	1,911,609	1,751,173	3,255,633	3,231,763
Total.....	49,056,463	62,749,874	10,169,919	14,919,267	59,226,332	77,669,141
<b>FOR COMPANY FUEL.</b>						
<b>Anthracite:</b>						
Baltimore & Ohio.....			115		115	
Erie.....	119,747	68,457	167	145	119,914	68,602
Pennsylvania.....	54,029	66,284	90,021	88,804	144,050	155,088
Total.....	173,776	134,741	90,303	88,949	264,079	223,690
<b>Bituminous:</b>						
Baltimore & Ohio.....	1,728,361	2,454,768	44,933	66,937	1,773,294	2,521,705
Buffalo, Rochester & Pittsburgh.....	218,941	314,854			218,941	314,554
Buffalo & Susquehanna.....	41,447	48,976			41,447	48,976
Chesapeake & Ohio.....	845,263	965,608			845,263	965,608
Erie.....	673,245	599,143	634,971	865,407	1,308,216	1,464,550
Huntingdon and Broad Top Mountain.....	12,747	15,134			12,747	15,134
New York Central (Buffalo and east).....	1,085,142	1,026,101			1,085,142	1,026,101
Norfolk & Western.....	986,613	1,161,847	100,908	210,206	1,087,521	1,372,053
Pennsylvania.....	3,057,801	3,516,031	137	543	3,057,938	3,516,574
Pittsburgh, Shawmut & Northern.....	35,629	65,138			35,629	65,138
Virginian.....	97,591	110,070	145	27,273	97,736	137,343
Western Maryland.....	228,014	238,187	139	35,970	228,153	274,157
Total.....	9,010,794	10,515,557	781,233	1,206,336	9,792,027	11,721,893

## FIVE MONTHS ENDING MAY—Continued.

Classes and railroads.	Originating on line.		Received from connections.		Total.	
	1915	1916	1915	1916	1915	1916
<b>COKE FOR REVENUE AND FUEL.</b>						
Baltimore & Ohio.....	<i>Short tons.</i> 940,343	<i>Short tons.</i> 1,492,306	<i>Short tons.</i> 373,565	<i>Short tons.</i> 402,909	<i>Short tons.</i> 1,313,908	<i>Short tons.</i> 1,895,217
Buffalo, Rochester & Pitts- burgh.....	196,802	173,838	59,856	71,288	226,658	245,126
Buffalo & Susquehanna.....	244,213	195,573			244,213	195,573
Chesapeake & Ohio.....	40,425	181,921	46,918	53,694	87,343	235,615
Erie.....			424,323	458,486	424,323	458,486
Huntingdon and Broad Top Mountain.....	16,694	30,850	386	3,895	17,080	34,545
Norfolk & Western.....	362,043	848,221	4,723	47,653	366,766	895,874
Pennsylvania.....	2,969,068	4,802,252	1,037,907	1,359,939	4,006,975	6,162,191
Pittsburgh, Shawmut & Northern.....				70		70
Western Maryland.....	20,041	41,258	90,971	80,352	111,012	121,610
Total.....	4,759,629	7,766,821	2,038,049	2,478,316	6,797,678	10,245,137

NOTE.—Totals do not include amounts of coal received by the New York Central Railroad from connections. The Southern Railroad transported from the Tennessee and Alabama districts 234,712 short tons of bituminous coal in May, 1916, and 303,800 short tons in August, 1915.

The following is a corrected statement of figures published in former issues of COMMERCE REPORTS showing the coal and coke transported over the lines of the Baltimore & Ohio Railroad Co. during the first four months of the calendar years 1915 and 1916:

Classes and months.	Originating on line.		Received from connections.		Total.	
	1915	1916	1915	1916	1915	1916
<b>FOR REVENUE ONLY.</b>						
<b>Anthracite:</b>	<i>Short tons.</i>	<i>Short tons.</i>	<i>Short tons.</i>	<i>Short tons.</i>	<i>Short tons.</i>	<i>Short tons.</i>
January.....			123,077	177,747	123,077	177,747
February.....			95,779	140,611	95,779	140,611
March.....			88,592	190,276	88,592	190,276
April.....			125,682	91,501	125,682	91,501
Total, 4 months.....			433,130	600,135	433,130	600,135
<b>Bituminous:</b>						
January.....	1,856,433	2,207,364	581,658	654,603	2,438,091	2,861,967
February.....	1,516,233	2,129,572	509,909	694,558	2,026,142	2,824,130
March.....	1,756,942	2,244,350	481,440	700,315	2,238,382	2,944,665
April.....	1,822,183	2,191,502	482,263	470,202	2,304,446	2,661,704
Total, 4 months.....	6,951,781	8,772,788	2,055,270	2,519,678	9,007,061	11,292,466
<b>FOR COMPANY FUEL.</b>						
<b>Anthracite:</b>						
January.....			58		58	
February.....						
March.....			57		57	
April.....						
Total, 4 months.....			115		115	
<b>Bituminous:</b>						
January.....	397,209	503,191	13,213	14,502	410,422	517,693
February.....	331,115	430,684	6,806	11,441	337,921	442,125
March.....	321,427	558,054	8,001	11,954	329,428	570,008
April.....	375,679	467,600	11,530	14,171	387,009	481,771
Total, 4 months.....	1,425,430	1,959,529	39,550	52,068	1,464,780	2,011,597
<b>COKE FOR REVENUE AND FUEL.</b>						
January.....	149,314	297,304	75,913	89,886	225,227	387,190
February.....	179,861	339,545	55,344	42,592	235,205	382,137
March.....	186,179	314,680	74,694	90,569	260,873	405,149
April.....	211,673	265,096	80,612	93,741	292,285	358,837
Total, 4 months.....	727,027	1,216,525	286,563	316,788	1,013,590	1,533,133

# AMERICAN TYPEWRITERS CONTROL SOUTH AFRICAN MARKET.

[Vice Consul Charles H. Heisler, Cape Town, June 26.]

The war has aided American manufacturers of typewriters in disposing of their products on this market by eliminating competition of manufacturers in other countries. At the same time, the local demand for typewriters is not as great as during pre-war days. Competition by English manufacturers is negligible. In fact, as far as can be learned, no English typewriter company is represented in this market, American typewriters practically supplying the demand.

The representatives of American typewriter manufacturers have branch houses in every important center in this country, and in every city American machines predominate.

## Imports During Last Three Years.

The following table shows the number and value by countries of typewriters imported into the Union of South Africa in 1913, 1914, and 1915:

Countries.	1913		1914		1915	
	Num-ber.	Value.	Num-ber.	Value.	Num-ber.	Value.
United Kingdom.....	166	\$5,693	135	\$5,036	76	\$2,351
Canada.....	58	3,007	10	501	24	1,085
Belgium.....	14	954	4	316		
Germany.....	151	6,841	98	4,253	13	555
India.....	1	107				
Sweden.....					2	10
United States.....	2,145	129,268	1,576	98,177	728	45,336
Total.....	2,635	145,870	1,823	108,283	843	49,337

One noticeable feature in the foregoing table is the general decrease of imports during the last two years, showing the effect of the war on business in this country. High ocean freight rates, combined with the local desire to effect economies as much as possible, have lessened the demand for typewriters, and importations have fallen accordingly.

Imports from America should, undoubtedly, be somewhat higher than enumerated in the table, as shipments sent through England are usually recorded here as English exportations.

Though imports of American goods in the past have usually been made via England, at the present time a considerable volume of merchandise is shipped direct from the United States. Since the beginning of the war more vessels have arrived at this port direct from America than is recorded for a period of equal duration in peace times.

Typewriters are classified under No. 193 of the South African import tariff and pay an import duty of 20 per cent ad valorem. A rebate of 3 per cent ad valorem is granted on all such goods manufactured in the United Kingdom and reciprocating British colonies.

A large amount of business with this country is done through shipping and commission houses, the manufacturers usually receiving cash at time of shipment, the shipping houses extending credit to the

purchasers. For extending credit an exchange is charged which amounts to something more than 6 per cent interest per annum, in fact it is usually  $2\frac{1}{2}$  per cent for draft at 90 days. American shippers usually limit terms of credit to draft at 90 days' sight. Many firms in this country have a London house through which payments are remitted in such cases.

To successfully compete with other typewriter companies represented in this market, it will be necessary for the firm considering the placing of its wares on the South African market to follow the example of those firms already established here. A representative should be carefully selected; one who will not handle any other make of typewriter and one capable of pushing to the best advantage the special make he is willing to represent.

#### Retail Prices and Discounts.

The retail prices in this district for some of the standard makes of American typewriters are as follows:

Monarch, model 4, with 6 extra characters on keyboard.....	\$163. 51
Royal, model 10.....	153. 29
Remington, model 10a.....	153. 29
Remington-Wahl adding and subtracting.....	364. 99
Smith Premier, model A.....	153. 29
Underwood, model 5.....	153. 29
Yost, model 20a.....	153. 29
Yost-Wahl adding and subtracting.....	364. 99

Accounts will be subject to a discount of 5 per cent for cash (cash to be considered in the ordinary course payable within 30 days after the submission of statement of account). For spot cash on delivery an extra  $2\frac{1}{2}$  per cent discount may be allowed. If settlement of the account be not made within the calendar month following the month in which the sale is made, the terms shall be strictly net.

In addition to the discounts provided for above, a buyer of 3 machines will be entitled to an extra  $2\frac{1}{2}$  per cent discount; a buyer of 5 machines will be entitled to an extra 5 per cent discount; and a buyer of 10 machines will be entitled to an extra 10 per cent discount.

#### Terms for Ten or More Machines—Schools and Government Offices.

To firms or individuals purchasing for their own use and not for resale 10 or more machines at any one time, or any number that brings the total of their machines in use up to 10, a discount of 10 per cent and 5 per cent may be allowed; and they will be entitled to the same discount on every subsequent machine purchased. It must be understood, however, that machines sold on these terms are exclusively for the purchaser's own use.

Terms for schools are special and must be ascertained from the company manager. In all cases where special discounts are quoted to schools, a signed undertaking must be obtained to place on record that the machines sold under the special terms shall be used for teaching purposes exclusively for a period of not less than two years from the date of delivery, and that in the event of the machines being disposed of by the owners within that period of two years and thereafter used for other than teaching purposes, the purchaser will agree to pay up the whole of the discount allowed from the selling price in the first instance.

The above stipulations as to discounts and terms are not intended to apply to Government departments, municipalities, or their respective officials. Special arrangements are made in such cases.

With regard to those firms established in this territory, whose home offices enjoy special quantity discounts, it is understood that such discounts shall apply to their South African offices, off the South African list prices.

#### **Twelve Months' Guaranty.**

New machines will not be guaranteed either verbally or in writing for a longer period than 12 months from date of purchase.

Concerning this question of guaranty of new machines, it is set out for the information of salesmen that it is not the practice of typewriter firms to give any other than the usual guaranty that the machine at the time of delivery is in perfect condition. Obviously it can not be undertaken to do ordinary repairs, clean machines, or do any other such work on a machine after the date of sale without charge.

The purpose of the guaranty is to cover the purchaser against the consequence of latent faults showing up in machines, which may not have been located during the test period at the factory. It is the view of the factory that if there is a fault in a machine which has not been located during the test period, it will either show up during the first 12 months of service or will not show up at all.

#### **Rebuilt Typewriters.**

To place rebuilt typewriters on this market the same methods apply as for the sale of new typewriters, that is, as far as being necessary to establish an agency. It would not be necessary, however, to limit the number of makes of machines to be sold by the agent. Correspondence with a local typewriter company reveals that these local concerns and agencies would strongly object to the importation of rebuilt typewriters of the makes they handle. One firm writes:

"We would not consider it a friendly action on our part to import rebuilt machines of other makes to sell in competition with an established firm that was running the same machine in this country. We have no doubt that this feeling will be pretty general among all the leading typewriter companies."

No prices of rebuilt typewriters are available as few such machines are sold on this market; and then it is only when they are bought locally second-hand from original purchasers of new machines.

[A list of manufacturers' agents in Cape Town may be secured from the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce or from its district and cooperative offices. Refer to file No. 78300.]

## **OFFICES OF THE BUREAU OF FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC COMMERCE.**

### **DISTRICT OFFICES.**

NEW YORK: Room 409, Customhouse.  
BOSTON: 18th floor, Customhouse.  
CHICAGO: 504 Federal Building.  
ST. LOUIS: 402 Third National Bank Building.  
ATLANTA: 521 Post Office Building.  
NEW ORLEANS: 1020 Hibernia Bank Building.  
SAN FRANCISCO: 307 Customhouse.  
SEATTLE: 848 Henry Building.

### **COOPERATIVE OFFICES.**

CLEVELAND: Chamber of Commerce.  
CINCINNATI: Chamber of Commerce.  
CINCINNATI: C., N. O. & T. P. Ry. Co.  
LOS ANGELES: Chamber of Commerce.  
PHILADELPHIA: Chamber of Commerce.  
CHATTANOOGA: South American Agent, Southern Ry. Co.

## FOREIGN TRADE OPPORTUNITIES.

Reserved addresses may be obtained from the Bureau and its district offices. Request for each opportunity should be on a separate sheet and state opportunity number. The Bureau does not furnish credit ratings or assume responsibility as to the standing of foreign inquirers; the usual precautions should be taken in all cases.

*Wire, leather, varnishes, etc.*, No. 22242.—An American consular officer in Portugal reports that a firm in his district desires to be placed in touch with American manufacturers and exporters of baling wire, paints, varnishes, and shoe leather. Correspondence in English. Samples are desired where possible.

*Dried fruits*, No. 22243.—A man in Switzerland informs an American consular officer of his desire to be placed in touch with exporters of dried fruits, such as apricots, etc. Correspondence should be in German or French.

*School furniture*, No. 22244.—An American consular officer in Brazil transmits the name of a man who desires to be placed in communication with manufacturers of school furniture in the United States. Catalogues and discount lists, etc., should be sent.

*Hosiery, haberdashery, etc.*, No. 22245.—A firm in the United Kingdom informs an American consular officer of its desire to represent American manufacturers of gloves, hosiery, haberdashery, etc. Reference.

*Building materials, etc.*, No. 22246.—An American consular officer in West Africa writes that an important construction enterprise in his district is in the market for nails, cement, corrugated iron for roofing, window glass, red lead, paint, and jute sacks.

*Cottonseed oil*, No. 22247.—A commission merchant in South America requests an American consular officer to place him in touch with American exporters of edible cottonseed oil. Quotations f. o. b. New York and commission allowed should be stated.

*Ball bearings*, No. 22248.—An engineering firm in Australia informs an American consular officer of its desire to be placed in direct touch with American manufacturers of ball bearings, capable of withstanding a working pressure of approximately 5 tons at 200 to 300 revolutions per minute.

*Machinery*, No. 22249.—An American consular officer in Spain reports that a firm in his district dealing in coffee machinery is desirous of importing from the United States machines for roasting, grading, and working coffee. Correspondence in French or Spanish. Reference.

*Knit goods and notions, etc.*, No. 22250.—An American consular officer in France transmits the name of a firm desirous of representing American manufacturers and exporters of articles suitable for sale in department stores, such as buttons, knit goods, pins and needles, snap fasteners, and shoes for women and children, etc. Reference.

*Electric lighting*, No. 22251.—The American consul in Trinidad, British West Indies, reports that the Government of Grenada, British West Indies, will receive proposals until October 31, 1916, for supplying electricity for lighting and power purposes in the town of St. Georges, Grenada, and residential suburbs within a radius of 3 miles. A copy of the plan of the town and a memorandum of particulars will be supplied on application, which should be accompanied by a deposit of £2 2s., which will be refunded if the plan and memorandum are returned with a bona fide tender. Tenders should be addressed to the Colonial Secretary, Grenada, British West Indies. The Bureau has no further information in regard to this opportunity.

*Machinery*, No. 22252.—An American consular officer in Russia reports that the owners of a woolen mill in his district contemplate enlarging the mill so as to be able to manufacture high-grade woolen suitings. Correspondence should be in Russian or French.

# COMMERCE REPORTS



DAILY CONSULAR AND TRADE REPORTS  
ISSUED DAILY BY THE BUREAU OF FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC COMMERCE  
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE



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### SHIPMENT OF SOLVENT NAPHTHA FROM UNITED KINGDOM.

[Cablegram from American Consul General, London, Aug. 25.]

War Trade Department is prepared to consider export licenses for solvent naphtha with less than 5 per cent toluol for United States.

### SPANISH EMBARGO ON EXPORTATION OF CORN AND CORN MEAL.

[Cablegram from American Consul General, Barcelona, Aug. 23.]

Spanish Royal Order prohibits, temporarily, export from Spain of corn and cornmeal, but continues their duty-free import, except corn destined for distillation of alcohol.

### AGRICULTURAL RETURNS FOR SCOTLAND.

[Consul Rufus Fleming, Edinburgh, Aug. 7.]

The Board of Agriculture has prepared provisional estimates of the acreage of wheat, barley, oats, potatoes, and hay, and the numbers of the various classes of live stock in Scotland, based on a proportion of the returns made on June 5, 1916. Barley and oats show increases of 23,000 and 3,000 acres, respectively, compared with the figures for 1915, while wheat shows a decrease of 13,000. The total area under these three crops is thus larger by 13,000 acres. The area under potatoes is smaller by 15,000 acres, and that under rotation grasses and clover for hay is greater by 28,000. Cattle as a whole have slightly increased in number, but sheep and pigs are fewer.

### New Santo Domingo-Porto Rico Service.

The American yacht *Mousquetaire*, which was recently sold and registered as a merchant vessel under the Dominican flag, on August 4 began weekly sailings between Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, and San Juan, Porto Rico. Vice Consul Carl M. J. von Zielinski reports that this new service will be of considerable benefit to the islands just now, as steamer transportation between the Dominican capital and Porto Rico is at present being furnished only by the French *Abd-el-Kader* and the Cuban *Santiago de Cuba*, each sailing every three weeks.

**BRITISH COLUMBIA REQUIRES MARKING OF EGGS.**

[Vice Consul G. C. Woodward, Vancouver, B. C., Aug. 10.]

The British Columbia Government recently passed what is known as the Egg Marks Act, governing the sale of eggs in this Province. The act provides in part:

Infertile incubated eggs must be sold as "cooking eggs." Wherever they are displayed, a card bearing those words in 4-inch letters must be placed on the receptacle holding the eggs. Any and all eggs which have been preserved in water glass, lime water, salt, bran, or anything except cold storage must be "stamped" plainly with the word "preserved." The word must be in Gothic lettering.

When provincial fresh eggs are sold they must have four-inch lettering on a card attached to the receptacle with the words "B. C. Fresh." Provincial cold-storage or preserved eggs must also be carded "B. C. Cold Storage" or "B. C. Preserved." If the eggs come from any other Province, they must be placarded "Alberta. (or Saskatchewan) Fresh" or "Alberta (or Saskatchewan) Cold Storage"; if from the United States, "U. S. Fresh" or "U. S. Cold Storage."

**Wholesale Dealers Must Give True Descriptions.**

All poultry keepers or dealers selling eggs at wholesale are required to mark true descriptions of the eggs on the outside of the receptacles. This marking, however, need not be 4 inches high. The same words must be used, as "B. C. (or Alberta) Fresh" or "B. C. (or Alberta) Cold Storage." All Chinese eggs must be stamped in Gothic lettering. All stores or shops using Chinese eggs for food or manufacturing purposes must have signs printed and displayed in 4-inch letters: "Chinese Eggs Used (or sold) Here."

All poultry keepers selling eggs at wholesale in dozen cartons must mark the cartons in plain lettering, with the words "U. S. (or Alberta, or B. C.) Fresh" or "U. S. (or Alberta, or B. C.) Cold Storage." Eggs not fresh enough for boiling purposes are to be sold as cooking eggs.

The various officials designated under this act are authorized to enter any premises within the Province where eggs are sold or offered for sale and inspect all eggs on hand.

**DISPOSITION OF SURPLUS "N. O. T." FEES.**

[Consul Frank W. Mahin, Amsterdam, Netherlands, July 28.]

The Netherlands Oversea Trust ("N. O. T.") has given 300,000 florins (120,600) to the Koninklyk Nationaal Steuncomite (Royal National Support Committee). This is the second contribution (the first being of a like sum) made by the N. O. T. to the same benevolent organization, which was formed at the beginning of the war to support and relieve the industries of the country and to further the public welfare.

The 600,000 florins donated by the N. O. T. represents surplus fees received by it for services rendered in connection with the export and import trade of Holland since it was organized, as a necessary war measure, toward the end of 1914. The members of the N. O. T. work without pay. The receipts above the outlay for working expenses, among which is compensation for an office staff of some 800 persons, are donated to benevolent purposes.



**AMERICAN EGG-PRESERVING PLANT OPERATING IN CHINA.**

[Consul General Thomas Sammons, Shanghai, July 19.]

The American egg-preserving plant, owned and operated by the Amos Bird Co., of Boston, Mass., and recently completed at Shanghai, is now handling 300,000 eggs daily. The product is either frozen or dried, and shipped to the United States, at present via the Pacific Coast.

The frozen product is divided into three classes—whole eggs, egg yolks, and whites of eggs. The dried product consists of whole eggs and egg yolks. In both instances the eggs are churned or "scrambled." The albumen is largely used in the manufacture of candies in the United States, while there is a demand for the frozen product at bakeries and hotels.

**American Machinery Gives Good Results.**

American machinery is used in this plant with results which are entirely satisfactory. The eggs are purchased in the Shanghai market, and the price paid averages more than half a cent apiece. Two hundred Chinese are employed and half of these are girls. Chinese girls break and examine the eggs, handling an average of 3,000 a day. In the same class of work in the United States, it is understood that American girls break and examine an average of 4,000 a day. Chinese men "candle," or examine eggs by holding them before an electric light, and average about 16,000 a day. All the Chinese employees are inspected by an American physician and all are vaccinated. Cleanliness is noticeable on all sides.

It is estimated that the Chinese girls and other employees in this egg plant are paid less than a quarter of the wages received by Americans in American plants of a similar character. While the Chinese girls will, no doubt, become more proficient with experience, they are not yet able to perform as much work as female labor in similar lines in the United States. Their present pay is approximately \$5 a month.

**Refrigerator Space on Japanese Steamers.**

At present ample refrigerator space is obtained on Japanese steamers, the product being handled in the United States in refrigerator cars. In due course it is expected that the product of this American egg plant will be largely shipped via the Panama Canal to the Atlantic seaboard.

[A description of the egg-preserving plant mentioned in this dispatch was given in COMMERCE REPORTS for Aug. 7, 1915.]

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**National Highway in Venezuela.**

Consul Homer Brett at La Guaiara reports that the Government of Venezuela has determined to undertake the construction of a highway from Caracas to San Cristobal in the extreme western part of the Republic. This road will be the largest public work ever undertaken by the Government of Venezuela; it will be 683 miles in length and will run from Caracas to Valencia, San Carlos, Guanare, Barinas, and San Antonio de Caparo. The work will probably be done by the Ministerio de Obras Publicas, Caracas, without the assistance of contractors.

**AGRICULTURAL SHOWS IN SOUTH AFRICA.**

[Commercial Agent Juan Homa.]

In a country like South Africa, where the distances are vast and the population scattered, an agricultural show has an importance much greater than such a fair has in the United States. A general review of the various exhibitions of this kind held in South Africa ought, therefore, to interest American manufacturers of agricultural implements.

For the better comprehension and analysis of the subject it will be advisable to keep in mind that the present population of South Africa, comprising the Union of South Africa, Rhodesia, and the various Native Protectorates, is estimated at 1,305,446 whites and 6,740,562 colored. Its total area of 1,203,504 square miles is nearly equal to that of the States lying east of the Mississippi River, with the addition of Texas, Louisiana, and Arkansas.

The principal agricultural shows held in South Africa are the Rosebank (Cape Town), Port Elizabeth, Bloemfontein, Witwatersrand (Johannesburg), Durban, Bulawayo, and Salisbury. All these have a national scope and attract exhibitors and visitors from all parts of the country. While minor shows are also being held, their number is gradually decreasing, owing to the policy of the Government to induce the farmers to visit the larger shows, where the range of exhibits is more extensive and of a greater comparative and educational value. The Province of Natal still continues to hold numerous fairs in its most prosperous farming districts, but the attendance is largely composed of farmers from the immediate neighborhood.

**New Farmers' Associations Formed.**

It is doubted whether any other agency in South Africa has been so instrumental as these shows in encouraging agriculturalists in establishing a high standard of production. Farmers who would otherwise never have the opportunity can compare their produce with the better standards set by modern and progressive methods, and they are also afforded a chance to exchange ideas with other growers. Their contact with each other and with the people of the cities likewise serves to broaden their views and to break down the barriers that often arise through mutual misunderstanding.

An instance of the better understanding brought about by farmers coming in touch with one another is disclosed by the fact that two important agricultural organizations were formed during the week of the Johannesburg show. One of them, the South African Breeders', Growers', and Judges' Association, will have as its object the development of the maize industry by advocating the use of pure seed, better methods of cultivation, etc. It is noteworthy that the rules and regulations adopted are those governing similar associations in the United States. The Transvaal Fruit Growers' Association is the name of the other organization formed.

**Johannesburg Fair the Most Important.**

Since in many respects the various agricultural shows held in South Africa are identical in purpose and arrangement, it will serve our purpose to review the Johannesburg show held in April of this year, in the endeavor to acquaint American manufacturers with their salient features and with their significance in connection with the agricultural-machinery trade of the country. The Johannesburg

show, after 10 years of steady progress, has become the chief event of the kind in South Africa. It is organized by and held under the direct control of the Witwatersrand Agricultural Society ("Witwatersrand" is the name of the district in which Johannesburg is situated), the membership of which has increased from 37 in 1907 to over 2,000 in 1916. During that time the society has devoted \$650,000 to the erection of buildings and the general equipment of the grounds to meet a ceaseless demand for expansion and improvement. Its membership embraces the best-known men in the gold industry of the Transvaal. The whole of Easter week was selected this year for holding the fair, and it has unanimously been pronounced the best and most successful agricultural show ever held in South Africa. This is the more remarkable in view of the conditions prevailing in the country during the past 20 months of war.

To appreciate the development of this show it may be said that in 1907 the competitive entries numbered 1,500. This year there were 3,602, and even this increase gives no adequate idea of the progress made owing to the introduction of the system of district competition in the produce section where one entry represents over 100 exhibits. ("District" as used in this article is equivalent to "county" in the United States.) The cattle section has quadrupled since 1907. The total attendance during the week was 51,000 and the gate receipts \$25,000. The first day of the show 11,283 people passed the turnstile, against the highest attendance last year of 8,000. The prize money this year totaled \$29,000, the principal allocations being for horses, cattle, sheep, produce, and home industries. The entries of the various sections were as follows: Horses, 651; cattle, 673; sheep, 142; pigs, 76; poultry, 722; produce, 411; dairy, 119; home industries, 732; trades and industry, 94.

#### **Agricultural Machinery Exhibits.**

The space devoted to farm machinery was nearly twice as large as last year. The majority of exhibits contained more than 100 different machines. There is no question but that this section proved a great favorite among the farmers. Large numbers of them were continually to be seen inspecting the machines exhibited and conversing with the attendants. American farm machinery predominated. Maize shellers, chaff cutters, grinders, pumps, etc., were shown in operation; windmills were also properly set up. An exhibit consisting of a full line of plows specially built for South Africa by the International Harvester Corporation and shown in public for the first time proved to be one of the sensations of the machinery section.

It is not intended to review in this article the conditions to be met by plows in South Africa nor to describe the construction of those that have proved the most successful; but, speaking generally, it may be said that just as the "foot-lift" plows are recognized as the standard type in the American corn belt, so in South Africa is the heavy two-furrow wheeled walking gang plow the accepted type. This is built almost wholly of steel of very liberal proportions. The bottoms are made of soft-center steel throughout, although a crucible-steel share is often used. The shape is that of a general-purpose turf and stubble plow, as the implement is used to break virgin soil as well as old ground. At present practically all of these plows are

equipped with a rear wheel. Rolling colters are increasingly considered an extra attachment, as they are used only when plowing land that is wet, and most of the plowing here is done when the soil is dry. A third beam attachment is required, owing to the growing demand for a plow convertible into a three-furrow when required.

An arrangement to shift the clevis from the rear end of the plow or from the land side is one of the principal necessary features, since oxen are almost exclusively used, generally a team of 16, and without this attachment it would be extremely difficult to do a decent job of plowing. There is also a rear handle, which the newest types of plows for South Africa combine with the lever used to operate the shifting clevis device mentioned. In other words, the functions of this lever are twofold—to operate the clevis and to serve as rear handle.

#### Wide Carriage—Sizes—Other Popular Types of Plow.

The wheels are generally set forward of the point of the plowshare, which assists in preventing the plow from running on its nose and in keeping the plow on the ground when working heavy soil. The land wheel has a long axle so as to make a wide carriage, in order to avoid turning the plow over when making a corner. (Since the native is ordinarily careless and there is no effective control of the oxen this would often happen with a plow having a narrow carriage.) The principal bolts have check nuts. The pull is made from the axle or at times from the beam brace, and this by means of a draft rod, with a chain extension in certain cases.

The sizes required are 12 and 14 inches cut, although of late a smaller cut share seems to be demanded in certain sections of South Africa. These plows must be able to make a furrow 12 inches deep, even though the average depth of plowing is 7 to 10 inches. They must weigh from 550 to 600 pounds and retail for \$75 to \$90 f. o. b. shipping station of importer. Crucible-steel and cast-iron shares must be supplied as repairs. Eveners, poles, weedhooks, and rods are not required.

Another popular type of plow is a lighter two-furrow gang without the shifting clevis device; these are generally bought by farmers of limited means. These plows are almost identical with those supplied by United States manufacturers for certain parts of South America, especially Uruguay and southern Brazil, although a somewhat heavier construction is preferred. A type that is meeting with a growing demand is a sulky plow with one 16-inch bottom of a plain yet strong design. These are similar to those that have become standard in the Argentine trade. A great many single-furrow plows are still used.

As a general rule the other implements used in South Africa and as exhibited in the Johannesburg show are identical to those sold in the United States.

#### Other Agricultural Machinery—Canadian and Swedish Exhibits.

Maize<sup>1</sup> is far and away the principal product grown in South Africa, with alfalfa probably coming next in importance. While the best types of planters, cultivators, mowers, and rakes are largely used, there is undoubtedly a good business to be developed for maize har-

<sup>1</sup> Indian corn in this country is called "maize" or "mealies"; the word "corn" is used in South Africa to designate "wheat," sometimes grain generally, and "maize" or "mealies" should be employed by Americans to avoid all risk of confusion.

vesting, shelling, and shredding machinery and for side rakes, tedders, hay loaders, etc. Maize binders are beginning to be used, and it is expected that in some parts of South Africa an increasing business will be done with this line. In places like Rhodesia, for instance, where the native farm labor is exceptionally cheap, there will be little scope for these machines. Having to use oxen as draft animals, it can hardly be hoped that a maize binder would cut much above five to six acres per day, and three men would be needed to operate it. These three natives, with the plainest of knives, will cut not less than 10 acres of maize per day. The delivered cost of the machine—\$250 as a minimum—would be a discouraging item under such labor conditions.

Canadian manufacturers, though not many in numbers, were also well represented, especially the Cockshutt Plow Co., of Bradford, Ontario. The goods of this firm—plows in particular—have been held in high esteem among South African farmers for many years, and it is doubted whether any other manufacturer of implements can equal the volume of sales of this firm in South Africa.

Swedish cream separators and dairy appliances practically monopolized the exhibits in that line.

#### **British and South African Displays.**

Ransomes, Sims & Jeffries, of Ipswich, J. & F. Howard, of Bedford, and several other British manufacturers had excellent displays. The two firms named have a good trade in plows, disk harrows, and other tillage implements. As a matter of fact there are more Ransomes disk plows in South Africa than of all other makes put together. British manufacturers enjoy a good share of the trade in auxiliary machines, such as chaff cutters, hand thrashers, and shellers, grinders, slicers, and root cutters.

South African manufacturers exhibited a windmill made in Cape Town, a hay lifter, and a cornstalk cutter. The last-named in many respects resembled a five-tooth cultivator, having instead of the shovels or points two long and somewhat curved knives set at an angle, and capable of cutting two rows of maize at a time. There is a good demand for an economical and simple machine to cut stalks, as only a very small percentage of farmers will purchase maize binders, stalk cutters, or any other equally expensive machine, preferring instead to have the work done by hand by the native.

With few exceptions all goods displayed in the vehicle section were manufactured in South Africa. The exhibits proved that quite a degree of perfection has been attained by the local manufacturers. With a protective duty of 25 per cent ad valorem on wagons, carts, coaches, carriages, and finished parts thereof this industry has made rapid progress and has even built up a growing export trade to other central and southern African states. A few higher grade American buggies are still being sold, also a very few farm wagons. The importation of these, however, is rapidly decreasing, and the future does not hold much hope that conditions will improve from the viewpoint of American manufacturers.

#### **Room for Improvement in Display Methods.**

While the efforts of the various exhibitors of farm machinery in these shows deserve to be highly commended and encouraged, it is hoped, nevertheless, that improvements will be made in the future

as regards the condition of the machines shown and in the general arrangement of the exhibits. The importance of this section can no doubt be greatly enhanced if this is done. It would be a good policy to feature some of the machines by attractively finishing them and also by giving them greater prominence. This could be done by placing them on separate and higher platforms, with sufficient free space around them to attract the attention of the visitors. Certain firms that took pains to make their stands attractive were evidently well rewarded for their efforts if the larger number of people seen in their exhibits is any indication. At present only a small portion of the machinery section is covered with a roof, and the machines are placed upon the bare ground.

It was also noted that few firms had descriptive printed matter of the machines exhibited for free distribution. Since no one looks for a great number of immediate sales during the course of the show, it would no doubt assist the farmer to keep in mind the good points of any machine in which he had become interested if he were given a properly illustrated, descriptive pamphlet or circular.

On the whole, the display of farm machinery was very creditable. However, representatives of American firms coming to South Africa should familiarize themselves with the general arrangement of exhibits in American shows, as this knowledge might be found very useful by them in cooperating with their agents to make a success of their exhibits.

#### Live Stock and Produce Exhibits.

Frieslands, Ayrshires, Shorthorns, and Africander cattle were in the ascendancy, and the live-stock exhibit as a whole was very satisfactory. The time of the year in which the show was held, however, is not considered the most appropriate for an exhibition of cattle, and for this reason it has been decided to hold a fat-stock show and pedigree-stock sale next September. An auction sale was conducted in the show grounds, at which some of the winning specimens were put up for sale. A Friesland bull sold for \$1,050, and other good cattle brought satisfactory prices. Two months before the show certain restrictions against the dispatch of Rhodesian cattle for the Johannesburg market were removed, and Rhodesian stock farmers were not slow in profiting by that fact. Upward of 200 head of cattle were entered in the live-stock section by Rhodesian farmers.

The dairy industry was represented in a manner never before approached, and a much more uniform quality of product was maintained than had been the case in previous shows. Since South Africa still imports butter and butter substitutes at the rate of nearly \$1,500,000 every year, cheese \$775,000, and condensed milk over \$2,000,000, it is not difficult to see that there is room for a great extension of the dairy industry before it will provide the full requirements of the country.

Many other sections, such as poultry, home industries, trade and industrial schools, and woman's work, well repaid inspection. Besides stimulating progress and individual effort, they serve to interest an increasing number of people in the rural districts by inducing the preparation of exhibits on the part of all the members of the family. Features included for the benefit of the general public are the various events in the ring, the most popular being the parade of horses and cattle, and riding, jumping, and other competi-

tions. While made attractive in every possible way, the agricultural shows held in South Africa are strictly to educate the community in matters respecting farm production, and there is not the same need for "amusements" here that is felt at shows of this kind in America.

The most striking thing in the whole show was, in the opinion of many, the collection of exhibits from various districts (counties) in the Transvaal, namely, Rustenburg, Heildeberg, Zeerust, Potchefstroom, Pietersburg, and Koster. It is believed that had it not been for drought and hail many more districts would have participated in this competition. There were oranges packed for export, preserved fruits, samples of wood, honey, feathers, wool, corn, fodder, boxes of coffee beans, tobacco and cigars, hams, cotton, citrus fruits, pineapples, sugar cane, bananas, dates, wines, brandies, dairy produce, leather work, butter, potatoes, wheat—in fact, nearly everything in the cereal, fruit, and vegetable line.

#### **Government Participation.**

The Government had a number of displays of great educational value. More than ordinary attention was given by the division of botany to show noxious weeds and poisonous plants. Diseases of vines, cereals, and grasses were vividly displayed and explained. In the chemical section a study could be made of the composition of farm feeding stuffs. Cotton and tobacco, two crops that undoubtedly require more than ordinary care and intelligence to raise successfully, received very particular attention at the hands of Government experts. By means of exhibits they showed that flue curing of tobacco can be successfully done in South Africa, and such a practical lesson ought to serve to greatly enhance the profits of tobacco growers. As far as cotton is concerned, there is much evidence that this industry is passing beyond the experimental stage. Good progress is being made in various parts of northern Transvaal and in several districts of Natal. The main activities, however, are taking place in the Rustenburg district.

Many lectures were given by agricultural experts during the show. Such important subjects as the management of pigs, the production of beef, pests of stock-feeding crops, merinos (breeds, points of difference, and distinguishing features), the maize exhibits, cultural methods of fruit growing, and the pruning of fruit trees were discussed in a very practical way and the talks proved highly instructive.

The various departments of the Union Government assist in numerous other ways. Besides money grants to the societies organizing the fairs, exceptionally low passenger and freight rates are allowed. Visitors to an agricultural show are sold a return ticket at the cost of an ordinary single fare. All exhibits are conveyed from any station in South Africa at ordinary rates on the forward journey. If returned unsold to the original consignor or station, these exhibits are carried free of charge and a rebate of half the amount paid on the forward journey allowed.

#### **American Automobiles—Dates of Other Fairs.**

It might be of interest to mention in passing that the very important and extensive motor-car section was taken up, with only two or three exceptions, by cars of American manufacture.

The various shows mentioned elsewhere in this article, and which it is felt are those that at present would interest American manu-

facturers, are held in a very convenient order, the dates between them allowing ample time to ship the machines from one show to another. This year the following order has been observed: Cape Town, February 29-March 2; Port Elizabeth, March 14-17; Bloemfontein, March 21-24; Johannesburg, April 24-29; Durban, July 4-7; Bulawayo, May 31-June 1; Salisbury, July 27-28.

### NEW INDUSTRIES IN INDO CHINA.

[Consul Lawrence P. Briggs, Saigon, French Indo China, July 8.]

#### Ore-Reducing Plant at Haifong.

A movement is on foot to erect at Haifong a small reducing plant to treat the antimony ore shipped from that port. The amount of antimony shipped is small, only 920 tons in 1914 and 630 tons in 1915, but the high price of this ore will probably lead to a more extensive development of the deposits in Tonkin and northern Annam. The machinery is being built and installed by La Société de Constructions Mécaniques, Haifong.

#### Glass Factory at Kien-an.

A glass factory will be constructed at Kien-an, near Haifong, to provide the bottles needed for La Société Française des Distilleries de l'Indochine, which has the monopoly of the manufacture of rice alcohol in Tonkin. This enterprise is said to be backed by the distilling company, who will give the promoters an annual contract for 3,000,000 bottles. [A report on the market for bottles in French Indo China was published in COMMERCE REPORTS for Jan. 22, 1916.]

#### Projected Ironworks at Thai-Nguyen.

A local engineer and promoter, which is a principal stockholder of several mining companies, particularly the zinc mines of Langhit and Thanmoi, is about to establish a foundry and perhaps a steel plant at Thai-Nguyen. Although it is known that there are extensive iron deposits in Tonkin, almost no effort has ever been made to develop them.

#### Refrigerated Meat from Vinh.

A French firm in Hongkong, which formerly maintained a steamship service between that port and Ben-thuy, the lumber center and port of Vinh in northern Annam, with steamers chartered for that purpose, has bought a steamer of its own that is provided with a refrigerating plant. It intends to build a large slaughterhouse at Vinh for the cattle brought from Laos. In the meantime it is transporting flooring, windows, doors, and other articles of carpentry and furniture from Ben-thuy to Hongkong.

### Hog Cholera in Peru.

Commercial Attaché Montavon reports an epidemic of hog cholera in several Provinces in Peru. The epidemic seems to be of a most virulent type and many of the hogs are perishing. It seems to be most severe in the valleys around Lima, but this is probably due to the fact that greater vigilance is observed in these valleys. The Government is sending veterinarians into the affected regions.



**LEATHER-WORKING INDUSTRY OF UBRIQUE.**

[Consul Paul H. Foster, Jerez de la Frontera, Spain, July 28.]

Ubrique, which is situated in the mountains about 42 miles from Jerez de la Frontera, has, for many years, had a reputation for fine leather work, and the product of the little village is widely distributed. The leather is nearly all imported, principally from Germany and Austria, although the pigskin comes mainly from the United States. A tan-colored leather from the United States has been tried but did not prove satisfactory, as it did not absorb water well, although the quality otherwise was highly commended.

A full line of samples of the leathers used in the industry is forwarded. [These samples may be inspected by interested American manufacturers at the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce or its district and cooperative offices upon referring to file No. 79446.] It is suggested that firms desirous of securing this business submit samples through wholesale distributors in Valencia, Barcelona, or Madrid, stating the purpose for which they are intended, as, while the total volume of consumption is quite large, no one firm in Ubrique purchases a sufficient quantity at a time to justify direct importation.

**Operatives and Their Wages.**

The factory plants are small and very primitive, as all the work is done by hand, no machinery being employed in any stage of the manufacture. The cutting is done from standardized patterns made of tin by men who receive 2.50 pesetas (\$0.48 U. S. currency) per day. A certain number of girls are employed in the factory to do the stitching and receive from 0.50 to 1 peseta (\$0.10 to \$0.20 U. S. currency) a day, but a large part of this work is given out and done in the homes on a piecework basis, the prices of which are regulated by local labor unions. This part of the work is exceedingly well done, the stitching being extremely fine and delicate. It is said that only girls and women under 25 years of age can be employed, as after that age the sight is not sufficiently keen for the finer class of work.

Those articles that require it are then soaked in water and shaped on molds. The principal output consists of cigarette cases, pocket-books, coin purses, and cardcases of many sizes and shapes.

[The names of four of the larger firms in Ubrique which engage in exporting may be had, upon request, from the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce or its district and cooperative offices under file No. 79446.]

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**REMOTE CONTROL FOR ELECTRIC TESTING LABORATORY.**

An elaborate system for the rapid and accurate control of electric generators is described in Scientific Paper No. 291, which has been published by the United States Bureau of Standards. In a laboratory in which a large number and variety of electrical instruments are tested it is important that means be provided for such control of the generators that provide the current for testing. In this new publication the system in use at the bureau is described. The control rheostats are not handled by the observers directly, but are operated by small motors which are controlled from any one of the several laboratory rooms by means of small multiple-lever switches.

**AMERICAN CONSULAR OFFICERS ON LEAVE OF ABSENCE.**

The following American consular officers are on leave of absence in the United States and will be glad to confer with business men and commercial organizations relative to conditions in their respective jurisdictions. The consul's time is available primarily for personal interviews. He has limited facilities for correspondence, and except in urgent cases letters should be directed to the consulate.

Name.	Post.	Expiration of leave.	Address.
Hale, F. D.....	Huddersfield, England	Sept. 5	Lunenburg, Vt.
Masterson, William W.....	Durban, Natal, South Africa.	Sept. 1	Carrollton, Ky.
Baker, E. Carlton.....	Nagasaki, Japan.....	Aug. 30	Apartment No. 75, The Brunswick, Washington, D. C.
Monaghan, J. C.....	Kingston, Jamaica....	Sept. 1	Avenue A and Fourteenth Street, Bayonne, N. J.
Jewell, John F.....	Chefoo, China.....	Oct. 1	Galeana, Ill.
Kemper, Graham H.....	Erfurt, Germany.....	Sept. 10	Department of State, Washington, D. C.
Goodler, James H.....	Niagara Falls, Canada.	Sept. 1	27 South Hawk Street, Albany, N. Y.
Hazeltine, Ross.....	Port Antonio, Jamaica.	Oct. 1	Department of State, Washington, D. C.
Lalng, James Oliver.....	Karachi, India.....	Sept. 30	C/o University Club, Kansas City, Mo.
Leonard, Walter A.....	Colombo, Ceylon.....	Oct. 14	Essex, Iowa.
Osborne, John Ball.....	Havre, France.....	Oct. 21	Department of State, Washington, D. C.
Mansfield, Robert E.....	Vancouver, Canada....	Sept. 15	Rushville, Ind.

**AMERICAN PRINTING AND PUBLISHING INDUSTRY.**

A review of the printing and publishing industry of the United States in the years 1914 and 1909 is given by the United States Bureau of the Census in its summary of the results of the 1914 study of that industry. The five-year period showed increases in number of establishments and in the value of products.

According to the classification adopted, the printing and publishing industry is made up of three branches, comprising: (1) Establishments whose chief business is book and job printing, book printing and publishing, or book publishing only; (2) establishments whose sole or chief business is music printing, or music printing and publishing, or music publishing only; and (3) establishments which are engaged in the printing and publishing, or in the publishing only, of newspapers and periodicals, some of the first named doing job work also.

The number of establishments in this industry in 1914 aggregated 31,612, and the total value of their products amounted to \$810,508,111. These figures represent increases of 6.2 per cent and 22.3 per cent, respectively, as compared with those for 1909—29,757 establishments, with products valued at \$662,591,959.

**Locations of Establishments According to States.**

Of the 31,612 establishments in the entire industry reported for 1914, 4,159 were in New York; 2,538 in Illinois; 2,352 in Pennsylvania; 1,685 in Ohio; 1,457 in California; 1,293 in Missouri; 1,206 in Massachusetts; 1,182 in Texas; 1,067 in Michigan; 1,058 in Iowa; 965 in Minnesota; 901 in Indiana; 789 in Wisconsin; 763 in Kansas; 689 in Nebraska; 681 in New Jersey; 622 in Washington; 619 in Oklahoma; 466 in Colorado; 438 in Georgia; 426 in Tennessee; 401

in Kentucky; 384 in Virginia; 379 in South Dakota; 363 in Oregon; 351 in North Dakota; 340 in Connecticut; 333 in Maryland; 329 in North Carolina; 308 in Arkansas; 278 in Alabama; 277 in Louisiana; 239 in West Virginia; 238 in Montana; 235 in Florida; 219 in Mississippi; 197 in Maine; 173 in Idaho; 166 in South Carolina; 156 in Utah; 147 in Rhode Island; 141 in the District of Columbia; 133 in New Hampshire; 111 in Vermont; 107 in New Mexico; 81 in Wyoming; 74 in Arizona; 54 in Delaware; and 12 in Nevada.

The statistics of the industry for the two years follow:

	1909	1914		1909	1914
Number of establishments, total.....	29,757	31,612	Publications—Contd.		
Book and job.....	10,708	12,115	Ready prints (pat- ent insides and outsides).....	2,293,077	1,965,215
Music.....	178	180	Books and pam- phlets—		
Newspapers and peri- odicals.....	18,871	19,317	Published or print- ed and published.	62,830,394	68,266,697
VALUE OF PRODUCTS.			Printed for publica- tion by others.....	10,209,503	19,049,651
Total.....	\$662,591,959	\$810,508,111	Sheet music and books of music—		
Publications:			Published or print- ed and published.	5,510,698	6,803,491
Newspapers and peri- odicals.....	337,596,288	419,531,172	Printed for publica- tion by others.....	1,000,966	822,585
Subscriptions and sales.....	135,062,043	163,577,090	Other products for sale and in execution of orders:		
Advertising.....	202,533,245	255,954,082	Job printing.....	204,154,096	249,730,932
Newspapers.			Machine composi- tion for others.....	(a)	5,682,098
Subscriptions and sales.....	84,438,702	99,541,860	Bookbinding and blank books.....	18,810,392	15,097,103
Advertising.....	149,554,392	184,047,106	Electrotyping, en- graving, litho- graphing, etc.....	8,201,398	9,698,641
Periodicals other than newspapers.			All other products.....	11,835,141	13,860,825
Subscriptions and sales.....	104,603,194	135,942,206			
Advertising.....	50,624,341	64,635,230			
	53,978,833	71,906,976			

\* Not reported.

### Chile Gets American Coal at Lower Prices.

Commercial Attaché V. L. Havens, at Santiago, Chile, reports that it is stated by La Crónica Mercantil of Valparaiso that American coal is falling in price, on account of a freer offering of ships. The c. i. f. quotations, varying with port, delivery, and brand, are: Australian, \$20.05 to \$20.65; American, \$16.28 to \$17.62; Chilean, \$14.58 to \$20.65.

### OFFICES OF THE BUREAU OF FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC COMMERCE.

#### DISTRICT OFFICES.

NEW YORK: Room 409, Customhouse.  
BOSTON: 18th floor, Customhouse.  
CHICAGO: 504 Federal Building.  
ST. LOUIS: 402 Third National Bank Building.  
ATLANTA: 521 Post Office Building.  
NEW ORLEANS: 1020 Hibernia Bank Building.  
SAN FRANCISCO: 807 Customhouse.  
SEATTLE: 848 Henry Building.

#### COOPERATIVE OFFICES.

CLEVELAND: Chamber of Commerce.  
CINCINNATI: Chamber of Commerce.  
CINCINNATI: C. N. O. & T. P. Ry. Co.  
LOS ANGELES: Chamber of Commerce.  
PHILADELPHIA: Chamber of Commerce.  
CHATTANOOGA: South American Agent, South-  
ern Ry. Co.

**CELPECH MANUFACTURE IN GERMANY.**

[Consul General Julius G. Lay, Berlin, July 12.]

Celpech (or "Zellpech," as it is known in Germany) is one of the products obtained by evaporation from sulphite lye, which is a residue of the bisulphite process for making paper pulp. The total German production of sulphite lye is about 680,000 metric tons per annum, an amount which represents approximately 50 per cent of all the wood used in the manufacture of cellulose.

Many attempts have been made to find a use for the sulphite lye in addition to thickening and evaporating it into celpech. In Sweden the lye residue has been successfully used in the manufacture of wood alcohol. It is claimed, according to this process, that 1 metric ton of the residue will produce 132 pounds of alcohol.

The residue has been used in Germany as an admixture in the manufacture of artificial stone blocks. Experiments have been made recently with a view to utilizing the residue as cattle feed by adding various ingredients. Extracts of the residues have also been employed for tanning purposes.

**Most Valuable Commercial Product From Residues.**

The most valuable commercial product obtained from the residues of paper-pulp making is celpech. The processes of manufacture of this product are all more or less similar. The lye residues are caught in acid-proof, walled basins, to which they flow through lead cooling pipes. The residues are then pumped into wooden tanks, in which they are neutralized by the use of milk of lime. After a thorough filtration over coke, the residues, now of an almost black color, are pressed through an economizer, heated to about 97° Celsius; then the pitchy mass is exposed in evaporators in which a displacement up to 35° Baumé takes place. The evaporation from 32° to 35° Baumé up to dryness is accomplished by means of large drums which are heated with steam and are dipped into the thickened residues. The dryness of the pitch obtained in this manner is 90 per cent. The pitch looks like black, nontransparent colophony, smells like licorice, and is easily soluble in water.

Fifty tons of dry celpech can be obtained from 654 cubic yards of residue. Lime can not be detected during the process of filtration. The finished celpech is a more or less flimsy substance, of a shade varying between yellowish red and black, which completely dissolves in water.

**Comparative Analyses—Uses of Celpech.**

Analyses of the contents of the thickened residues and the driest celpech yield the following figures: Thickened residues—Water, 28.88 per cent; elements soluble in water, 13.96 per cent; extracted elements, 57.16 per cent; of which 22.96 per cent can be used for tanning and 34.20 per cent can not be used for tanning. Dry celpech—Water, 13.76 per cent; extracted elements, 86.24 per cent; of which 31.84 per cent can be used for tanning and 54.40 per cent can not be used for tanning.

Although celpech is recognized as the most valuable commercial product obtained from the bisulphite process of paper-pulp making,

yet its usefulness for many industrial purposes is still a subject of discussion and controversy. It has been used for several years as a binder in the manufacture of coal briquets. On the ground of price and other considerations, the value of this process is often denied. As a binding material, celpech competes on the German market with tar pitch. Since it is more expensive, manufacturers using celpech briquets for producing steam must take the additional cost into account.

Besides its new use for briquets, it has often been employed as a binder in the production of molding sand. In recent years large amounts have been placed in tin cans and sent to England, where it is utilized in making casting molds for molding sand.

The use of celpech as a filler can not be overlooked. As such it is used in the production of cheap qualities of black dyes, by means of which rough cotton goods are colored. It is also used to impregnate sailcloth, hemp cords, fish nets, etc.

Ore briquets made with celpech are well known. When it is used in this way it is broken up and ground into powder and then mixed with the smelting refuse from iron furnaces. The furnace charge with which it is to be mixed must be dry, so that when it is brought together with celpech in a funnel the product thus formed will not adhere to the apparatus. The mixture is exposed to superheated steam having a temperature of from 350° to 420° C. It is then placed in molds which form the finished briquet. Ore briquets weigh about 3 kilos (6.6 pounds).

#### **Bisulphite Process of Paper-Pulp Making.**

I have received from American Vice Consul Robert Lee Gray at Hanover, a statement relative to the bisulphite process of paper-pulp making. His discussion of the subject is in part:

Pine wood is peeled and chopped into pieces the size of a nut by rotating knives which grip the wood in a diagonal direction. These pieces are crushed and torn to shreds. After the knobby parts are picked out, the pieces thus prepared are put in big boilers, so-called "cookers," a solution of calcium sulphite and sulphuric acid called "sulphite lye" is poured over them, and the whole is heated by direct or indirect steam to several atmospheres of pressure until the lignine substance has been loosened and the cell fiber isolated.

For producing the sulphite lye, some factories burn still sulphur, but most of them have adopted Mitscherlich's process, which involves the use of roasting stoves as they are used in the sulphuric-acid factories.

For cooking the sulphite, the old-fashioned horizontal cooking apparatus is partly used. For the most part, however, vertical apparatus which is more up to date is employed. It is made from iron plate, with stone bricks inside.

After finishing the cooking, the steam is let off and the sulphurous acid still escaping is led into the proper channels; the brown lye is discharged, and the cell stuff washed out in the cooker. The pieces of wood, after having undergone the treatment described, consist of loose agglomerates of cellulose fiber easy to crush; the crusts and firm parts are dissolved.

The waste lye contains various kinds of sugar, dextrose coming from cellulose, xylose ( $C_5H_{10}O_5$ ) from xylan, and there are acetic acid, tannin, and nitrogenous compositions the use of which is still an important question. About 50 per cent of the treated wood has been going to waste in the lye and forming a very inconvenient waste mass; it is led to rivers after having been neutralized and freed from fiber. In Waslum the lye is evaporated and a so-called "thick lye," very sticky and clammy, is obtained. An attempt has been made to use it as an agglutinant and for dressing purposes.

In Sweden a factory which has been founded manufactures alcohol from the waste lyes, with 1 per cent of fermenting sugar, and makes a profit by this process.

## FOREIGN TRADE OPPORTUNITIES.

Reserved addresses may be obtained from the **Bureau** and its **district offices**. Request for each opportunity should be on a separate sheet and **state opportunity number**. The **Bureau** does not furnish credit ratings or assume responsibility as to the standing of foreign inquirers; the usual precautions should be taken in all cases.

**Hardware**, No. 22253.—The commercial attaché of the Department of Commerce in France has forwarded to the Bureau the names of two young men who are desirous of representing American exporters of a cheap line of hardware suitable for sale by small retailers and department stores. Reference.

**Iron bars**, No. 22254.—An engineering firm in Switzerland asks an American consular officer to secure quotations on 100 tons of assorted round iron bars suitable for concrete construction purposes, sizes 6 to 30 millimeters in diameter by 15 meters in length. Correspondence in French or German. Reference.

**Steel products, provisions, etc.**, No. 22255.—A commission firm in Brazil desires to represent American manufacturers and exporters of hardware, steel girders, barbed wire, nails, corrugated iron, tools, flour, chemicals, printing and wrapping paper, etc. The firm is also prepared to act as purchasing agent for American firms interested in Brazilian products.

**Hardware novelties, etc.**, No. 22256.—A business man from Colombia, who is now in the United States, wishes to get into touch with American manufacturers and exporters of hardware novelties, automobiles and accessories, and motor boats, with a view to exclusive representation. Reference.

**Pianos, etc.**, No. 22257.—A man in Spain desires to represent an American manufacturer of pianos and accessories.

**Pharmaceutical products, etc.**, No. 22258.—An American consular officer in Australia writes that a manufacturers' agent in his district is desirous of representing American manufacturers of surgical dressings, pharmaceutical products, chemists' sundries, specialties, and novelties.

**Onion seed**, No. 22259.—A firm in a foreign colonial possession asks the Bureau to place it in touch with American importers and others interested in the purchase of onion seed.

**Glassware, etc.**, No. 22260.—An established firm in South Africa desires to secure the exclusive agency in that territory of the following lines: Glassware, soft goods (very cheap cotton singlets, from size 28 inches to 34 inches in white, black, green, striped, etc., mostly used for the kaffir trade), fleece underwear, shawls, enamelware and crockery, leather goods, clocks, paper, and second-hand clothing. Terms, cash against documents in New York. Negotiations may be opened through representatives in New York.

**Paper, barbed wire, etc.**, No. 22261.—An American consular officer in the West Indies transmits the name of a firm in his district desirous of representing American manufacturers of cotton thread, galvanized, barbed, and plain wire, wire cloth and poultry netting, soap stock and animal grease, wrapping paper and paper bags, plate steel, steel rods, steel beams and bars, pig iron, galvanized and black tubing, and table salt. Correspondence may be in English. Quotations f. o. b. New York and c. i. f. destination.

**Bottling supplies**, No. 22262.—An American consular officer in Russia writes that a business man in his district is in the market for corks for bottles, galvanized wire for bottles used for mineral waters, citric and tartaric acids chemically pure in crystals, carbon dioxide gas in steel cylinders, fruit essences for aerated waters, vegetable colors for coloring aerated waters, and other products required for their production and bottling. Correspondence in Russian.

Vice Consul G. C. Woodward at Vancouver reports that 245,119 tons of ore were received at the smelter at Trail, British Columbia, during the six months ended June 30, 1916. British Columbia furnished 230,332 tons, the State of Washington, 14,558 tons, and Idaho, 229 tons.

# COMMERCE REPORTS



DAILY CONSULAR AND TRADE REPORTS  
ISSUED DAILY BY THE BUREAU OF FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC COMMERCE  
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE



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Washington, D. C., Tuesday, August 29

1916

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## REGISTRATION OF TRADE-MARKS IN LATIN-AMERICAN COUNTRIES.

The importance of early registration of trade-marks used in commerce with Latin American countries has been frequently referred to in the pages of **COMMERCE REPORTS**. In order to indicate the manner of securing protection for trade-marks, there was issued in 1915 a report on this subject, describing briefly the formalities of registration, and also indicating the offices to which applications should be directed, the duration of protection, and the principal official fees. A revised edition of this publication, which is entitled "Tariff Series No. 31, Registration of Trade-Marks in Latin America," with corrections to date, has been issued, and copies may be obtained upon application to the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce or its district offices. Information regarding countries that are not covered by this publication may also be obtained by addressing the Washington office of the Bureau.

## TOBACCO SALES IN AMSTERDAM.

[Consul Frank W. Mahin, Amsterdam, Netherlands, July 28.]

A summary of the results of the public tobacco sales in Amsterdam up to July 14 shows a great increase in quantity and prices in comparison with the corresponding sales in 1915. The quantity of Sumatra tobacco sold this year was 203,408 packages (package=179 pounds), at an average price of 1.92 florins (\$0.77) per half kilo (1.1 pounds); in 1915, 181,743 packages, at 1.05 florins (\$0.42) per half kilo. The quantity of Borneo sold this year was 6,462 packages, at an average price of 1.57 florins (\$0.63) per half kilo; in 1915, 11,053 packages, at 0.63 florin (\$0.25) per half kilo.

The higher prices this year were due to active competition among bidders and to the excellent quality of the tobacco, it being much superior to that sold in 1915. The reduced quantity of Borneo tobacco sold this year in comparison with 1915 was due to the smaller supply.

**CALCIUM SILICATES AND ALUMINATE IN CEMENT.**

A report on an investigation of the properties of calcium silicates and calcium aluminate occurring in Portland cement has been published by the United States Bureau of Standards, in Technologic Paper No. 78.

As has been shown comparatively recently, the constituents of Portland cement of normal composition and normal burning are tricalcium silicate, dicalcium silicate, and tricalcium aluminate. The present investigation was undertaken to show what part each of these played in developing the physical properties of this material.

By the use of small amounts of boracic acid and chromium oxide as "mineralizers," the two silicates were prepared in a fair condition of purity and in amounts large enough to permit of the making of neat and standard sand-mortar test pieces. These test pieces were broken over a period of one year. The rate of setting and of hydrating was also studied, the latter both chemically and microscopically. The results show that the aluminate sets and hydrates almost immediately on the addition of water, but never attains a strength much over 100 pounds per square inch. The dicalcium silicate takes several days for setting, and at the end of one year contains but 5.5 per cent water of hydration. It has practically no strength at seven days, but at the end of one year has a tensile strength of 600 pounds per square inch. The tricalcium silicate has all the properties of Portland cement, both in regard to setting and attaining strength.

Mixtures of either silicate with the aluminate and with the aluminate and plaster, and of both silicates with the aluminate and with the aluminate and plaster, were also studied. The effect of the aluminate was more marked on the setting properties, as was also the case with the plaster additions; the effect of either of these two additions on the strength of either silicate or a mixture of the two was not very striking, in general not materially changing the strength of the silicate.

Copies of Technologic Paper No. 78 will be ready for distribution in a few days and may be obtained without charge upon application to the Bureau of Standards, Washington, D. C.

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**CHILEAN GOLD LOAN IN TERMS OF "DOLLARS."**

[Ambassador Joseph H. Shea, Santiago, July 24.]

Of the two internal loans, one of 30,000,000 pesos national currency and one of 20,000,000 pesos "gold of 18 pence" which the President of the Republic was authorized by law to make [see *COMMERCE REPORTS* for June 19, 1916], the currency loan of 30,000,000 pesos has been taken by local banks, but no progress has been made in placing the gold loan. Now, it is proposed to make it possible for this loan to be expressed in terms of American dollars as well. It is reported that a large New York bank is negotiating for the loan through one of the local banks.

It is believed the proposed law will greatly benefit the question of exchange with New York.



**BRITISH ASSOCIATION UNDERTAKES TRADE EXTENSION.**

[Consul General Thomas Sammons, Shanghai, China, July 20.]

At the annual meeting of the Lancastrian Association, held in Shanghai, July 17, 1916, plans were laid for the advancement of British commercial interests in China, more especially at this port.

The Lancastrian Association is composed of British individuals and firms in Shanghai who are engaged in the piece-goods trade. Membership is limited to those only who belong by birth to Lancashire or have spent the better part of their lives in furthering the commercial interests of Lancashire. Although the organization has led a purely social existence in the past, it is the intention of the members to transform it within the near future into one of the most important British commercial organizations in the Orient.

**Arranges for Permanent Exhibition of Products.**

In order more successfully to meet trade competition, it was proposed that arrangements be made through the Shanghai British Chamber of Commerce for a permanent exhibition of Lancashire products to be furnished by manufacturers at home, the exhibits to be kept on display in certain auction rooms frequented by Chinese. In view of the recent rapid growth of the cotton textile industry in China, it is also proposed to have exhibits of textile machinery. By thus enabling the Chinese to familiarize themselves with a variety of Lancashire products, it is hoped that the market possibilities will be considerably increased.

While recognizing that Japan presents an increasingly keener competition in the piece-goods trade, on account of cheaper labor and longer hours, the association expressed itself as confident that quality, skilled labor, and intelligent marketing would enable Lancaster to hold its own.

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**CHANGE IN TRAMWAY ROUTES OF VERA CRUZ.**

[Consul William W. Canada, Vera Cruz, Mexico, Aug. 6.]

In pursuance of the plans of the local government of Vera Cruz to improve the park system of the city, the Compañía Ltda. de Luz Eléctrica, Fuerza y Tracción de Vera Cruz has relaid several hundred yards of track to permit of an increase in size of the Alameda. In addition, the street car line which formerly skirted the mile-long promenade known as the Paseo de los Cocos is being removed and relaid on a neighboring parallel street. The old rails are being utilized for the new route.

Although an English corporation, this company is accustomed to buy many of its supplies in the United States.

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**BRITISH LIST OF ENEMY BUSINESSES WOUND UP.**

Recent issues of the British Board of Trade Journal contain notices giving lists of enemy business in Great Britain which have been discontinued by the British Government under the "Trading with the Enemy Act." Information as to whether or not any specified firm has been mentioned in these lists may be obtained upon application to the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce.

**CHILEAN NITRATE INDUSTRY.**

[Consul Thomas W. Voetter, Antofagasta, July 26.]

The nitrate of soda manufactured in Chile during the month of June, 1916, amounted to 5,153,701 Spanish quintals of 101.4 pounds, against a production of about 5,353,900 quintals in May of this year, 2,613,976 quintals in June, 1915, 5,752,929 quintals in June, 1914, and 5,101,301 quintals in June, 1913. Exports totaled 4,217,810 quintals, against 5,143,500 quintals in the preceding month, and shipments of 3,866,168 quintals in June, 1915, 4,053,186 quintals in June, 1914, and 3,649,624 quintals in June, 1913.

These figures show that production and exportation are still on a large scale though not at maximum. At present exportations are materially influenced by the amount of ocean tonnage available.

**Data for Half Decade—Prices.**

For the twelvemonth ending June 30, 1916, both production and exports were 70 per cent greater than in the preceding year, but fell somewhat short of the totals for 1913-14 and 1912-13, as the following summary discloses:

	1911-12	1912-13	1913-14	1914-15	1915-16
	<i>Quintals.</i>	<i>Quintals.</i>	<i>Quintals.</i>	<i>Quintals.</i>	<i>Quintals.</i>
Production.....	54,572,065	59,450,462	63,323,617	34,091,243	57,715,614
Exportation.....	54,254,471	58,492,375	58,751,291	32,070,714	55,285,814
To Europe and Egypt.....	41,407,349	43,051,690	44,534,131	16,939,660	29,017,777
To United States.....	10,983,701	13,392,999	12,290,782	13,437,418	23,434,842
East coast.....	9,896,768	12,336,221	11,222,657	12,295,221	20,390,839
West coast.....	1,086,933	1,056,778	1,068,126	1,142,197	3,094,063

Prices have shown rather slight changes recently. For ordinary nitrate, or 95 per cent, the price has been around \$1.77 per quintal for immediate deliveries with prices \$0.02 to \$0.04 higher for later deliveries. The difference between quotations for refined and ordinary grades has increased and is greater than has been ruling during the past year. For 96 per cent—1 per cent nitrate the quotation has been about \$1.90 per quintal for delivery during early future months. During the first part of July the market became less firm, and present prices are slightly lower than those just mentioned, though very few sales by manufacturers are announced.

**Possible Opening for American Sacks—New Oficinas.**

The Compañia Salitrera Alemana, of Taltal, recently petitioned the Chilean Government to permit it to reimport, free of customs duties, sacks that had been used by this company to export nitrate, and also to permit it to use other classes of sacks, such as potato, grain, and flour, in the exportation of nitrate. The first part of the petition was denied, but the company has been granted permission to use the other classes of sacks in nitrate exportation. Government officers concerned in the exportation of nitrate have been instructed to observe care in obtaining the proper tares in weighing nitrate in the other kinds of sacks.

The permission to use other classes of sacks is extended to other companies, not being exclusive. An opening is thus given for the use of sacks other than the accustomed standard one of Indian jute.

It is rumored that the stocks of the other kinds of sacks which may be now used by the German nitrate companies is not inexhaustible, so that there may present soon opportunities for the sale of American cotton or other fiber sacks.

Engineers representing American capitalists have been making extensive explorations on large nitrate properties in the Aguas Blancas section, southeast of Antofagasta, and if the decision to continue with the exploitation is given it may lead to the erection of four new oficinas on this property.

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### **NEW ZEALAND SHORTAGE OF LEATHER FOR WOMEN'S SHOES.**

[Consul General Alfred A. Winslow, Auckland, July 18.]

There is a marked shortage in the finer grades of leather for high-class boots and shoes. This is in part the result of a demand for women's high shoes and a willingness to pay even extravagant prices for them. Three years ago women paid from \$5.35 to \$6.08 per pair for the better grades of high shoes, or boots as they are generally called here, while now they are willing to pay from \$7.79 to \$8.52 per pair, and in some cases as high as \$9.73.

The price of leather has increased materially, and in the case of glacé kid as much as 200 per cent. Leather that formerly cost 30 cents per square foot is now sold at 60 cents per square foot.

Cloth fabrics for women's boots, which are manufactured extensively in this country, also show a sharp rise, and even the cost of buttons has materially advanced. The latter came from Germany and Austria previous to the war.

#### **Cost of Labor in Shoe Industry Increases.**

The cost of labor in the manufacture of boots and shoes has increased. The Arbitration Court allowed a war bonus of 5 per cent, and now the employees are asking for an additional 5 per cent war bonus.

The imports of goat or kid skins for 1914 amounted to 85,332 pounds, of which the United States supplied 38,532 pounds. Japanned and enameled leather was imported in 1914 to the amount of 33,906 pounds, of which the United States supplied 16,084 pounds. As the classification in 1913 was entirely different, it is not possible to make any comparison of the imports.

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### **NEW AMERICAN WARES ON SALE IN SALONIKI.**

Notwithstanding the unusual difficulties under which all trade-extension work has been carried on in the Saloniki district, the efforts of Consul John E. Kehl, stationed in that Greek port, have not been fruitless, for several new lines of American merchandise have been introduced there during the past quarter. One Saloniki firm has ordered American leather to the value of \$9,700, canned fish \$6,300, oleo oil \$6,000, granulated sugar \$3,500, perfumed soap \$1,000, cotton stockings \$1,000, and paper, \$4,500; another, \$5,000 worth of American candles. The Municipal Hospital also has become interested in American goods, having ordered \$200 worth of oilcloth and \$100 worth of rubber gloves.

**NATIVE SUBJECTS REQUIRED FOR FILMS IN CHINA.**

[Commercial Attaché Julian Arnold.]

The motion-picture business in China is practically confined to the treaty ports and more especially to the large commercial centers such as Shanghai, Tientsin, and Hongkong. It has developed almost exclusively in the higher-priced theaters charging from 50 to 75 cents a seat. In Shanghai there are probably six such motion-picture houses, while Tientsin and Peking have smaller numbers. Many Chinese frequent these theaters, and special inducements are offered at Sunday exhibitions by reductions in prices.

The films displayed in these houses prior to 1914 were almost entirely of French manufacture and furnished by French firms. Subsequent to the outbreak of war several American film companies succeeded in creating a demand for their films among the picture theaters in the Orient. So far as the foreign populations in China are concerned, and this may be interpreted also to include a certain number of the wealthy Chinese, there is probably not much opportunity for increased business.

**Prices of Admission Must Be Very Low.**

It is believed that there is an excellent opportunity to work up a motion-picture business for the Chinese population. In order to do this, prices of admission would have to be very low. The Chinese people are great theater-goers and are extremely fond of theatricals. The native playhouses are money-making institutions and the Chinese sit for hours enjoying the native melodramatic productions. Their theaters are on the order of cafés, tables being provided and tea and Chinese delicacies served. The price of admission is nominal; in fact, many charge no fee for admission, but depend entirely on the profits from the sale of drinks and food products.

It is evident that the motion picture is especially adapted to Chinese audiences, as many of the plays have the character of pantomimes. They also have a species of crude motion picture which was introduced centuries ago and might be called a transparency. Chinese figures are painted on an oiled transparent silk and manipulated behind a screen in such a way as to produce a motion-picture effect. These are on a miniature basis. They are very popular and are used universally throughout China.

The Chinese are essentially an agricultural people and live in villages rather than in cities, although there are some large cities. The largest cities are provided with buildings erected for theatrical purposes. They have not developed the idea of scenery for use on their stages, so that the Chinese actor may often be seen standing on a chair frantically grasping at some imaginary object, which the audience has been taught to understand indicates the scaling of a precipitous mountain. Armies are depicted by a single file of soldiers walking in one door and out of another. The dress of the Chinese actors is very spectacular and in a way makes up for the lack of scenery and other decorative features on their stages. They are very fond of melodrama, applaud their heroes, and rejoice in seeing the villain get his just deserts.

**Big Field for Production of Native Films.**

There is a big field in China for the development of native films, and it is along this line that the greatest opportunity undoubtedly

exists for American film producers. A few foreign films will always find a place in the Chinese motion-picture show, but I do not believe that the Chinese public would continually patronize these theaters if they exhibited foreign films only. In fact, I would recommend that about two-thirds of the performance be given to native films and one-third to foreign productions. At present a few Chinese theaters are displaying motion-picture films, but, generally speaking, the films are badly worn, the machines poor, and the exhibitions not creditable. If the business of producing native films for Chinese audiences is to be made a success, the Chinese public must be given good pictures on good machines at cheap prices.

### PRICES REALIZED AT RECENT SALES OF VESSELS.

[Consul General Robert P. Skinner, London, England, Aug. 11.]

Announcement has been made within the last few days by Lloyds of the prices realized on the sale of vessels that changed owners during the second quarter of 1916. From the figures submitted it will be perceived that the profits of ocean navigation companies must have been enormous during the last two years to make it possible for them to pay such prices. In the case of the *King*, a vessel of 7,300 tons cargo capacity, the price realized was \$608,310, the ship having cost \$223,860; in the case of the *Knutsford*, with 6,500 tons cargo capacity, the ship was sold in 1913 for \$136,260, in February, 1916, for \$379,585, and more recently for \$486,650.

Among other sales of steamers are noted the *Robert Dollar*, 8,800 tons cargo capacity, built in 1911, sold in April, 1916, for \$1,362,620; the *Kirkfield*, 8,400 tons, built the same year, was sold about the same time for \$778,640; and the *Bland Hall* and *Albert Hall*, each 8,250 tons, built in 1914, were sold during the past quarter for \$875,970 and \$729,975, respectively. The *Winnfield*, 5,800 tons, built in 1901, was sold in 1907 for \$108,525; in April, 1915, for \$184,925; in June, 1915, for \$199,525; in December, 1915, for \$274,960; and in June, 1916, for \$374,720.

A sailing vessel, the *Pesca*, net tonnage 1,493, was sold in 1912 for \$9,733, and within the last few weeks for \$107,065; the sailer *Fingal*, 2,435 net tons, which was sold in 1910 for \$17,030 and in 1915 for \$34,065, brought \$214,125 in 1916; the *Dunsyre*, 2,056 net tons, sold in 1910 for \$20,925, changed hands during the past quarter at \$139,180; and the *Freden*, 1,920 tons, sold in 1908 for \$23,115, brought \$188,575 in 1916.

[Similar figures, covering the sales of steamers in 1915 and the early part of 1916, were published in COMMERCE REPORTS for Mar. 31, 1916.]

### Toll Receipts of Panama Canal.

Including the earnings of tolls for the month of July, 1916, amounting to \$460,123, the tolls collected on traffic passing through the Panama Canal from the beginning of the towing of laden barges between the terminal ports in May, 1914, have amounted to \$7,217,956. According to the August 16 issue of the Canal Record, the collections from vessels in the coastwise trade of the United States formed \$1,923,122 of this total.

## OUTLOOK FOR MOTOR CARS IN STRAITS SETTLEMENTS.

(Vice Consul D. J. Lewis, Singapore, June 24; all values in United States currency.)

The total mileage of metalled roads in the Straits Settlements (which includes the towns of Singapore, Penang, Dindings, Malakka, Province Wellesley, and Labuan) is 587. For the year 1915 a total of \$326,848 was expended on the maintenance of these roads. Only 9 miles of new roads, however, were constructed during the year.

The latest data available for the Federated Malay States place the mileage of metalled roads in the States of Perak, Selangor, Negri Sembilan, and Pahang at 2,250, and that of unmetalled roads at 335, or 2,585 miles of roads in all. For the fiscal year ending June 30, 1915, the Government of the Federated Malay States expended \$1,287,510 on road maintenance, bridges, and the construction of new roads. During this period approximately 155 miles of new roads were constructed at a cost of \$703,150.

### Imports During Past Two Years—Population.

According to the trade returns of the Straits Settlements for the calendar year 1914, the imports of motor cars, motor cycles, and accessories into the ports of Singapore, Malakka, and Penang totaled \$793,172, 42 per cent of which represented imports from the United States and 53 per cent imports from the United Kingdom. Various European countries contributed the remaining 5 per cent. Data obtained from the Registrar of Imports and Exports for the Straits Settlements for the calendar year 1915 show the total imports to have been \$457,261, the United States supplying 55 per cent and the United Kingdom 31 per cent. The remainder represented cars shipped into the Colony from different points in Asia and India, and a few new cars imported from Italy and France.

The country is at present in a very fine financial condition, due to the high prices for rubber and tin, two of the leading exports. The Chinese form quite a large proportion of the wealthy residents, and they are, as a rule, very liberal spenders. Some of them have magnificent residences and own two or three automobiles. The total white population of the Straits Settlements and the Federated Malay States is 10,652. The total native population, including Chinese, Indians, Eurasians, etc., is 1,740,461. These figures are taken from the 1911 census and do not include the population of 899,981 of the five independent native States of the Malay Peninsula.

### The Matter of Deliveries—Opportunity for Trucks.

The great drawback to doing business with this country is the lack of ocean tonnage and the present high freight rates on all classes of commodities. If deliveries were guaranteed there would be little difficulty in disposing of the cars. Cars that have been in use for nine months or more are being sold by individuals leaving the Colony, in some instances at higher prices than were paid for the cars when new, simply because of the difficulty experienced in securing fresh deliveries. The representatives of several large American automobile firms have visited Singapore in connection with tours of the Far East to see at first hand the opportunities and needs of this market, and they all report that they have secured sufficient business to justify the expense of the trip.

There are at present very few commercial trucks used in this district, and it is thought that an excellent opportunity to introduce

vehicles of this type is presented. The good roads, not only in the towns, but also connecting the various centers, would seem to offer splendid facilities for the use of motor trucks on the various rubber plantations and for general trucking in towns the size of Singapore and Penang.

#### Average Cost of Operating a Car.

The average monthly wage of chauffeurs is about \$18. Tires cost approximately 15 per cent more here than in America, and general automobile repairs are about 10 per cent higher. The Central Engine Works, the Straits Motor Garage, and Wearne Bros., of Singapore, do general automobile repair work. Several native shops, however, are able to repair and paint automobile bodies and to make new bodies when required, but are not in a position to handle engine repairs. Here, as elsewhere, the price of gasoline has steadily increased until it is being sold at the present time for \$0.54 per imperial gallon.

Annual license fees for private pleasure cars range from \$13.62 for a 3-passenger vehicle to \$28.38 for an automobile holding six or more persons. For public motor conveyances \$6.81 for each one of the total number of passengers authorized by the license to be carried. For motor cars for trade purposes other than the conveyance of passengers, \$17.03 for those not exceeding 2 tons' weight; \$22.70 for those between 2 and 3 tons, and \$28.38 when exceeding 3 tons. The foregoing are the charges for vehicles having pneumatic tires on all wheels; on cars not so equipped the charges are doubled.

[A list of Singapore firms that embraces both those that now have agencies for automobiles and those not now representing any cars, but which might be interested in handling American motor vehicles, may be obtained from the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce or its district and cooperative offices by asking for file No. 79816. Upon referring to the same file number there may be seen at the Bureau and its branch offices a copy of the Singapore Motor Car Directory, containing a list of automobile owners in that city in 1916. An interesting review of the motor-car trade of the Straits Settlements appeared in Daily Consular and Trade Reports for Aug. 3, 1911.]

#### AMERICAN CONSULAR OFFICERS ON LEAVE OF ABSENCE.

The following American consular officers are on leave of absence in the United States and will be glad to confer with business men and commercial organizations relative to conditions in their respective jurisdictions. The consul's time is available primarily for personal interviews. He has limited facilities for correspondence, and except in urgent cases letters should be directed to the consulate.

Name.	Post.	Expiration of venue.	Address.
Hale, F. D.....	Huddersfield, England	Sept. 5	Lunenburg, Vt.
Masterson, William W.....	Durban, Natal, South Africa	Sept. 1	Carrollton, Ky.
Baker, E. Carlton.....	Nagasaki, Japan.....	Aug. 30	Apartment No. 75, The Brunswick, Washington, D. C.
Monaghan, J. C.....	Kingston, Jamaica.....	Sept. 1	Avenue A and Fourteenth Street, Bayonne, N. J.
Jewell, John F.....	Chefoo, China.....	Oct. 1	Galena, Ill.
Kemper, Graham H.....	Erfurt, Germany.....	Sept. 10	Department of State, Washington, D. C.
Goodier, James H.....	Niagara Falls, Canada.	Sept. 1	27 South Hawk Street, Albany, N. Y.
Haseitine, Ross.....	Port Antonio, Jamaica.	Oct. 1	Department of State, Washington, D. C.
Laing, James Oliver.....	Karachi, India.....	Sept. 30	C/o University Club, Kansas City, Mo.
Leonard, Walter A.....	Colombo, Ceylon.....	Oct. 14	Essex, Iowa.
Osborne, John Hall.....	Havre, France.....	Oct. 21	Department of State, Washington, D. C.
Mansfield, Robert E.....	Vancouver, Canada.....	Sept. 15	Rushville, Ind.

**FOREIGN TARIFFS.****ARGENTINA.****New Tariff Commission.**

In commenting upon the necessity of tariff revision and the recent presidential decree (see *COMMERCE REPORTS*, Aug. 10, 1916) creating a commission for the study of the subject, the *Revista Financiera y Comercial*, of Buenos Aires, states that the function of the commission is to prepare the material which is to serve as a basis for changes in the valuation schedule at present in force, as well as to propose valuations for the large number of articles which are at present assessed on declared value. It is pointed out in that publication that, while the present abnormal prices could not be taken as a basis for tariff valuations, there is no reason for delaying the preparatory work for tariff revision.

In view of the large number of articles for which the Argentine tariff does not provide fixed valuations and which are therefore dutiable on the basis of declared values, there is considerable variation in the basis for duty between the various customhouses of Argentina, and a bill providing for the adoption of uniform valuations for such articles has already passed the Senate and has been favorably reported by the budget committee of the Chamber of Deputies. It may be pointed out that, judging from the wording of the decree creating the present commission, as well as from the references to the subject of tariff revision found in the Argentine press, the revision is to be limited to bringing about greater conformity between the official tariff valuations and the current c. i. f. prices of the corresponding articles, and also providing fixed valuations for articles at present dutiable on declared value. There is evidently no intention to make any changes in the tariff system proper or in the ad valorem rates for which the valuation tariff serves as a basis. While a change in valuations necessarily implies a change in the actual amount of duty collected, such a change is limited by the discrepancy between the present tariff valuations and the current c. i. f. prices of the corresponding articles. The results achieved by such a revision may differ very materially from those brought about by a revision affecting the entire tariff policy of the country.

[A detailed study of the tariff system of Argentina, as well as of the other South American countries, will be found in Tariff Series No. 34, *The Tariff Systems of South American countries*, which may be obtained for 25 cents from the Superintendent of Documents, Washington, D. C., or any of the district offices of the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce.]

**BRITISH INDIA.**

[Board of Trade Journal, July 27.]

**Marking of Piece Goods.**

A customs circular of June 10, 1916, amends the former regulations requiring that piece goods ordinarily sold by length have conspicuously marked on each piece in English the actual length in standard yards (including fractions of yards). The goods to which this provision applies include all woolen fabrics, as well as a large number of cotton materials.

[A list of the latter is on file in the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce and will be loaned upon application.]



**FRANCE.**

[Annales de Douanes, June 15.]

**Prohibited Imports Sent by Parcel Post.**

According to a French customs decision of June 9, 1916, the French import prohibitions authorized by the decrees of May 11 and July 18, 1916, do not apply to articles sent from one private person to another by means of parcel post. Articles imported into France under these conditions are not regarded as constituting commercial shipments.

**JAMAICA.**

[Consul Ross Hazeltine, Port Antonio, May 3 and May 10.]

Increases in the customs tariff of Jamaica, which are to be in effect until March 31, 1917, were authorized by a law dated March 22, 1916, the higher rates having been in effect since early in March.

The most sweeping change consists in the imposition of a duty of 16½ per cent upon a large number of articles, constituting about half of the former free list. The new rate affects many important classes of goods, including brass scrap, Britannia metal, copper in pigs, pig iron, lead scrap and pig lead, tin and zinc in blocks and pigs, ingot steel, steel bars, wrought iron and manufactures of steel for use in reinforced concrete construction, and certain other building operations; wire fencing; locomotives, rolling stock, and equipment for railways and tramways; stills; sugar-boiling pans; fire engines and extinguishers; grains for seed; natural and artificial fertilizers; vaccine, quinine, Salvarsan, medicines, and certain disinfectants.

A surtax of 20 per cent of the ordinary duties is now levied on the following goods: Spirits, brandy, whisky, gin, spirits of wine, alcohol, and all other distilled spirits; bitters, cordials, liqueurs, and similar sweetened or mixed spirituous beverages; certain spirituous compounds containing 40 per cent of proof spirit; wines containing not more than 40 per cent of proof spirit and valued at 12 shillings or more per gallon; motor cars and motor-car parts and accessories. Increases in specific duties are provided in the case of ale, beer, porter, cider and perry, naphtha, gasoline and petrol, cigars, cigarettes, snuff, leaf and manufactured tobacco.

By a law of April 11, 1916, additional articles were removed from the free list. Certain hardware and iron manufactures for building, and photographic apparatus, appliances, and chemicals for photography are subject to the rate of 16½ per cent ad valorem. Cement of certain standard grade, formerly free, is dutiable at 1 shilling per barrel of not more than 400 pounds gross, while the duty on other cement is increased from 1 to 2 shillings. The rate on condensed milk made from skimmed milk, in effect since May 31, is 5 pence per pound inclusive of the weight of the tins. On other condensed milk the duty is ½ penny per pound.

The following export duties are prescribed by the recent law: Cocoa, 1 shilling per hundredweight; cocoanuts, 2 shillings per 1,000 nuts; dry cattle hides, 4 shillings per 100 pounds; green cattle hides, 2 shillings per 100 pounds; logwood, per ton, 10 shillings; logwood extracts, liquid and solid, £10 per ton of solid logwood extract; rum,

7 shillings 6 pence per 100 gallons; sugar, 7 shillings 6 pence per ton. [Hundredweight, 112 pounds; ton, 2,240 pounds.]

[For a preliminary report on increases in export and import duties in Jamaica see Foreign Tariff Notes No. 20, p. 107. Further information in regard to the new rates of duty will be furnished upon application to the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce.]

#### **Marking of Condensed Milk.**

According to a notice published in the Board of Trade Journal for July 27, 1916, condensed milk may be imported into Jamaica only when the tins bear a label upon which the minimum guarantee of the milk fat is declared in large clear type. Condensed separated, or condensed skimmed milk may be imported only in tins or other receptacles with a label marked "Machine skimmed milk, unsuitable for feeding infants," or "Skimmed milk, unsuitable for feeding infants."

#### **NICARAGUA.**

[La Gaceta, Feb. 16.]

#### **Exemption of Crude Petroleum.**

A Nicaraguan law of February 7, 1916, in effect from the date of publication, provides that crude petroleum imported into Nicaragua shall be exempt from all duties and taxes, both general and local, for a period of two years.

#### **PARAGUAY.**

[Consul Samuel H. Wiley, Asuncion, Feb. 19.]

#### **Additional Surtax on Imports.**

A law enacted February 17, 1916, provides that all articles imported into Paraguay shall be subject to an additional surtax of 1½ per cent ad valorem (based on the official valuation prescribed by the customs tariff), while on all exports an additional tax of 1 per cent ad valorem is to be imposed.

[Dutiable imports are now subject in Paraguay to surtaxes totaling 8½ per cent of the official valuation.]

#### **RUSSIA.**

[Board of Trade Journal, July 27.]

#### **Importation of Samples.**

The Russian Minister of Finance has decided that the certificates of origin now required for nearly all articles imported into Russia (see Foreign Tariff Notes No. 16, p. 90, No. 17, p. 137, and No. 19, p. 64) may be dispensed with in the case of samples having no commercial value. Under No. 218 of the Russian customs tariff it is provided that samples having neither the form nor the nature of merchandise shall be exempt from import duty, and it is to such samples alone that the recent regulation applies.

#### **AGRICULTURAL EXPOSITION IN COLOMBIA.**

The Colombian Society of Agriculturists will hold an agricultural exposition in October of this year, according to a notice in the *Diario Oficial* of July 5. Correspondence regarding exhibits may be sent to El Ministro de Gobierno, Miguel Abadia Mendez, Bogotá, Colombia.

**SHIPBUILDING IN BRITISH COLUMBIA.**

[Vice Consul G. C. Woodward, Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada, Aug. 12.]

H. W. Brown & Co., of Vancouver, have let contracts for the construction of eight 225-foot lumber-carrying vessels, six with the Wallace Shipyards, at North Vancouver, and two with Cameron and Genoa Mills (Ltd.), Victoria. It is reported that this company will operate these vessels, when completed, under the name of the Canadian West Coast Navigation Co.

The ships under construction and being planned will be built under the terms of the recent British Columbia shipping bill, which grants a subsidy for 10 years, to be paid in 10 annual installments not to exceed the sum of \$5 per ton, to bring the earnings of the ships built under the act up to 15 per cent of the total cost. [See COMMERCE REPORTS for June 16, 1916.] The cost of the vessels will be about \$165,000 each. They will have a speed of 7 knots without the use of sails, and an approximate lumber capacity of 1,500,000 feet. It is estimated that the cargo space on these vessels is 95 per cent of the whole.

**Remunerative Freight Rates.**

The steady rise in lumber rates during the past 18 months has caused considerable activity in shipbuilding on the Pacific coast, it being estimated that there are 25 lumber vessels, similar to the ones above mentioned, now under construction between Vancouver and Oregon points. A prominent Seattle transportation man recently furnished the following figures of the average lumber rates, per thousand, from Seattle and Vancouver:

To—	May 1, 1914.	May 1, 1915.	May 1, 1916.
United Kingdom.....	\$19.00	\$37.50	\$75.00
San Francisco.....	3.75	3.25	5.50
Hawaiian Islands.....	6.00	7.00	16.00
Sydney, Australia.....	10.00	17.00	30.00
Melbourne, Australia.....	11.00	20.00	34.00
Cape Town, South Africa.....	16.00	30.00	50.00
Valparaiso, Chili.....	11.00	16.00	23.00

If the above figures are correct the freight on a cargo of 1,500,000 feet from Vancouver to Great Britain would be about \$112,000. Allowing 50 per cent for operating costs, insurance, fuel, two trips would nearly pay the initial cost of the vessel; and if the Panama Canal is used, it is estimated that these two trips would not take more than 12 months to complete.

**Steel Freighters Under Construction and Planned.**

There is at present under construction at Wallace Shipyards, at North Vancouver, a steel freighter under order of Dingwall, Cotts & Co., of Vancouver, acting for English interests. The freighter will have a length of 315 feet and a 45-foot beam. It will have a carrying capacity of 5,000 tons and a speed of 9½ knots.

It is reported that plans are under way for the construction of four steel freighters of 5,000 tons each, at the Grand Trunk Pacific drydock plant at Prince Rupert, British Columbia.

**CURRENCY DECREE ISSUED IN MEXICO.**

[Consul William W. Canada, Vera Cruz, July 21.]

A decree was issued by First Chief Carranza, under date of June 28, 1916, and published in the daily newspaper, *El Pueblo*, of Mexico City, ordering that certain taxes be paid exclusively in metallic currency, and others in metallic currency or its equivalent in paper money of the new issue. It was ordered that, beginning on July 1, 1916, Federal taxes, services, and utilities should be paid according to the following schedules:

**Taxes to be Paid Exclusively in Metallic Currency.**

- Import duties.
- Surtax of 10 per cent on import duties.
- Export duties.
- Transportation charges on interoceanic traffic on the Isthmus of Tehuantepec.
- Tonnage, loading and unloading tax, and the charges on interior maritime traffic.
- Taxes and charges for interior services at ports.
- Tax for caretaking and storage.
- Fees for maritime bills of health.
- Pilotage dues.
- Tax for sanitary revision.
- Bar dues.
- Income from the arsenal and floating dry dock at Vera Cruz and marine railway at Guaymas.
- Proceeds of International Postal Service.
- Consular fees.
- Stamp tax on invoices, contracts, and, in general, all documents covering transactions in national metallic currency or foreign money.
- Taxes on mining claims, including back taxes.
- Metal tax.
- Petroleum tax.
- Tax on explosives.
- Taxes on smelting, refining, assaying, and parting of ores.
- Real estate, business, and professional taxes in Lower California.
- Parcels tax in Lower California.
- Inheritance and endowment taxes in Lower California.
- Duties on metallurgical establishments in the Federal District and Territories.
- Tax for working forests and other landed properties of the Nation.
- Special cotton tax in the Laguna district.

**To be Paid in Metallic Currency or Equivalent in Paper Money of New Emission.**

- Inheritance and endowment taxes in the Federal District and Territory of Tepic.
- Business tax on banks, banking houses, and money-exchange establishments, products of fishing, diving, etc.

**To be Paid Exclusively in Paper Money of New Emission.**

- Tax on authorization and verification of weights and measures.
- Fees for trade-marks and patents.
- Fees of public property register.
- Tobacco tax.
- Stamp tax on alcoholic drinks and the production of pulque.
- Tax on cotton-spinning and weaving industries.
- Fee for search of data for property-title transfer.

**To be Paid in New Paper or Equivalent in Vera Cruz or Army Paper, at Rate of Ten For One.**

- Proceeds of postal service and earnings of internal postal service.
- Proceeds of Federal telegraphic service and earnings of the service.
- Sale of stamps for all kinds of documents and contracts which do not cover transactions in national metallic currency or foreign money.
- Twenty per cent Federal proportion of local taxes.
- Real estate tax in the Federal District.

Services, taxes, and dues of a municipal character in the Federal District.  
 Tax on professions and lucrative occupations in the Federal District.  
 Business tax in the Federal District.  
 Pulque tax in the Federal District.  
 Real estate, business, and professional tax in the Territory of Tepic.

Amounts for contracts, services, fines, and other receipts are to be paid in the kind of currency agreed upon or determined by the proper authority, when treating of fines and other liabilities.

When an ad valorem tax is treated of and the value taken as a basis is expressed in metallic or foreign currency, the tax is to be payable in the same kind of money.

### PROPOSED MEASURE TO FIX BRAZILIAN EXCHANGE.

[Commercial Attaché William C. Downs, Rio de Janeiro, July 28.]

The following project to fix the rate of exchange was admitted for discussion in the Brazilian Chamber of Deputies on July 26, 1916:

Art. 1. The Government is authorized to fix at 12d. (24 cents) per milreis the rate for future conversion of Brazilian fiduciary money on all commercial and fiscal transactions. Previous contracts in gold to be respected.

Sole paragraph. The Government will consider the advisability of revising those contracts, converting them into gold at the new rate, and likewise of resuming the issuing functions of the Caixa de Conversão (Conversion Office).

Art. 2. The suspension of exchange of gold for notes of the Caixa de Conversão will continue in force for an indefinite period. The Government may take up the notes by the most convenient means within its reach and at a reasonable rate.

1. As the Government acquires the notes it will substitute new notes calculated at the fixed rate of 12d., burning at once the others.

2. The excess of fiduciary money thus obtained, and also the paper money guaranty fund, will be employed by the Government, through the Bank of Brazil and its agencies, in the purchase at current prices of coffee and rubber, or other exportable products of ready sale abroad, which will be shipped immediately and sold, the proceeds of the sales being deposited in the hands of our bankers to be applied to the service of the foreign debt.

[Prior to the war the fixed value of the milreis was 16d. (32.443 cents) and the Conversion Office was selling exchange at that rate. According to statement of the "Caixa da Amortização" the paper money in circulation in Brazil on June 30, 1916, was 1,040,574.866 milreis, as compared with 600,340,720 milreis on July 31, 1914.]

### Representative for Lyons' Sample Fair.

The representative in the United States for the second annual Lyons (France) Sample Fair is Mr. Emile Garden, whose offices are at 21 Park Row, New York City. He offers to furnish any desired information to American business men, and has a supply of pamphlets and other printed matter. Details of the fair were given in COMMERCE REPORTS for August 22, 1916.

### OFFICES OF THE BUREAU OF FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC COMMERCE.

#### DISTRICT OFFICES.

NEW YORK: Room 409, Customhouse.  
 BOSTON: 16th floor, Customhouse.  
 CHICAGO: 544 Federal Building.  
 ST. LOUIS: 403 Third National Bank Building.  
 ATLANTA: 521 Post Office Building.  
 NEW ORLEANS: 1020 Hibernia Bank Building.  
 SAN FRANCISCO: 307 Customhouse.  
 SEATTLE: 348 Henry Building.

#### COOPERATIVE OFFICES.

CLEVELAND: Chamber of Commerce.  
 CINCINNATI: Chamber of Commerce.  
 CINCINNATI: C., N. O. & T. P. Ry. Co.  
 LOS ANGELES: Chamber of Commerce.  
 PHILADELPHIA: Chamber of Commerce.  
 CHATTANOOGA: South American Agent, Southern Ry. Co.

## FOREIGN TRADE OPPORTUNITIES.

Reserved addresses may be obtained from the **Bureau** and its **district offices**. Request for each opportunity should be on a separate sheet and **state opportunity number**. The **Bureau** does not furnish credit ratings or assume responsibility as to the standing of foreign inquirers; the usual precautions should be taken in all cases.

*Farm tractors*, No. 22263.—A manufacturer in the United States informs the Bureau that the company's agent in Spain desires to represent an American manufacturer of farm tractors in that country.

*Paper, chemicals, etc.*, No. 22264.—An American consular officer in China writes that a company recently formed for the purpose of engaging in the import and export business desires to enter into commercial relations with American manufacturers and exporters of paper, glassware, oil paints, perfumes, essential oils, washing soda, drugs, chemicals, and pharmaceutical products of all kinds.

*Textiles, scales, etc.*, No. 22265.—A consular representative of France in the United States writes the Bureau that he is in receipt of inquiries from French firms who desire to enter into commercial relations with American manufacturers and exporters of silk and cotton cloth, wool grease and automatic scales, and with importers and exporters of chemical products. An agent for the sale of French olive oil in the State of Tennessee is also desired.

*New bleaching process*, No. 22266.—Supplementing foreign trade opportunity No. 22187, an American consular officer in Switzerland transmits samples of bleached and unbleached linen yarn, treated by the newly discovered process in question. The samples may be inspected at the Bureau or its district offices. (Refer to file No. 79421.)

*California wines*, No. 22267.—An American consular officer in the West Indies reports that a merchant in his district desires to be placed in touch with American exporters of California wines. Reference.

*Borax, etc.*, No. 22268.—A commercial attaché of the Department of Commerce reports that a man desires to communicate with firms interested in the purchase of borax, or the handling or development of large copper properties in South America. It is stated that satisfactory business references can be supplied.

*Textiles, provisions, etc.*, No. 22269.—An American consular officer in Norway reports that a man in his district desires to represent American exporters of textiles, raw materials for the manufacture of margarine, tinplates, iron goods, groceries, flour, and specialties in other lines. Reference.

*Machinery*, No. 22270.—A manufacturer of picture frames in France informs an American consular officer that he is desirous of getting in touch with manufacturers of all kinds of machinery used in such a plant with a view to refitting the same. Catalogues of the manufacturer showing the various kinds of picture frames made may be inspected, and further information descriptive of the machinery desired may be had upon application to the Bureau or its district offices. (Refer to file No. 79373.)

*Watches, clocks, etc.*, No. 22271.—An American consular officer in South Africa writes that one of the leading jewelers in his district desires to receive catalogues, price lists, and full information from American manufacturers of watches, clocks, and general jewelry supplies. Information concerning high-grade wall clocks suitable for residential and office usage is particularly desired.

*Newspapers*, No. 22272.—A buyer of American unsold newspapers in bales for packing purposes informs an American consular officer in the Far East of his desire to import such newspapers direct from the United States. He will establish credit in a New York bank, if necessary.

Secretary T. I. Kawashima, of the Japanese Chamber of Commerce of San Francisco, is preparing to make a trip to Japan for a study of trade conditions and the possibilities of increased business between Japan and the United States. He will spend four or five months on the trip, sailing probably the latter part of September. He desires to receive suggestions from American business men.

# COMMERCE REPORTS



DAILY CONSULAR AND TRADE REPORTS  
ISSUED DAILY BY THE BUREAU OF FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC COMMERCE  
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE



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No. 204 Washington, D. C., Wednesday, August 30 1916

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### REQUISITION OF HIDES IN MADAGASCAR.

A cablegram received from the American consulate at Tamatave states that all Madagascar hides judged suitable are requisitioned for military purposes.

### GENERAL LICENSE FOR CERTAIN IMPORTS INTO GREAT BRITAIN.

[Cablegram from American consulate general, London, Aug. 29.]

General license has been given for importation, hitherto restricted, of brass terminals for electric fuse boards, goods and toys mainly of rubber, rubber-covered clothes, wringer rollers.

### EMBARGO ON TEA IN DENMARK.

According to a cablegram received by the Department of State from the American consulate general, Copenhagen, under date of August 28, an embargo has been placed upon the exportation of tea from Denmark.

### RUSSIAN PROSTHESES EXPOSITION TO OPEN SOON.

The Russian Embassy in the United States announces that the prosthesis exposition at Petrograd will open on September 14, 1916, and will be held at 7 Rue Tsatitsinskays. The plans made for the exposition provided that the exhibits might be put in place and the various sections arranged on or after August 15, and that persons or institutions that shall not have occupied by September the space allotted to them will be considered to have withdrawn from the exposition, and their space will be placed at the disposal of other exhibitors.

The exposition committee has asked for the names of the organizers of the several sections and of the agents of the exhibitors.

**CHILEAN COAL SITUATION.**

[Commercial Attaché V. L. Havens, Santiago, July 20.]

There will be a considerable quantity of foreign coal imported into Chile during the next six months as the local mines are unable to provide the quantity required under their working methods, and if they could provide the quantity required there is insufficient rolling stock and loading facilities to handle it the great distance from the south to the center and north. In addition to this, two of the biggest companies are having labor difficulties and are closed down on account of a strike. This is the second strike at Curanilahue, the first having been settled a few months ago.

Strict adherence to the old specifications is highly improbable and foreign coal will undoubtedly be sold at shipping weights aboard ship, and much of it will likely have to meet only requirements of percentage of ash and calorific value. It will probably be demanded that the coal possess about 8,000 calories.

**Railways Lack Supplies—Coal Deposits in Lebu.**

In its issue of July 14 the *Mercurio* (Santiago) stated:

The railways of northern Chile are suffering for lack of coal. Ships are scarce, and the local coal companies do not comply with their contracts. Lately the Arica-La Paz Railway bought 12,000 tons of coal, but this will last only eight months. However, the situation will probably improve within five months, as we expect that foreign coal, especially Australian, will then begin to arrive.

Concerning the coal deposits of Lebu, *La Cronica Mercantil* (Valparaiso) says in a recent issue:

The Government has made a study of coal in the Department of Lebu and has calculated that there are between 2,000,000 and 3,000,000 tons of exploitable coal there, near the Nahuelbeta Mountains in which are also located the mines of Curanilahue, Pilpaico, and Cuyinco.

The Government has given official approval to the project of the *Compania Carbonifera Victoria de Lebu* for connecting its railway with the Sauces line at Lebu.

**WEEKLY COTTON EXPORTS.**

According to reports received by the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce of the Department of Commerce, the exports of cotton during the week ending August 26, 1916, at the 12 principal customs districts of the United States were as follows:

Districts.	Bales.	Districts.	Bales.	Districts.	Bales.
Georgia .....		Philadelphia .....	1,000	San Francisco .....	2,724
Massachusetts .....	1,654	South Carolina .....		Washington .....	
Maryland .....		Virginia .....		Total .....	73,411
New York .....	12,879	Galveston .....	12,000		
North Carolina .....	13,640	New Orleans .....	29,514		

The exports of 73,411 bales of cotton during the past week make the total since August 1, 1916, approximately 334,987 bales. Exports of cotton for the corresponding periods of the preceding year were, respectively, 32,049 bales for the week and 141,012 bales in the cotton year.



**COTTON-GROWING EXPERIMENTS IN MIDDLE GREECE.**

[Consul General Alexander W. Weddell, Athens, Aug. 1.]

The Lake Copais Co., which for a long time has been engaged in exploiting the large tract of land formerly occupied by Lake Copais [Topolias], has within the past year conducted experiments in the growing in the lake bed of several varieties of cotton—American from seed imported direct from the United States, naturalized American from seed obtained from well-known growers of certain American varieties in Greece, American-Cyprus from seed imported from Cyprus, and the ordinary native variety.

Experience has shown that the best or most profitable variety of cotton for this region is one that will come to maturity within a comparatively short period, that can be sown fairly late in the season (say toward the end of April), and that can be picked reasonably early (say toward the latter part of October), thus avoiding damage by spring and autumn frosts. This practically debars the growing of long-staple cottons, such as Egyptian, which usually require a longer growing period than the short-staple variety.

**Results of Experiments.**

According to the director of the Lake Copais Co., who furnished the above information, the experiments were made with 10 varieties of American cotton and 4 naturalized or Cypriote kinds. The director thus sums up results:

The experiments proved interesting but in no degree conclusive. It will be necessary to continue the observations over three or four years, and this the company proposes to do. The imported American varieties were beaten on the alluvial soil by the native American, but this may be accounted for by the sudden change of condition, and better results may be looked for next season. In the case of the cotton grown on the central ashbeds of Copais—a soil consisting of partially-burned peat of a depth of 10 to 20 inches overlying a subsoil of lime clay—the results were rendered inconclusive for the reason that it was not possible, because of the contiguity of other crops, to control the water supply. Furthermore, the month of September was characterized by heavy rains, which restricted the early maturity of the crop.

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**MARKETING BOLIVIAN WOOL AND HIDES.**

[Consul Thomas W. Voetter, Antofagasta, Chile, July 29.]

An American who is somewhat familiar with the cattle and sheep industry recently called at the Antofagasta consulate after a trip through the southern part of Bolivia and the northern part of the Argentine Republic. He informed me that most of the sheep raised in the southern part of Bolivia were owned by Indians, and that the wool sheared was mainly marketed by them at the town of La Quiaca, situated on the border between Bolivia and Argentina and at present the terminus of the railway that extends southward to ports on the River Plate. It was his opinion that this would be an exceptionally good place for American firms interested in wool to establish a buying agency, as wool could be obtained in large quantities at what seemed to him low prices.

He also stated that cattle hides from the southeastern part of Bolivia were largely marketed at the town of Embarcación, the terminus of another branch of the Argentine railway system.

**WIDER MARKET FOR AMERICAN RAILWAY SUPPLIES.**

Exports of railway materials and equipment from the United States have more than doubled since 1914. The total value for the last fiscal year, according to reports received by the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, was \$75,000,000.

Until very recently Canada and Cuba have been the foremost foreign markets for our freight cars; Cuba, Canada, and Brazil the largest markets for exported locomotives; and Canada, Australia, Japan, Brazil, Argentina, and Cuba the leading markets for our steel rails. At present we are sending unusual quantities of freight cars and other supplies to Russia, chiefly via her Pacific frontier, and important consignments are going also to France and Spain, as well as to our established markets in Cuba, Canada, and Central America. The total exports of freight cars for June were valued at \$1,613,000, of which \$1,086,000 worth went to Russia. Steel rails to the value of \$1,730,000 were sold abroad during the month, the exports to France alone amounting to \$1,188,000. Of the \$721,000 worth of steam locomotives sold abroad, \$272,000 worth went to Spain. The quantities of railway material exported during the fiscal year ended June, 1916, as compared with the fiscal year 1914, were:

Classes of material.	1914	1916	Classes of material.	1914	1916
Railway cars .....	\$11,178,000	\$26,660,000	Ties .....	\$2,565,000	\$2,435,000
Rails for railways .....	10,259,000	17,687,000	Railroad spikes .....	346,000	1,399,000
Locomotives:			Car wheels .....	414,000	742,000
Steam .....	3,692,000	12,666,000	Telegraph instruments .....	137,000	160,000
Electric .....	437,000	455,000			
Engine parts .....	3,357,000	7,274,000		34,910,000	74,729,000
Switches and other track materials .....	2,534,000	5,262,000			

**VISIT OF COMMERCIAL ATTACHÉ.**

Mr. Julean Arnold, American commercial attaché, accredited to the legation at Peking, China, and the embassy at Tokyo, Japan, has returned to this country on a visit with a view to informing manufacturers and merchants concerning trade conditions in the Orient, especially as they affect opportunities for the advancement of American interests there. Mr. Arnold will spend about four months traveling about the country, making stops at the principal industrial centers, and will be glad not only to address gatherings of business men interested in oriental trade and to confer with representatives of the larger manufacturing and exporting houses, but also to secure as much information as possible regarding the aims and scope of those firms actively interested in Far Eastern markets, in order that upon his return to Peking he may be better equipped to handle the problems relating to the development of Sino-American trade which are referred to the office of the commercial attaché.

Mr. Arnold has with him a number of lantern slides descriptive of Chinese life and industry, and is prepared to exhibit these in connection with illustrated talks before chambers of commerce or other bodies.

An itinerary of Mr. Arnold's tour is now being prepared, and requests for conferences or addresses should be promptly made of the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, Washington, D. C., or through its district offices.

**SOUTH AFRICA'S TRADE IN FOREIGN TOBACCO.**

[Consul General George H. Murphy, Cape Town, July 11.]

Although the production of locally-grown leaf in normal times is fairly large, yet considerable amounts of foreign tobacco are imported into the Union of South Africa each year. A comparison of these imports may be made from the table below, which gives the tobacco-import statistics for the years 1913, 1914, and 1915:

Kinds of tobacco.	1913	1914	1915
	<i>Pounds.</i>	<i>Pounds.</i>	<i>Pounds.</i>
Unmanufactured.....	1,033,910	924,240	564,079
Cigars.....	111,815	95,314	79,699
Cigarettes.....	311,635	236,261	114,671
Goorac and hookah.....	2,269	18,109	1,843
Snuff.....	305	581	582
Manufactured (not otherwise described).....	55,026	51,667	52,399

**Local Manufacture of Cigarettes—American Tobacco.**

The unmanufactured tobacco imported into the Union is made into cigarettes and cigarette tobacco by a few important and numerous small firms. Nearly all the well-known English and Egyptian brands of cigarettes are sold in South Africa, but in small quantities.

It is stated by the manager of one of the large South African tobacco manufacturing firms that despite the shortage of the domestic crop he does not believe there have been additional purchases of tobacco from the United States. Most of the local companies have maintained supplies on hand in anticipation of crop failures, such stocks being sufficient to tide them over in the event of a serious shortage. The high import duty, moreover, tends to discourage the purchasing of large supplies in other countries.

It is believed that the large South African tobacco companies purchase on the open market when desiring American supplies. Such firms usually have their American agents or have arranged with concerns in the United States to act as their representatives.

[A list of Cape Town tobacco importers may be obtained, upon request, from the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce or its district and cooperative offices. Refer to file No. 79320.]

**A VARIABLE SELF AND MUTUAL INDUCTOR.**

The United States Bureau of Standards has just published a paper which describes a new form of instrument for varying that property of an electrical circuit (self inductance) which opposes any change in the strength of a current, just as the inertia of a heavy train of cars opposes any change in its speed. It consists of two sets of coils of insulated wire mounted in circular hard-rubber plates between which a similar plate carrying two coils is arranged to turn, thus varying the inductance. Diagrams and data are given from which instruments of this type may be designed to meet the requirements of a given use. Comparison is made between the new instrument and older ones.

Copies of this report, Scientific Paper No. 290, will be ready for distribution in a few days and may be obtained without charge upon application to the Bureau of Standards, Washington, D. C.

**RECORD OF ALCOHOL MONOPOLY IN SWITZERLAND.**

[Consul George Nicolas Ifft, St. Gall, Aug. 2.]

The American consulate has recently received several communications from American firms, inquiring as to the possibility of exporting alcohol to Switzerland. The only reply to such inquiries has been that in Switzerland the sale of alcohol is a Government monopoly and that inquirers should address the Schweizerische Alkoholverwaltung in Berne.

The report of the Alcohol Administration for 1915 shows that the Swiss consumption of pure and denatured spirits during the year amounted to 2,732,654 gallons, of which 1,279,956 gallons were imported. During the year there were sold for drinking purposes 1,056,442 gallons, valued at \$1,781,961, and for technical and household purposes 1,529,658 gallons, valued at \$833,188. In monopoly fees on fine brandies, etc., \$209,655 was collected.

**General Administrative Account.**

The general administrative account shows receipts of \$2,838,123 and expenditures of \$1,418,508—a profit of \$1,419,615. This profit has been distributed as follows: Divided among the cantons, \$1,271,670; deposited in the reserve fund, \$139,925; amortization of losses on account of absinthe, \$38; carried forward to the next account \$7,982.

The estimated amount of monopolized spirits required for the present year is 2,800,000 gallons.

The profits since the introduction of the monopoly are stated to be \$72,628,000.

The cost of administration for 1915 was \$81,962, a decrease of \$7,575, as compared with the preceding year.

[A report from Berne on the Swiss trade in alcohol was published in *COMMERCE REPORTS* for Aug. 19, 1916.]

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**COTTON IMPORTS AT MANCHESTER.**

[Consul Ross E. Holaday, Manchester, England, Aug. 7.]

The cotton season 1915-16 commenced on August 1, 1915, and ended on July 31, 1916. The importation of raw cotton into the Port of Manchester during that period amounted to 676,311 bales of all descriptions, against 771,672 bales in the previous season. The official figures for 1915-16, compiled by the Manchester Cotton Association, are: American cotton, 514,101 bales, against 620,487 bales in the previous season; Egyptian, 162,010 bales, against 149,426 bales; other growths, 200 bales, against 1,759 bales.

While the importation of American cotton into Manchester shows a decrease of 106,386 bales when compared with the season 1914-15, it should be mentioned that the import of American cotton into the whole of Great Britain during the season just ended was 1,330,000 bales less than in the preceding one. It is estimated, however, that 19.2 per cent of the total American cotton imports into Great Britain during the season 1915-16 were received at the Port of Manchester, as against 15.4 per cent during 1914-15 season.

**FOREIGN TARIFFS.****BERMUDA.**

[Consul Carl R. Loop, Hamilton, July 24.]

**Import Prohibition on Wool Yarns, Etc.**

According to a proclamation issued by the governor of the colony, dated July 21, 1916, the importation of wool yarns, wool noils, wool tops, and wool waste is prohibited from all places other than the United Kingdom and British possessions and protectorates, except under license issued by the Colonial Secretary and subject to such conditions as may be prescribed by such license.

**CUBA.**

[Consul Henry M. Wolcott, detailed as vice consul at Habana, July 28.]

**Preparation of Shipping Documents.**

In view of the experience of several large importing firms in Habana recently it is considered advisable again to call the attention of exporters in the United States to the importance of careful and painstaking preparation of invoices and shipping documents accompanying export shipments.

In two instances lately an American firm in Habana has been required by the customs authorities to pay full duty at the general rate (instead of the reduced rate applicable to imports from the United States) because of failure to attach the certificate of origin of the merchandise to the consular invoice. It is also within the knowledge of this office that two other firms in Cuba are now experiencing difficulties with the customs authorities on account of blunders in the preparation of shipping documents.

These mistakes are invariably costly, and it seems poor economy, on the part of our exporters to employ any but the most capable clerks for performing this work. It is suggested that it would be well to establish a check system on all documents covering foreign shipments, which will eliminate to the greatest degree possible the probability of error. This is important not only because it means a saving in customs duties and avoidance of fines and penalties, but because it also means satisfied customers and a continuance of trade in the future.

[Information regarding the proper preparation of consular invoices and certificates of origin is contained in Tariff Series No. 24 (Consular Regulations of Foreign Countries, Canada, and Latin America), copies of which are for sale at the district offices of the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, or by the Superintendent of Documents, Washington, D. C., for 10 cents.]

**FRANCE.**

[Consul General A. M. Thackara, Paris, July 12.]

**Importation of Fountain Pens.**

According to a decision recently reached by the Ministries of Commerce and Finance, gold pens for use in fountain pens have been transferred from the classification of "goldsmith's wares" to that of "jewelry," and may now be admitted into France.

[The importation of goldsmith's wares is prohibited under the French decree of May 11, 1916 (see COMMERCE REPORTS for May 23, 1916).]

The French regulations do not permit the importation or sale in France of gold pens (or of any other gold article) of less than

18 karats. Makers of 14-karat pens must, therefore, replace the lower grade gold pen by one of not less than 18 karats before shipping to this country. Furthermore, on arrival in France the gold pens must be removed from the holders and stamped at the French mint. In order to avoid the trouble and delay thus entailed and the risk of having the gold pens replaced by inexperienced workmen, the French Mint has informed this consulate general that it sees no objection to sending the pens in bond to the mint by the American manufacturers, to be stamped and returned to the factory in the United States, where they can be fitted to the fountain pens by the makers. For information as to the necessary formalities required in this respect application should be made to any French consulate in America. Due notification of the fact that the pens have already been submitted to the mint should be made on invoices of shipments to this country, and it would be preferable that such declaration be made before and attested by a French consular officer in the United States.

Fountain pens of foreign manufacture are usually sold in this country through a local agent, who holds the exclusive sales rights. This consulate general would be pleased to receive letters from American manufacturers of fountain pens desirous of opening agencies in this country. Such communications should indicate the terms which manufacturers are prepared to grant to their representatives, discounts, terms of delivery, etc.

Such offers will be published in the trade bulletin of this office, which is issued to all the commercial organizations of Paris, including a number of agents' syndicates, with a membership of many thousands, distributed all over France. The bulletin contains an offer to its readers to explain and demonstrate samples. Prospective exporters of fountain pens or of other articles should, if possible, send samples and catalogues.

#### UNITED KINGDOM.

[Board of Trade Journal, July 13.]

#### Increased Import Duties.

The increases in tariff and excise duties announced in **COMMERCE REPORTS** for May 15, 1916, are to be supplemented by the new duties on cocoa, sugar, and products containing sugar shown in the following table, which includes rates in effect since April 5, as well as duties on cocoa adopted on June 21. The former duties, given for purposes of comparison, are those established in January, 1916.

[Hundredweight, 112 pounds; pound sterling, \$4.8665.]

Article.	Rate of duty.					
	New.			Old.		
Glucose:	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Solid..... per hundredweight.....	0	8	10½	0	5	11
Liquid..... do.....	0	8	4½	0	4	3
Molasses and invert sugar, all other sugar and extracts from sugar not tested by polariscope and not specified:						
Containing 70 per cent or more of sweetening matter..... per hundredweight.....	0	8	10½	0	5	11
Containing more than 50 per cent and less than 70 per cent of sweetening matter..... per hundredweight.....	0	6	4½	0	4	3
Containing not more than 50 per cent of sweetening matter..... do.....	0	3	1½	0	2	1
Note: Molasses for distilling or for stock feed is exempt.						
Saccharin and similar substances..... per ounce.....	0	4	6	0	3	0

Article.	Rate of duty.					
	New.			Old.		
<b>Spirits and strong waters:</b>						
Enumerated spirits (brandy, rum, imitation rum, and Geneva)—						
Additional for sugar used in sweetening any of the above tested for strength, if sweetened so that the spirit ceases to be an enumerated spirit—						
In casks..... proof gallon.....	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
In bottles..... do.....	0	0	7½	0	0	5
Unenumerated spirits, sweetened, including liquors, cordials, mixtures, and other preparations containing spirits, if tested—						
If warehoused 3 years or more—						
In casks..... proof gallon.....	0	15	9½	0	15	7
In bottles..... do.....	0	16	9½	0	16	7
If warehoused 2 and less than 3 years—						
In casks..... do.....	0	16	9½	0	16	7
In bottles..... do.....	0	17	9½	0	17	7
If not warehoused, or warehoused less than 2 years—						
In casks..... do.....	0	17	3½	0	17	1
In bottles..... do.....	0	18	3½	0	18	1
<b>Sugar:</b>						
Of polarization from 76 to 98 degrees..... per hundredweight (from to).....	0	6	9	0	4	6
Of polarization exceeding 98 degrees..... per hundredweight.....	0	12	10½	0	8	7
Fruit, canned or bottled, other than fruit liable to duty as such, preserved in thin syrup:						
If not containing more than 12 per cent of added sugar, per hundredweight.....	0	1	10½	0	1	3
Other..... per hundredweight.....	0	3	1½	0	2	1
Fruit, canned or bottled, other than fruit liable to duty as such, in thick syrup..... per hundredweight.....	0	8	3	0	5	6
Fruits, crystallized, glace and Metz, except fruit liable to duty as such, per hundredweight.....	0	14	0	0	9	4
Fruits, imitation, crystallized or not:						
With sugar constituents not exceeding 80 per cent. per hundredweight.....	0	11	6	0	7	8
Other..... do.....	0	14	0	0	9	4
Fruit, liable to duty as such, except currants, preserved in sugar or syrup, whether mixed with other fruit or not..... per hundredweight.....	0	14	0	0	10	6
Fruit pulp, excepting fruit pulp liable to duty as such:						
In thin syrup..... per hundredweight.....	0	3	1½	0	2	1
In thick syrup, as jam..... do.....	0	10	1½	0	6	9
Note.—New regulations are made for the collection of duty on apricots in various forms. The remainder of the note regarding fruits in certain forms, as published in the tariff, is unchanged.						
Marmalade, jams, and fruit jellies, if not made from fruit liable to duty as such..... per hundredweight.....	0	10	1½	0	6	9
Milk, condensed, sweetened, whole..... do.....	0	5	9	0	3	10
Milk, condensed, sweetened, separated or skimmed..... do.....	0	6	4½	0	4	3
Milk, condensed, slightly sweetened, whether whole, separated, or skimmed, if not containing more than 18 per cent of added sugar, per hundredweight.....	0	2	6	0	1	8
<b>Milk powder:</b>						
Without added sugar..... per hundredweight.....			Free.			Free.
With not more than 36 per cent of added sugar..... do.....	0	5	1½	0	3	5
All other, including milk not sampled and tested..... do.....	0	11	6	0	7	8
Nestle's milk food..... do.....	0	4	6	0	3	0
<b>Cocoa:</b>						
Per hundred weight.....	2	2	0			
Per pound.....				0	0	1½
Husks and shells..... per hundredweight.....	0	6	0	0	3	0
Butter..... per pound.....	0	0	4½	0	0	1½

Blackening, solid and liquid caramel, certain food products containing sugar, such as soy, chutney, etc., and confectionery, viz, marzipan, candied or drained peel, drained cherries, preserved ginger, licorice, candied flowers, sugared almonds, sugared cocoanut, fig confectionery, and that made from soft gums or from sugar, are subject to increases of duty. In the case of certain articles dutiable according to percentage of sugar content, a declaration by the importer is required and sampling and testing will be resorted to in order to verify the statement. Milk powder without added sugar will be admitted under deposit of duty pending analysis; if the test is satisfactory, free admission will be granted. The customs duty on imported matches remains 3 shillings 6 pence per 10,000 matches, but if a box of matches contains over 80 matches, duty on the excess

is charged at the rate of 1 shilling 9 pence per 10,000 matches. From May 1 table waters, cider, and perry have been subject on importation to duties equal to the excise duties imposed April 6 on those articles.

[The complete table of duties on sugar, spirits, sugared goods, table waters, etc., is on file in the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce and inquiries in regard to specific articles will be answered.]

### NEW BUDGET IN URUGUAY.

The Uruguayan Congress has adopted a budget law for the fiscal year 1916-17, placing the total expenditures at 29,521,660 pesos (peso=\$1.034) and the total estimated revenues at 29,451,428 pesos, these figures being somewhat larger than those recently recommended by the administration [see COMMERCE REPORTS for June 26, 1916]. The new law as published in the Diario Oficial of July 12 gives the requirements of the various departments of the Government as follows:

Allotments.	Pesos.	Allotments.	Pesos.
Legislative.....	713,382	Public works.....	1,324,580
Executive.....	69,244	War and marine.....	5,187,851
Interior.....	3,299,417	Judicial.....	399,640
Foreign relations.....	511,735	Public debts.....	8,506,340
Treasury.....	2,142,394	General expenses.....	815,779
Public instruction.....	3,323,410	Liabilities.....	2,361,227
Industries.....	876,652		
		Total.....	29,521,660

The chief sources of revenue are customs duties estimated at 12,250,000 pesos, property taxes at 4,160,000, licenses at 1,600,000, and tobacco taxes at 1,200,000. Other taxes and imposts bring the revenues to within 70,000 pesos of the expenditures. Should the appropriation for general expenses be insufficient, the Executive is authorized to request Congress for additional funds. The Executive is also given authority to discount drafts against the national treasury up to 1,000,000 pesos, at 6 per cent, payable within a year.

### RECORD FOR YEAR AT SHEFFIELD ELECTRICAL PLANT.

The industrial activity of Sheffield, England, during the fiscal year ended March 25, 1916, is reflected in the report covering the operation of the municipal electricity undertaking for the year, which has been summarized by American Consul John M. Savage.

In order to meet the demand for power purposes, \$822,957 was spent during the year in extensions and improvements, bringing the capital expenditure up to \$7,364,849. The number of units sold was greater by 32,994,685 or 73.5 per cent than during the preceding year. The revenue increased from \$898,638 to \$1,350,843, or 50 per cent. As the increased output represents sales for power and traction purposes at low rates, the growth in revenue was not in the same proportion as the growth in number of units sold. The gross profit was \$649,235, interest and sinking fund charges, \$487,200; net profit, \$162,035. This net profit was transferred to the renewals and special expenditure fund except \$2,433, which was placed to the credit of the fund for renewals of motors.



**OPPORTUNITIES FOR AMERICAN GOODS IN HAITI.**

[Special Agent Garrard Harris.]

There are two American houses in Port au Prince; one is a tobacco factory manufacturing cigars, cigarettes, and smoking and chewing tobacco, the other is a store carrying hardware and acting as agent for sundry commodities. There is a field here for an American store of good proportions, handling American wares and doing a wholesale and retail business. The sales of many lines of goods made in the United States could be largely increased if there were some one to push them.

For instance, it is impossible to buy American shoes in Haiti. Most of the men's shoes are made by local Italian shoemakers from native leather, which is badly tanned. They sell for \$2 to \$3 gold and are very crude. If cheap American shoes (some of patent leather) could be placed on the market they would undoubtedly be given the preference. It is the ambition of every Haitian to have a pair of shoes for Sundays and funerals at least, as their possession raises him considerably in the social scale. If caught out with shoes on during a rain, the owner usually takes them off, puts them carefully under his jacket, and finishes the journey barefooted. The women's shoes in the main come from France, which has an advantage over the United States in the way of lower tariff rates.

**Ready-Made Clothing—Shirts, Collars, and Hats.**

There is an opportunity for a line of cheap ready-made clothing. It is not possible to buy a cheap ready-made American suit in Port au Prince—or, in fact, any sort of ready-made suit. If American clothes, with their style and general "dressiness," were put on the market they would have a great vogue. They should not sell for more than \$20 at the very outside, and a \$15 to \$17 article would be most popular.

It would be well to remember, in attempting to sell cloth for apparel in Haiti, and especially black cloth, which is very popular, that the natives have a few ideas of their own on the subject. It is the ambition of almost every Haitian to possess a black suit for special occasions. If he is a private citizen without hope of political preference or place, he is content with a coat cut in sack effect. If he pretends to fashion, he likely wears a long cutaway. If he happens to be a general, or a member of congress, or an ex-member, or a minister, or ex-minister he affects the extreme frock or Prince Albert.

The Haitians are unanimous on one thing—the cloth must be fairly heavy. Broadcloth is the ideal, but not all of them are financially able to achieve it. The prevailing notion is that unless the cloth is heavy it is not durable, and the owner will not get his worth in wear. A tailor of Port au Prince had the idea that a lightweight black serge would be appreciated by those who were sweltering in heavy goods for fashion or dignity's sake. He invested rather extensively—for him—in the lightweight goods, and congratulated himself for his astuteness in providing a novelty in the way of comfort. It was two years ago when he laid in his stock. Most of those goods are on his shelves yet.

It is not possible to buy American shirts of good quality or collars and cuffs here. A gentleman recently went into half a dozen stores looking for soft collars. He was finally compelled to buy an Italian

soft collar, and paid 30 cents gold for it—nor could he find the ordinary American collars on the shelves. Most of the hats of straw are Italian and French make, as well as the felt hats and pith helmets, which seem to be rather popular.

**Dairy Products, Flavoring Extracts, Wines, Etc.**

American "confitures," or preserves, and fancy canned goods are practically unknown in Port au Prince and other Haitian markets. Nearly all the goods are French.

Cheese is considered a great delicacy, and it is scarce and high. It has been known to sell at \$1 a pound, and for many weeks the dealers have been out of it. The cheese must, of course, be tinned.

Butter is another item which can be pushed. The bulk of that now on the market is Danish; in fact, there is no American table butter to be had. The Danish butter sells at 60 cents a short pound, in tins. It is not of good quality, and soon becomes rancid. There is an American "cooking butter" which comes in 5-pound tins and sells for \$1.25 to \$1.50 per tin, the price depending upon its scarcity. Some oleomargarine from the States is also imported, but a first-class line of dairy products would make a place for itself if pushed by interested people.

There is also a fine opportunity for a full line of good American flavoring extracts and spices. Good vanilla is hard to obtain. In Port au Prince, when one desires vanilla he either searches for some one who has some vanilla beans, purchases one, and makes his own extract, or else buys an inferior decoction at the drug store. A 10-cent bottle of vanilla as sold in the States sells for 25 cents in Port au Prince, and the same is true of other extracts. A little tin of black pepper such as brings 10 cents at retail in the States is 25 cents in Haiti.

A little California sherry and perhaps some other brands are sold, but the wines of the United States could be made much more popular with the proper amount of effort. To meet competition they must be low-priced, as the cheapest classes of French wines are imported, and these latter have, in addition, the benefit of a tariff reduction.

United States cocoa, and milk chocolate in bars, and some American candy packed in tin boxes of half a pound can be made to pay well.

**Office Supplies, Cheap Jewelry, and Toilet Articles.**

There are practically no American pens, ink, paper, or stationery to be had on the market. Such wares all come from France. The present would seem a good opportunity for introducing these and other office supplies, which are all very high indeed.

Cheap pinchbeck jewelry would have a large sale. Pieces ranging from 5 cents even as high as a dollar would be taken readily. Germany has supplied much of this in the past, and there is always a steady demand for it.

A complete line of inexpensive toilet soap, powder, perfumes, toothpaste, toilet water, manicure sets, and the like could be made to pay well.

In short, there are numerous opportunities for a house to establish itself and, by handling a full line of American goods, build up a very good business indeed. Other products for which there is a place can readily be noted after a survey of the field.

**AUSTRIAN POTATO CROP ABOVE NORMAL.**

[Consul Wallace J. Young, Carlsbad, Bohemia, Aug. 1.]

It is expected that the Austrian potato crop this year will be greatly in excess of that of last season. An average potato crop for Austria is, in round numbers, 128,500,000 zentners of 220-46 pounds each, for Hungary 50,000,000 zentners, and for Croatia and Slavonia 5,000,000 zentners, a total for the entire Monarchy of nearly 185,000,000 zentners, or 20,393,000 short tons. It is estimated that the crop this year in Austria will reach 150,000,000 zentners and in Hungary, Croatia, and Slavonia 70,000,000 to 75,000,000 zentners, or for the entire Monarchy 220,000,000 to 225,000,000 zentners (24,251,000 to 24,802,000 short tons), an increase of 19 to 21 per cent above a normal yield. Of this yield it is estimated that 5,000,000 zentners must be kept for seed and that the growers will consume about 20 per cent of the crop, so that there will remain approximately 160,000,000 zentners (17,837,000 short tons) for general consumption.

In the article from the Prager Tagblatt, from which the foregoing data are taken, note is also made that these figures do not comprehend the crops in that part of Russian Poland now occupied by Austrian forces, and which are expected to be large.

**GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS FOR SALE.**

The following were among the publications received in stock for sale by the Superintendent of Documents at Washington during the week ended August 26:

*Diplomatic Correspondence with Belligerent Governments Relating to Neutral Rights and Duties* (Department of State, August 12, 1916).—This is part 3 of the series commonly called the "White Book." Contains text of papers relating to British restraints on commerce, British contraband lists, interference by belligerents with mails, correspondence regarding submarine interference with commercial vessels, the cases of the steamships *Joseph W. Fordney*, *Arabic*, *Leelanaw*, *Sussex*, *William P. Frye*, and *Appam*, and other matters relating to the European war. Price, \$1.

*Properties of Some European Plastic Fire Clays* (Standards Technologic Papers 79).—Scientific analysis of the physical qualities of European plastic fire clays, with tentative specifications by the authors for the substitution of foreign clays by a mixture of two or more American clays. Price, 10 cents.

**REGULATION FOR FOREIGN COMPANIES IN CHILE.**

The Government of Chile has issued a regulation requiring declarations from foreign companies in accordance with a law of April 13, 1916, providing for new taxes [see COMMERCE REPORTS for May 1, 1916]. This regulation, which is published in the *Diario Oficial* of July 10, specifies that representatives, agents, or managers of foreign companies doing business in Chile must make a declaration in writing of the nature of the company represented, its headquarters, personnel, capital, and dividends, showing balance sheets. The declaration must be in Spanish and must be presented in duplicate. Agents who fail to make declarations in accordance with this regulation will be held personally responsible for the payment of taxes on the possessions of the companies they represent.

**AMERICAN CONSULAR OFFICERS ON LEAVE OF ABSENCE.**

The following American consular officers are on leave of absence in the United States and will be glad to confer with business men and commercial organizations relative to conditions in their respective jurisdictions. The consul's time is available primarily for personal interviews. He has limited facilities for correspondence, and except in urgent cases letters should be directed to the consulate.

Name.	Post.	Expiration of venue.	Address.
Hale, F. D.....	Huddersfield, England	Sept. 5	Lunenburg, Vt.
Masterson, William W.....	Durban, Natal, South Africa.	Sept. 1	Carrollton, Ky.
Monaghan, J. C.....	Kingston, Jamaica....	Sept. 1	Avenue A and Fourteenth Street, Bayonne, N. J.
Jewell, John F.....	Chefoo, China.....	Oct. 1	Galeana, Ill.
Kemper, Graham H.....	Erfurt, Germany.....	Sept. 10	Department of State, Washington, D. C.
Goodler, James H.....	Niagara Falls, Canada.	Sept. 1	27 South Hawk Street, Albany, N. Y.
Hazeltine, Ross.....	Port Antonio, Jamaica.	Oct. 1	Department of State, Washington, D. C.
Laing, James Oliver.....	Karachi, India.....	Sept. 30	C/o University Club, Kansas City, Mo.
Leonard, Walter A.....	Colombo, Ceylon.....	Oct. 14	Essex, Iowa.
Osborne, John Ball.....	Havre, France.....	Oct. 21	Department of State, Washington, D. C.
Mansfield, Robert E.....	Vancouver, Canada....	Sept. 15	Rushville, Ind.

**STEAMSHIP SERVICE BETWEEN JAPAN AND BRAZIL.**

[Commercial Attaché William C. Downs, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, July 28.]

A Japanese commission, representing a group of Japanese capitalists, manufacturers, and merchants, is at present in Brazil making a study of the economic and commercial conditions in Rio de Janeiro, São Paulo, Paraná, Santa Catharina, and Rio Grande do Sul, with a view to the possibility of establishing steamship service between Japan and Brazil via Singapore, Ceylon, Madagascar, and Cape of Good Hope.

[The plans of the Toyo Kisen Kaisha and of the Osaka Shosen Kaisha looking toward the establishment of a steamer service between Japan and the east coast of South America were noted in *COMMERCE REPORTS* for July 7, 1916.]

**NEW COMPANY TO MAKE RENNET IN NEW ZEALAND.**

[Consul General Alfred A. Winslow, Auckland, July 18.]

As a result of the continued shortage of rennet in New Zealand, a company has been organized for the manufacture of this product, with capital stock of £20,000 (\$97,330), which it is proposed to place with the cheese manufacturers on a basis of 1 share valued at £1 (\$4.87) to every 2 tons of cheese produced.

Rennet enters free of duty from all countries, with the exception of the special war tax of 1 per cent collected on all imports.

[The scarcity of rennet in New Zealand was previously noted in *COMMERCE REPORTS* for Mar. 1, 1916.]

**Trade and Other Publications for the Netherlands.**

Commercial Attaché Erwin W. Thompson, at The Hague, reports that the Bureau Voor Handelsinlichtingen of Amsterdam, Netherlands, a private commercial intelligence office subsidized by the Dutch Government, would be pleased to receive reports from American chambers of commerce, catalogues and samples of American business houses, and trade publications.

**PROPOSALS FOR GOVERNMENT SUPPLIES AND CONSTRUCTION.**

[Correspondence should be direct with the offices named, and specifications can usually be obtained at the points where the goods are to be delivered or the work is to be performed. In cases where the time limit is too short to permit firms to submit tenders, they should ask to be placed on the mailing lists of such offices to receive notices calling for future supplies or work of a similar nature.]

**Telephone supplies, No. 3532.**—Sealed proposals will be received at the office of the Chief Signal Officer, War Department, Washington, D. C., until September 1, 1916, for furnishing desk and wall telephones and parts. Specifications and full details may be obtained on application to the Chief Signal Officer.

**Panama Canal supplies, No. 3533.**—Sealed proposals will be received at the office of the general purchasing officer of the Panama Canal, Washington, D. C., until September 6, 1916, for furnishing, by steamer, free of all charges, on dock at either Colon (Atlantic port) or Port of Ancon (Balboa, Canal Zone) (Pacific port) Isthmus of Panama, sheet steel or iron, strap hinges, cotters, cap screws, chain blocks, snatch blocks, garbage cans, water coolers, steel office furniture (including bookcases, filing cabinets, desks, and wardrobes), electric motors, copper cable, chain bolts, cabin-door hooks, copper tacks, brass screws, wire staples, rat traps, metallic tapes, oil cans, ollers, whetstones, asbestos magnesite cement, tent files, doormats, coffee cups and pots, baker's deeps, roasting pans, aluminum pots, egg whips, bottles, hygienic drinking cups, paper towels, bond paper, scratch pads, bristol board, tag board, manila and linen tags, lumber crayons, and white-oak lumber. (Circular No. 1073).

**Portland cement, No. 3534.**—Sealed proposals will be received at United States Engineer Office, customhouse, Memphis, Tenn., until September 7, 1916, for furnishing about 50,000 sacks of Portland cement. Further information may be obtained from the United States Engineer Office.

**Bars and rods, No. 3535.**—Sealed proposals will be received at the office of the Chief Signal Officer, War Department, Washington, D. C., until September 7, 1916, for furnishing 7-foot digging bars and ground rods. Further information may be obtained from the Washington office.

**Lighting fixtures, No. 3536.**—Sealed proposals will be received at the Supervising Architect's Office, Washington, D. C., until September 13, 1916, for furnishing and installing lighting fixtures in the United States post offices at Ashland, Ky.; Batavia, N. Y.; Elyria, Ohio; Logan, Ohio; Merrill, Wis.; Middleton, Ohio; Muskegon, Mich.; Navasota, Tex.; New Braunfels, Tex.; Sidney, Ohio; Tulsa, Okla., and at Washington, Iowa, in accordance with drawings and specifications, copies of which may be had at the Washington Office, Treasury Department.

**Magnet wire and cords, No. 3537.**—Sealed proposals will be received at the office of the Chief Signal Officer, War Department, Washington, D. C., until September 9, 1916, for furnishing magnet wire and telephone cords. Specifications and full details may be obtained on application at the above named office.

**Iron shackles, No. 3538.**—Sealed proposals will be received by the Lighthouse Inspector, Tompkinsville, N. Y., until September 11, 1916, for furnishing 4,750 wrought iron shackles. Further information may be obtained on application at the above named office.

**Panama Canal supplies, No. 3539.**—Sealed proposals will be received at the office of the general purchasing officer of the Panama Canal, Washington, D. C., until September 18, 1916, for furnishing, by steamer, free of all charges, on dock at either Colon (Atlantic port) or Port of Ancon (Balboa, Canal Zone) (Pacific port), Isthmus of Panama, galvanized steel sheets, wire rope, sanitary fixtures, range boilers, cocks, drain boards, brass chains, gaskets, pipe fittings, valves, porous drain tile, electric wire, bell transformers, reflectors, shade holders, electrical attachments, electric switches, push buttons, fuses, circular loom, pliers, drills, rubber tape, soldering paste, and asbestos wood. (Circular 1076.)

**Remodeling of post office, No. 3540.**—Sealed proposals will be received at the Supervising Architect's Office, Treasury Department, Washington, D. C., until October 3, 1916, for the extension, remodeling, etc., of the post office and courthouse at Huntington, W. Va. Drawings and specifications may be obtained from the Custodian at Huntington, W. Va., or at the above named office.

**FOREIGN TRADE OPPORTUNITIES.**

Reserved addresses may be obtained from the Bureau and its district offices. Request for each opportunity should be on a separate sheet and state opportunity number. The Bureau does not furnish credit ratings or assume responsibility as to the standing of foreign inquirers; the usual precautions should be taken in all cases.

*Machine sieves*, No. 22273.—A paper mill in Switzerland has requested an American consular officer to secure offers for phosphor bronze machine sieves used in the paper industry. Size, width 2 meters, length 16 meters, besides other sizes generally used. Correspondence in French or German. Reference.

*Cacao*, No. 22274.—A shipper of cacao in West Africa writes the Bureau that he desires to get in touch with American manufacturers of cocoa products and others interested in the purchase of cacao beans.

*Leather and tanning products*, No. 22275.—An American consular officer in Spain reports that a commission merchant in his district is desirous of entering into commercial relations with manufacturers in the United States of leather and products relating to the tanning industry, with a view to their sale in that country on a commission basis. Correspondence in English. References.

*Machinery, etc.*, No. 22276.—The commercial attaché of the Department of Commerce in France writes that an engineer in that country desires to represent American manufacturers of machinery and supplies for coal mines and textile mills.

*Agricultural implements, etc.*, No. 22277.—An American consular officer in Brazil reports that a Brazilian commission agent, interested in representing American manufacturers, especially those handling marine engines and agricultural implements, has gone to Portugal, where he will open an office to take care of any American business he may secure. Correspondence in English.

*Hosiery, underwear, etc.*, No. 22278.—A firm of manufacturers' agents in Australia informs an American consular officer that it desires to represent American manufacturers of hosiery, underwear, etc.

*Trade journal*, No. 22279.—The Bureau is informed that a firm of exporters and importers in Argentina wishes to subscribe to an American periodical, daily or weekly, publishing market reports of general merchandise, with prices, stock reports, shipping notices, etc. Sample copies desired.

*Glassware, stationery, etc.*, No. 22280.—An American consular officer in East Africa reports that a wholesale and retail merchant in his district is in the market for shoes, cutlery, hosiery, glassware, stationery, etc.

*Soda*, No. 22281.—An American consular officer in Norway reports that a factory in his district is in the market for calcined soda. The quantity desired is 25 sacks of 100 kilograms each or about 5,500 pounds. Correspondence in Norwegian preferred.

*Office equipment, etc.*, No. 22282.—A commercial agent of the Bureau reports that a man in western Canada desires to represent American manufacturers of office equipment, stationery, wrapping paper, twines, and other lines generally carried by stationers, druggists, and general stores.

*Cement*, No. 22283.—An American consular officer in the West Indies writes that a business man in his district desires to represent an American manufacturer of Portland cement. Correspondence in English. Reference.

**OFFICES OF THE BUREAU OF FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC COMMERCE.****DISTRICT OFFICES.**

NEW YORK: Room 409, Customhouse.  
BOSTON: 18th floor, Customhouse.  
CHICAGO: 504 Federal Building.  
ST. LOUIS: 402 Third National Bank Building.  
ATLANTA: 521 Post Office Building.  
NEW ORLEANS: 1020 Hibernia Bank Building.  
SAN FRANCISCO: 307 Customhouse.  
SEATTLE: 848 Henry Building.

**COOPERATIVE OFFICES.**

CLEVELAND: Chamber of Commerce.  
CINCINNATI: Chamber of Commerce.  
CINCINNATI: C., N. O. & T. P. Ry. Co.  
LOS ANGELES: Chamber of Commerce.  
PHILADELPHIA: Chamber of Commerce.  
CHATTANOOGA: South American Agent, Southern Ry. Co.

# COMMERCE REPORTS



DAILY CONSULAR AND TRADE REPORTS

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## IMPORTATION OF TOBACCO INTO GERMANY PROHIBITED.

[Cablegram from American Embassy, Berlin, Aug. 28.]

The Department of State has received a cablegram from the American Ambassador at Berlin, Germany, which states that the German Government has prohibited, until further notice, the importation into Germany of tobacco, tobacco products, not including oriental and similar tobacco. Exceptions to this prohibition are permissible for consignments which were shipped to Germany from abroad by mail or rail prior to August 7 or to oversea shipments, purchased by firms residing in Germany, which arrived in Europe before August 7.

In the latter case an appropriate certificate is required from the German consul at the place from which the tobacco was shipped.

## CHANGES IN FRENCH EXPORT EMBARGOES.

[Cablegram from American consulate general, Paris, Aug. 29.]

Order 23 permits export to Great Britain, British Dominion Colonies and Protectorates, uninvaded Belgium, Japan, Russia, and United States of acetones, beeswax, raw or worked, menthol, coffee extracts, monazite, tea, talc, steatite. Decree 23 prohibits export tobacco of all kinds from colonies, protectorates, except Tunis, Morocco, subject usual exceptions.

[The prohibition against the exportation of the articles enumerated in the first paragraph was provided for by the decrees of July 28 and Aug. 2. See COMMERCE REPORTS for Aug. 1 and 11, 1916.]

## Waterworks Plant Purchased in the United States.

Consul General Frederic W. Goding reports from Guayaquil, Ecuador, under date of August 2, that the first order for machinery for the city waterworks of Cuenca, Ecuador, has been secured by a New York firm for 32,000 sucres, which at the present rate of exchange equals \$13,559.

**NOTES FROM NORWAY.**

[Consul General E. Haldeman Dennison, Christiania, Aug. 5.]

**New Zinc Industry.**

New works are about to be started at Drammen for the extraction of zinc by an electric wet process, invented by a Belgian engineer. Raw materials for the first year, about 10,000 tons, have been secured, and special attention will be paid to ores containing from 8 to 30 per cent zinc, which have hitherto been considered worthless.

**Scandinavian Commercial Cooperation.**

A meeting was recently held at Arendal of the Union of Norwegian Commercial Associations, at which representatives from similar associations in Sweden and Denmark were present to consider the subject of a common commercial policy for the three countries.

**Sulphite Refuse to Replace Coal.**

A factory is to be erected at Greaker, Fredriksstad, for the utilization of refuse from sulphite. A Swedish engineer has invented a method for extracting a substance from sulphite lye which, in powdered form, will be made into bricks and used as fuel. It is claimed that the powder thus formed yields 6,000 calories, while the best English coal gives 7,000.

A company has experimented with the invention in Sweden and has produced a powder with nearly as much heating power as first-class coal.

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**OIL EXTRACTING IN NICARAGUA.**

[Consul John A. Gamon, Corinto, Aug. 1.]

A vegetable oil extracting plant has recently been installed at Leon, Nicaragua. The machinery consists of three presses; one plate press, and two curb presses, all operated by hydraulic pressure from a steam engine of 14 horsepower. The capacity of the plant is 2,500 to 3,000 pounds of seed per day and the materials treated will be castor seed, coyol palm nut, peanut, coconuts, "talchocote," "burillo," wild almond, and cotton seed.

The machinery was purchased from a Richmond (Va.) company.

This is the first installation of this type undertaken in Nicaragua and the results of operation will be watched with interest.

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**THE NEW CENSUS IN NEW ZEALAND.**

[Consul General Alfred A. Winslow, Auckland, July 17.]

The regular census of New Zealand, which is ordered every five years, is to be taken beginning October 15, 1916, instead of in April, the usual time. It was originally intended to postpone the census in the interest of economy, but on account of objections from residents of the North Island, where the population is increasing much more rapidly than in the South Island, the Government has decided to take the census this year. This seems to be in the interest of a more equitable representation in the conduct of governmental affairs.



**DEVELOPMENT OF RUSSIAN-AMERICAN TRADE.**

Facts of interest to American business men who may desire to enter the Russian markets are given in a recent publication of the American-Russian Chamber of Commerce. The bulletin presents a summary of the incorporation laws of Russia and devotes special attention to the Russian press as an advertising medium.

The development of trade between the two countries, the commerce chamber states, involves particularly the establishment of American corporations in Russia for the purpose of selling American products and of undertaking the development of Russian business enterprises, and the securing of direct and permanent connections in the Russian market by the use of advertising.

During the past 10 years there has been a great increase in the number of joint stock companies incorporated in Russia, and many of these have the support of English, Belgian, French, and German capital. In 1913 there were 240 joint stock companies incorporated with \$205,602,930 capital. Twenty-one of these, with \$18,360,000 capital, were foreign. Representatives of American business may enter the Russian market in two ways—either by the establishment of companies in the United States for the purpose of doing business in Russia or by establishing companies under Russian laws. In order to do business in Russia it is necessary to secure special permission from the Imperial Russian Government, but the Russian business interests are now attempting to secure a change in the incorporation laws, and it is believed that in the future companies will be incorporated in Russia on the principle of registration instead of the now existing principle of special permission.

Russia has an extensive and well-established press. Just before the war there were approximately 2,167 papers and magazines published in 246 cities and towns, reaching every part of the empire. There is not only a daily metropolitan press, with large circulation, but the provincial press and the trade papers are thoroughly organized.

The booklet just issued presents a detailed list of all the more important publications, with their circulations and present advertising rates. The title of the bulletin is "The Russian Market: Its Possibilities and Problems." The organization has headquarters at 60 Broadway, New York City.

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**NEW LINE BETWEEN NEW ORLEANS AND COLON.**

[Consul Jullus D. Dreher, Colon, Panama, Aug. 15.]

It is announced that the J. G. Rainwater Lumber Co. of New Orleans has purchased the *San Ramon* and chartered five other vessels to establish a new line between New Orleans and Cristobal-Colon, to be known as the San Ramon Steamship Line of New Orleans. The principal business of the new line will be the transportation of lumber, for which the Rainwater company has received an order for 8,500,000 feet from the Panama Canal for use on the Canal Zone. It is said that the *San Ramon*, which will make a trip every 22 days, has already gone to Orange, Tex., to load a cargo of lumber.

**AUTOMOBILE CLUB ORGANIZED IN PERU'S CAPITAL.**

[Commercial Attaché William F. Montavon, Lima, Aug. 7.]

Yesterday a number of men in Lima who own cars met for the purpose of organizing themselves into a club with the intention of combining their efforts to secure better motoring conditions in Peru. The great drawback to the automobile business here, and the reason why there are not more enthusiasts, is the fact that the streets of Lima are narrow and rough and the surrounding country practically without roads. It is natural, therefore, that the first purpose of the new club should be the encouragement of road improvement and extension, and in a resolution adopted at its first meeting the importance of good roads in the general economic development of Peru was pointed out. One of the club's charter members has offered to construct, at his own expense, an avenue 100 feet in width through his extensive properties, thus completing a road from Lima to the sea at Magdalena, thence to Miraflores and back to Lima, a loop some 10 miles long.

I would suggest that automobile manufacturers in the United States forward to the new club—through this office for the present—literature dealing with the automobile business and with other matters which may be of interest to the club.

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**NEW ZEALAND BANK RETURNS SHOW BIG INCREASES.**

[Consul General Alfred A. Winslow, Auckland, July 18.]

The bank deposits in New Zealand continue to show marked increases. On June 30, 1916, they reached the total of \$161,382,318, against \$152,195,179 on March 31, 1916. The gain for the three months was \$9,187,139.

The Government deposits on June 30, 1916, amounted to \$25,992,027, an increase of more than \$7,299,750 for the June quarter. This was due to increased taxes collected and the disposition on the part of the Government to economize.

Shipments of produce for the first six months of 1916 showed an excess over imports amounting to \$43,718,626. Much of this excess is held on deposit in the banks of London; otherwise the deposits in this country would show a large additional increase.

The New Zealand Government has decided to ask for a \$77,864,000 war loan, instead of a \$58,398,000, which was first considered. It has been urged that a large proportion of this be taken by New Zealand investors, instead of making a foreign loan.

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**Interest Developed in South American Investments.**

The interest of United States investors in the South American field is indicated by a recent report from a commercial attaché in which he states that he had a conference with a representative of a prominent American investment firm, during which the representative stated that his firm was prepared to purchase South American municipal or State bonds in substantial amounts and that it would also be interested in industrials. The policy of this American firm was stated to be such as to preclude an interest in transactions involving construction contracts.

**BRITISH COLUMBIA SHIPPING NOTES.**

[Vice Consul G. C. Woodward, Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada, Aug. 12.]

**Record Alaskan Passenger Traffic.**

According to estimates made recently passenger traffic to Alaska during the first six months of 1916 broke all former records. There were 17,000 passengers carried to Alaska during this period, including all classes of travel on both American and Canadian vessels. Most of this traffic originated in Seattle.

**Valuable Silk Cargo—New Freight Basis.**

The Canadian Pacific steamer *Empress of Russia* on the last trip brought a cargo of silk consisting of 4,700 bales, valued at \$750 each, the total cargo amounting to about \$3,500,000. This is said to be the largest and most valuable cargo ever brought over by this company's steamers.

The Pacific Coast Steamship Co. has issued notice that it intends issuing freight tariffs, effective about August 15, 1916, applying between San Francisco and Puget Sound and British Columbia ports of call, also between the first-named port and Eureka, Cal., providing weight rates in all cases instead of rates per ton of 40 cubic feet or 2,000 pounds, carrier's option, as heretofore. The new freight rates will be inclusive of wharfage charges assessed by the various wharf companies.

**Charter Transfer—Additional Ore Vessel.**

The Pacific Alaska Navigation Co., operating the Admiral Line of steamers in the coastwise and Alaska trade, recently leased the *Yale* and *Harvard*, which have been under charter to the Pacific Navigation Co. and have been operated between lower California ports. It is stated that the vessels would remain on their present route, they having been chartered for a term of five years. The twin steamers are owned by the Metropolitan Steamship Co., of New York, and were built at a cost of \$2,500,000 six years ago for the New York-Boston run.

The British steamer *Turret Crown*, which was recently purchased by the Coastwise Steamship & Barge Co. of Vancouver, arrived on the Pacific coast a few days ago with a cargo of 3,000 tons of ore from Chile for the Tacoma smelter. This vessel formerly plied the St. Lawrence River as a coal carrier, and is now to be placed in the ore-carrying trade between Anyox, British Columbia, and Tacoma, Wash. Its tonnage is 3,205 gross.

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**AREA OF CANAL ZONE.**

The area of the Canal Zone within the limits of 5 miles on either side of the center line of the canal, including land and water, but not including the area within the 3-mile limit from the Atlantic and Pacific ends, is 441.5, made up of: Land area, 332.35 square miles; Gatun Lake, 106.4; Miraflores Lake, 1.9; and the area of the channels from the coast to Gatun and Miraflores Locks, 0.85 square mile. Including all the waters of Gatun Lake, over which the Panama Canal has absolute control, the total area of the Canal Zone, according to the Canal Record of August 16, is 502.5 square miles.

### PLAN FOR RUSSIANS TO STUDY AMERICAN BUSINESS.

[Consulate general, Moscow, July 31.]

The Russkoe Slovo, in its issue of July 29, 1916, presents a statement regarding a discussion of the plan to send a number of Russian students to the United States for a study of American business conditions and the features of commercial activities in that country. The paper says:

The Russian-American Chamber of Commerce discussed the question of sending Russian students to North America in order to make them acquainted on the spot with the commercial activity of the United States, with its industry, and with its system of doing business. It was stated that Russian young men wishing to specialize in the technics of trade and industry would become acquainted in America with the methods of conducting commercial business, and that they would receive the best technical education, which in no country is developed to such a degree as it is in America. By visits of Russian students to America, Russia will have the possibility of becoming closely acquainted with authoritative information on economic and commercial questions.

Considering that the question of sending Russian students abroad is very important, the Russian-American Chamber of Commerce has decided to apply first of all to the director of the Moscow Commercial Institute, Prof. Norgorodzev, stating that it would be desirable to send to America five students of the institute. At the same time the chamber of commerce would apply to the Government, asking it to provide funds for this trip.

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### RESTRICTED OUTPUT OF SCOTCH AND IRISH WHISKIES.

[Consul Rufus Fleming, Edinburgh, Scotland, Aug. 11.]

By an arrangement between the British Government and the whisky-distilling industry in regard to the coming season's output of the Scotch and Irish distilleries, the Scotch distillers will be restricted to an output of 70 per cent on the last five years' average production of malt whisky. The arrangement in Ireland is practically a 30 per cent reduction on last year's output. This arrangement does not include the large grain distilleries in either country, which are at present working almost exclusively on spirits for war purposes.

It is understood that the main object of this restriction is the saving of shipping tonnage, to be utilized for the importation of food products and other necessities. Normally a large quantity of foreign barley is used for the distillation of spirits.

It is expected that the new regulation will lead to a still further advance in the prices of all grades of whiskies.

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### DENSITY AND THERMAL EXPANSION OF PETROLEUM OILS.

The United States Bureau of Standards has published a report of experimental work on which are based the expansion tables of Circular No. 57, "United States Standard Tables for Petroleum Oils." It gives a detailed description of the methods and apparatus employed in the determination of the density and thermal expansion of petroleum oils from the various fields in the United States. This paper is of interest to oil producers and refiners throughout the country.

Copies of the report, Technical Paper No. 77, will be ready for distribution in a few days and may be obtained without charge upon application to the Bureau of Standards, Washington, D. C.

**TRADE CONDITIONS IN APIA.**

[Consul Mason Mitchell, Apia, Aug. 1.]

The largest copra crop ever shipped to San Francisco was in 1915, amounting in value to nearly \$600,000. The American sailing ships chartered for this trade in San Francisco come direct to Apia loaded with general merchandise and lumber, but oftentimes they are loaded for Australia or New Zealand and return to Apia in ballast, taking on a load of copra at this port for the return voyage to San Francisco.

The total value of the exports to the United States for 1915 was \$598,518, made up as follows: Copra, \$580,428; cocoa, \$6,407; rubber, \$11,279; kola nuts, \$51; kava, \$194; and curios, \$159.

**The Import Trade—Shipping.**

The largest import from the United States is lumber, and of the tinned goods coming next salmon is the principal commodity, as it is in great demand by both whites and natives. Australian flour is preferred to the American, and that country has the preference for biscuits, meats, and laundry soaps. Boots and shoes, machinery, motor cars, coal, oil products, and hardware are imported from the United States.

The lack of direct steamer service with San Francisco is a great handicap to American trade, for the freight rate with the Oceanic Steamship Line from that city to Sydney, Australia, via Honolulu and Pago Pago, American Samoa, to Apia, with the transshipment at Pago Pago, amounts to nearly \$20 per ton against \$14 with direct service between Sydney or Auckland and Apia.

The rate via the Oceanic line from San Francisco to Pago Pago is \$12, a distance of 4,700 miles; then in its transshipment to Apia a charge is made per package if the freight is placed on the wharf, and also the bank at Pago Pago charges \$1 per ton. The motor boat bringing it to Apia charges \$5 per ton, all of which is not conducive to augmenting or helping American trade.

In spite of these conditions, however, the year 1915 was the largest recorded with its imports from and its exports to San Francisco. So far, there has been a considerable decrease in the trade for the year, due to the embargo placed by the British administration on copra to any but its own or allied ports and the increase of the canker in the cocoa plantations. There is little prospect of improvement in conditions until the close of the war, for aside from commercial trade the tourist traffic, which is an asset to the wealth of all towns, has been to a great extent shut off.

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**BUILDERS OF CHILEAN RAILWAY SHOPS.**

[Commercial Attaché V. L. Havens, Santiago, Chile.]

The Ultimas Noticias of July 19, of Santiago, Chile, states that "the Compañía Holandesa de Cemento Armado has secured the contract for putting up the building of the new railway shops at San Bernardo at about \$550,000 United States gold. [The call for bids on this work appeared in COMMERCE REPORTS for Mar. 14.] This company is now constructing the port of San Antonio. Contracts will be signed in a few days and work will begin in October, 1916.

## TRADE IN PHOTOGRAPHIC DRY PLATES IN IRELAND.

[Consul Edward L. Adams, Dublin.]

The most popular brands of photographic dry plates in Dublin are those manufactured by Cadett & Neale (Ltd.), Wealdstone, Middlesex, England, and by Kodak (Ltd.), also an English product. Plates in inch sizes are used, the most popular being  $6\frac{1}{2}$  by  $4\frac{1}{2}$ , and  $3\frac{1}{2}$  by  $5\frac{1}{2}$  (post card). During the past 12 months it has been difficult to obtain the 5-by-7 plate, which is an odd size here. The prices per case can not be stated, as the sizes of the cases vary. The prices for  $6\frac{1}{2}$  by  $4\frac{1}{2}$  plates to dealers is 4s. (\$0.97) per dozen, with 30 days and 30 per cent off. The price for  $3\frac{1}{2}$  by  $5\frac{1}{2}$  plates is 36s. (\$8.75) per gross, with 30 days and 30 per cent off, free of all other cost. The  $6\frac{1}{2}$  by  $4\frac{1}{2}$  plates retail at 4s. (\$0.97) per dozen; the  $3\frac{1}{2}$  by  $5\frac{1}{2}$  plates at 3s. (\$0.73) per dozen. Dry plates imported are not dutiable.

### Most of Plates Now Imported Received from England.

Most of the photographic plates imported into Dublin come from England, and it is believed that shipments could best be forwarded at present via Liverpool or other English port. The Head Line, however, has occasional service from New Orleans and Baltimore for Dublin and Belfast.

For long-distance shipments cases are tin lined. Most of the plates imported into Dublin, however, come from England in ordinary packing cases, wrapped in heavy paper. Where tin lining is used, it is paid for by the manufacturer. The usual terms of sale are 30 days' draft against documents.

[The name of a firm in Dublin which handles photographic materials, and lists of ship and commercial brokers, shipping agents, and commercial agencies may be obtained from the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, its district or cooperative offices. Refer to file No. 79321.]

## RIVER PLATE EXPORTS OF MEAT.

The shipments of meat from Argentine and Uruguayan ports in the first half of 1916 show a large increase over the same period in 1915. The Revista Financiera y Comercial of July 22 gives the following figures:

Months.	Frozen mutton.	Frozen beef.	Chilled beef.
	<i>Carcasses.</i>	<i>Quarters.</i>	<i>Quarters.</i>
January.....	191,011	353,872	113,132
February.....	158,013	457,386	73,840
March.....	188,172	473,728	70,343
April.....	176,332	440,756	63,639
May.....	253,556	540,228	80,660
June.....	155,117	431,125	76,573
Total, 6 months.....	1,122,221	2,667,605	468,016
Total, same period in 1915.....	835,976	1,817,485	772,663

While the exports of frozen meat have increased, there has been a decrease in the exports of chilled meat. It has been found that the frozen meat, particularly in exports to the Continent, gives more satisfaction than the chilled meat, and can be handled to better advantage.

**HONGKONG CONSUMPTION TAX ON TOBACCO.**

[Vice Consul A. E. Carleton, Hongkong, British China, July 13.]

The Hongkong Legislative Council has passed a bill providing for the taxation of tobacco consumed in the colony, the ordinance taking effect July 13, 1916. This tax is the second one placed on goods entering the colony of Hongkong since its cession to Great Britain in 1842, the tax on wines and spirits having been established in 1911 and increased about 20 per cent in March, 1916. The tax on tobacco is instituted to provide revenue to meet the extraordinary war expenses.

The clause in this ordinance that is of special importance to American exporters of raw tobacco to Hongkong for the manufacture of Chinese cigarettes provides that such tobacco shall be liable to duty at the rate at which it would have been liable if it had been imported originally in its manufactured state. It is understood, however, that the duty will be levied on the manufactured article rather than on the tobacco in its raw state.

The following duties are provided for in the ordinance, the amounts in parentheses representing American gold, the conversion being based on the demand buying rate of 48½ cents to the Hongkong dollar:

(a) Cigars valued at not less than \$2.20 (\$1.06) per pound, and snuff of whatever value, per pound, \$1.50 (\$0.72).

(b) Cigars valued at less than \$2.20 (\$1.06) per pound but not less than \$1.60 (\$0.77) per pound, \$0.70 (\$0.34).

(c) Tobacco and cigarettes valued at not less than \$1.60 (\$0.77) per pound, and Egyptian, Russian, and Turkish cigarettes of whatever value, per pound, \$0.70 (\$0.34).

(d) Chinese, Indian, and Javanese tobacco, other than cigars and cigarettes, valued at not less than \$25 (\$12.06) per picul of 133½ pounds, \$10 (\$4.83) per picul.

(e) Chinese, Indian, and Javanese tobacco, other than cigars and cigarettes, valued at less than \$25 (\$12.06) per picul, \$6 (\$2.89) per picul.

(f) Tobacco, cigars, and cigarettes of any other kind not herein otherwise provided for, per pound, \$0.30 (\$0.14).

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**RAILWAY CONCESSIONS IN CHILE.**

The Chilean Government has granted a concession to The Potrerillos Railway Co. (Ltd.) to construct and exploit a branch railway from the Chañaral line to the stream of El Barquito, and official approval has been given to the transfer from William Braden to The Potrerillos Railway Co. of a concession to construct and operate a branch line from the State Railway near Pueblo Hundido to the mining district of Potrerillos in the Department of Chañaral. This company has also received a concession of water rights in the river La Ola in the same Department, according to a recent number of the *Diario Oficial*.

Permission to construct a branch line from the Antofagasta-Bolivia railway, uniting the station Salinas with the nitrate deposits, Los Penitentes and Carabana, has been granted to Emilio A. Carrasco. The Government has also granted to Alfredo Aldunate and Felix von J. Marteville permission to construct and exploit an electric railway between La Union, Rio Bueno. and Filuco, and a branch line from Rio Bueno to Lago Rauco.

**CHINA PRODUCES BAGS MADE OF MATTING.**

[Vice Consul A. E. Carleton, Hongkong, July 17.]

A general commission house in Hongkong has conceived the idea of placing on the foreign market a cheap bag made of matting, at a cost of about  $\frac{1}{2}$  cent gold per bag. It could be used for fish or other commodities bought in grocery stores. It is believed that this is the first time any attempt of the kind has been made, and in view of the high cost of cheap wrapping paper, importers in the United States might be interested in this makeshift product.

The bags, although not particularly handsome in appearance, are strong and apparently a good substitute for those made of paper. The producers think that about 30,000 can be made monthly. Samples which have been obtained are without handles with one exception. The makers ask \$3 Hongkong money (\$1.63 gold) per thousand for the addition of handles.

The prices per thousand furnished by the Hongkong firm, f. o. b. and c. i. f. New York, in United States currency, are: A quality, \$6.38 f. o. b. Hongkong, \$16.85 c. i. f. New York (approximately); B quality, \$6.86, f. o. b. Hongkong, \$17.33 c. i. f. New York (approximately); C quality, \$17.37 f. o. b. Hongkong, \$27.84 c. i. f. New York (approximately); D quality, \$7.34 f. o. b. Hongkong, \$17.81 c. i. f. New York (approximately); E quality, \$7.34 f. o. b. Hongkong, \$17.81 c. i. f. New York (approximately).

[Samples of bags made from matting, representing the five grades mentioned in this report, may be inspected at the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce or its district or cooperative offices. Refer to file No. 79612.]

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**STEEL-FRAME CAR CONSTRUCTION.**

[Consul E. V. Richardson, Moncton, New Brunswick, Canada. Aug. 21.]

The Canadian Government Railway shops in Moncton recently completed four steel-frame baggage cars, being the first equipment of this character to be built at these works. The cars have solid steel trucks so designed that the wheels can be changed quickly with a minimum amount of labor. The draft gear is constructed to absorb shock in starting and stopping, and is of sufficient strength to withstand the heaviest type of engine. Westinghouse brakes of the latest pattern are used.

Another feature is the side doors, which are brought closer together than in ordinary cars to permit of through baggage or express matter being loaded in the end of the car; the floors are fitted with hardwood strips, instead of "fish-racks," as being more readily kept clean, especially when the car is used for carrying shipments of fish.

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**VENEZUELAN LAW ON MORTGAGE BONDS.**

The Congress of Venezuela has recently passed a law governing the issue and payment of mortgage bonds. Under the provisions of this law, published in the *Gaceta Oficial* of July 31, mortgage bonds will be issued for not more than two-thirds of the value of unencumbered property and for a period of not more than 10 years. Requirements for the payment of interest and amortization are set forth in detail in the new law.



**CHILE POSTPONES DATE OF CURRENCY CONVERSION.**

[Commercial Attaché V. L. Havens, Santiago.]

The *Mercurio* of July 12 contains the text of an Executive message regarding the postponement of the date of the conversion of Chile's paper currency, which, with the approval of the Council of State, will be presented to the Chilean Legislature. The message reads:

According to the terms of law 2906 of December 31, 1914, the conversion of the paper currency should be made on next January 1 at the rate of 18d. per peso. The same law orders that the conversion funds actually deposited in different banks of Europe and the United States should be brought to the country during the first six months of the present year.

The Government believes that, owing to present circumstances and the present situation of international exchange, it is not possible to effect the conversion ordered by the law, because its execution would cause serious harm and because the moving of these funds would be extremely difficult by reason of the high freight rates and war insurance that would have to be paid. The Government feels that it is not in a position to carry out such an operation, nor does prudence counsel it at the present time when the entire world is affected by the European war. It becomes necessary, therefore, to postpone the date of conversion of the paper money for a proper period until the situation is relieved. For these reasons I have the honor of submitting the following proposed law for your consideration:

The period fixed by law No. 2192, of August 30, 1900, for the conversion of the paper money is postponed until January 1, 1919. The other conditions in the same law are also postponed for a period of two years. The present law shall be in force on its publication in the *Diario Oficial*.

**JAPANESE EMIGRANTS TO SOUTH AMERICA.**

[Extract from Japan Advertiser, forwarded by Consul General George H. Scidmore, Yokohama, July 26.]

With a passenger list that broke all records in the transportation of Oriental emigrants, the *Kiyo Maru* of the Toyo Kisen Kaisha weighed anchor from Yokohama for South American ports. Of the 931 steerage passengers all but a very few were bound for South America.

Since the gentleman's agreement with the United States, the number of Japanese emigrants to South America has increased in great numbers. The policy of Australia has also made the Southern Continent attractive to people from this country. Yesterday's list of emigrants is said to represent the largest number of steerage passengers that ever crossed the Pacific on one ship.

The steamer also carried 45 young Japanese girls on their way to South America to become the brides of Japanese who have already located there.

Brazil is most attractive to the Japanese, who find the land cultivation profitable.

**PHILIPPINE SLEEPERS FOR CHINESE RAILWAY.**

[Vice Consul P. R. Josselyn, Canton, China, July 20.]

A Philippine lumber company recently obtained the contract for supplying \$38,000 (gold) worth of sleepers to the Canton-Hankow Railway. The first shipment on this contract has already been delivered. The manager of the lumber company states it is his intention to establish a branch office in Canton in the near future.

## HOSIERY TRADE OF NOTTINGHAM DISTRICT.

[Consul C. M. Hiltch, Nottingham, England, Aug. 3.]

Conditions obtaining in the Nottingham hosiery trade to-day differ little from those of a month ago, but it is reported that manufacturers are becoming somewhat concerned about the falling off in orders for future delivery. For the present there are enough orders to keep machinery well employed, and, therefore, there is no cause for immediate anxiety.

Considering the high prices of wool, it is not surprising that heavyweight cashmere goods are somewhat slow in moving in large quantities. This applies to men's fashioned half hose and the best qualities of seamless goods, women's fashioned plain and ribbed hose, and also men's and women's fashioned wool underwear. During July another advance was made in the price of dyeing materials, which will have a tendency to hinder rather than to help the sale of goods which were already high in price. Nevertheless, it is reported that a satisfactory business is being done throughout the trade.

### Favored Styles in Women's Hosiery.

The lines most in demand in women's hosiery are cashmere hose, both seamless and fashioned, quantities of the latter being made with seamless feet. Black appears to be the predominating color, although a good line of fancy shades is being shown. Embroidered clocks and fancy sides are selling quite freely. There is a good demand for black and fancy colors, both plain and embroidered, in cotton, mercerized, and lisle thread hose. The same is true of the popular lines of cotton and artificial silk, or silk and cotton, in combinations of various styles and prices. Manufacturers of the more expensive silk hosiery are also doing a very satisfactory business.

The heavy demand hitherto existing for light and medium weight underwear continues, the cut article being most in demand on account of the lower price, in the merino finish, cotton and wool plated, and mixed fabrics. It is reported that the sale of these goods is tremendous.

Yarns continue to bring high prices, although slight fluctuations have occurred in cotton and lisle thread. In the main, however, prices are very firm.

### Press Views of the "American Invasion."

In the August issue of the Hosiery Trade Journal, published at Leicester, England, the following items appeared:

No material change has taken place in the trade of this district during the past month. There is still a large quantity of Government orders on hand, but the rush experienced for some time past no longer exists. In the cotton branch there is a marked falling off, and I hear firms are arranging for going on short time, for stocks are accumulating too fast, as merchants have bought so largely from America, Japan, etc., that they do not require British goods. No doubt, the advantage of selling is in favor of the neutral countries which are exporting, as they have not the excessive expenses that the British manufacturer has during the existing troublous times. The danger is that these imported lines will get established to the detriment of British goods of the same class. \* \* \*

The enormous importation of hosiery from the United States is, however, principally affecting the trade of Hinckley district. This is reaching a pitch absolutely unprecedented in the history of the industry. In May, 1914, the

importation of cotton hosiery of all kinds was £192,944 [\$938,960]; in 1915 it was £133,235 [\$648,390]; and in 1916, £414,303 [\$2,016,200]. Not only this, but the Americans have also taken the whole of the overseas trade in cotton hosiery with Australia, New Zealand, Canada, and the Cape.

### CACAO DISEASE FOUGHT IN ECUADOR.

[Consul General Frederic W. Goding, Guayaquil, July 25.]

The cacao growers in Ecuador are deeply concerned over the appearance of a contagious disease which, when it attacks the fruit, completely destroys it. According to Señor Augusto N. Martinez, director of the agricultural experiment station at Ambato, the malady is caused by a fungus included in the *Peronosporaceæ*, and bearing the name *Phytophthora cactorum*, of Cohn and Lebert, formerly known as *P. omnivora*, Bary, and *Peronospora fagi* of Har-tigs, or a closely allied species.

The growth develops in the moisture on the outside of the pod, entering it through some aperture doubtless due to some insect, and destroys it. The development of the fungus requires considerable moisture and a comparatively low temperature. It is checked at 30° C., and dies in four hours at 40° C.

As solutions of copper salts have failed to destroy the fungus, better cultural methods have been recommended.

[Copies of the complete report from the experiment station on the investigation of this disease, in English and Spanish, will be loaned by the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, its district or cooperative offices. Refer to file No. 79574.]

### NEW DEVELOPMENT PROJECT IN COSTA RICA.

[Consul C. Donaldson, Port Limon, Aug. 1.]

The Costa Rican Congress has approved the contract granted to an American citizen whereunder a vast unimproved area on the north-eastern coast of the Republic will be opened up by connecting the numerous lagoons and rivers from Tortuguera Bay to Moin, 4 miles north of Port Limon. The tract is especially adapted to the culture of bananas, cocoa, corn, and sugar, and to cattle grazing, with climatic conditions so favorable that vegetation is always green and several crops of grass or corn can be produced each year.

Under the terms of the contract as approved by the Costa Rican Congress the Government will sell 20,000 hectares (about 50,000 acres) of land in the reserved zone known as the Astua-Pirie for \$50 gold per hectare, and the contractor on his part agrees to organize in the United States within six months a company capitalized at \$6,000,000.

### EXTRA SESSION OF URUGUAYAN CONGRESS.

The Congress of Uruguay was convened by the President in extra session on July 19 to consider, among others, the following projects: Establishment of a military aviation school, national control of lighterage service, municipal budget for Montevideo, municipal laundries, sewerage system in Montevideo, old-age pensions, and regulation of the work of women and children.

**AMERICAN CONSULAR OFFICERS ON LEAVE OF ABSENCE.**

The following American consular officers are on leave of absence in the United States and will be glad to confer with business men and commercial organizations relative to conditions in their respective jurisdictions. The consul's time is available primarily for personal interviews. He has limited facilities for correspondence, and except in urgent cases letters should be directed to the consulate.

Name.	Post.	Expiration of venue.	Address.
Hale, F. D.....	Huddersfield, England	Sept. 5	Lunenburg, Vt.
Masterson, William W.....	Durban, Natal, South Africa.	Sept. 1	Carrollton, Ky.
Monaghan, J. C.....	Kingston, Jamaica....	Sept. 1	Avenue A and Fourteenth Street, Bayonne, N. J.
Jewell, John F.....	Chefoo, China.....	Oct. 1	Galesburg, Ill.
Kemper, Graham H.....	Erfurt, Germany.....	Sept. 10	Department of State, Washington, D. C.
Goodler, James H.....	Niagara Falls, Canada.	Sept. 1	27 South Hawk Street, Albany, N. Y.
Hazeltine, Ross.....	Port Antonio, Jamaica.	Oct. 1	Department of State, Washington, D. C.
Laing, James Oliver.....	Karachi, India.....	Sept. 30	C/o University Club, Kansas City, Mo.
Leonard, Walter A.....	Colombo, Ceylon.....	Oct. 14	Essex, Iowa.
Osborne, John Ball.....	Havre, France.....	Oct. 21	Department of State, Washington, D. C.
Mansfield, Robert E.....	Vancouver, Canada....	Sept. 15	Rushville, Ind.

**MERCHANTMAN MAKES FIRST IQUITOS-CALLAO VOYAGE.**

[Commercial Attaché William F. Montavon, Lima, Peru, Aug. 5.]

On August 4 the steamer *Yurimaguas* arrived in Callao from Iquitos, having the distinction of being the first merchant ship to make the trip from the latter port, on the headwaters of the Amazon in eastern Peru, down the Amazon River, across the Atlantic, through the Caribbean Sea and the Panama Canal, and down the west coast of South America to this city. The *Yurimaguas*, which is a river boat 141 feet in length, with a speed of 10 knots, left Iquitos on May 29.

The vessel's owner, Don Luis Felipe Morey, who is a wealthy rubber planter, states that it is his intention to establish a regular line of steamers between Iquitos and Callao.

**New Borax Fields in Chile.**

Commercial Attaché V. L. Havens, of Santiago, Chile, has forwarded a statement from La Crónica Mercantil, of Valparaiso, that new fields of calcium borate are said to have been found near Iquique, and that 150 claims, or 18,750 acres, have been solicited. Average values of 15, 20, 30, 40, and 60 per cent of borax are given.

**OFFICES OF THE BUREAU OF FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC COMMERCE.****DISTRICT OFFICES.**

NEW YORK: Room 409, Customhouse.  
 BOSTON: 18th floor, Customhouse.  
 CHICAGO: 504 Federal Building.  
 ST. LOUIS: 402 Third National Bank Building.  
 ATLANTA: 521 Post Office Building.  
 NEW ORLEANS: 1020 Hibernia Bank Building.  
 SAN FRANCISCO: 807 Customhouse.  
 SEATTLE: 848 Henry Building.

**COOPERATIVE OFFICES.**

CLEVELAND: Chamber of Commerce.  
 CINCINNATI: Chamber of Commerce.  
 CINCINNATI: C. N. O. & T. P. Ry. Co.  
 LOS ANGELES: Chamber of Commerce.  
 PHILADELPHIA: Chamber of Commerce.  
 CHATTANOOGA: South American Agent, Southern Ry. Co.

**PROPOSALS FOR GOVERNMENT SUPPLIES AND CONSTRUCTION.**

[Correspondence should be direct with the offices named, and specifications can usually be obtained at the points where the goods are to be delivered or the work is to be performed. In cases where the time limit is too short to permit firms to submit tenders, they should ask to be placed on the mailing lists of such offices to receive notices calling for future supplies or work of a similar nature.]

**Navy Department supplies, No. 3541.**—Sealed proposals will be received at the Bureau of Supplies and Accounts, Navy Department, Washington, D. C., to which bureau firms desiring to submit proposals should apply, giving schedule numbers, for the supply of the following: Schedule 41, furnishing and installing water filters; schedule 42, countersinks, United States standard bolt dies, high-speed twist drills, taper bridge reamers, and machine screw taps; schedule 43, heavy duty engine lathe; schedule 44, torpedo bronze; schedule 45, 10-horsepower induction motor; schedule 46, unbleached bobbinet head and bunk nets, 120-volt  $\frac{1}{2}$ -horsepower direct-current motors, socket wrenches, and ingot copper; schedule 47, yellow pine; schedule 48, firsts and seconds cypress and yellow pine; schedule 49, 5-gallon alcohol and 12-inch outlet pressure blower; schedule 50, electric arc welding and cutting outfit; schedule 51, tinned apricots; schedule 52, momic cloth, 36-inch wide bleached muslin, 72-inch wide bleached cotton sheeting, and 36-inch wide cotton mattress ticking; schedule 53, muriatic acid, (liquid) ammonia, calcium carbide, dry lampblack, and tallow; schedule 54, complete diving apparatus, woven fabric belting, stateroom carafes, rain bath (shower) heads, oil-burning deck lanterns, ship lavatories, oil-burning running lights, white ash oars, 4 and 6 inch handy-billy pumps, hand swabs, white unglazed floor tile, four-ply 15-thread cotton line, bells for motor boats, ratchet braces, cement cans, and window glass; schedule 55,  $\frac{3}{8}$ -inch rubber air hose, rubber-lined cotton fire hose, canvas-laid rubber fire hose, canvas-laid rubber garden hose, and canvas-laid rubber suction hose; schedule 56, handled chopping axes, chisels, sockets, gauges, etc., "C" clamps, quick adjusting screw clamps, emery cloth, files, handled copper hammers, hammers, sledges, machinist's etc., birch handle tool holders, chest, cylinder and drawer locks, cylinder wardrobe locks, 36-inch wide copper mesh, 42-inch wide galvanized-wire mesh, micrometers and calipers, galvanized-iron swedes nails, brass nuts, flint paper, 1-gallon galvanized paint pots, drawer pulls, brass machine screws, brass wood screws, black and galvanized iron or steel spikes, flathead copper tacks, vises, pipe wrenches, and knife handle screw wrenches; schedule 57, brass tubing, ingot regulus of antimony, bar copper, and sheet copper; schedule 58, steel wire casting brushes, crucibles with covers, Albany brass molding sand, castor oil, and brass nuts; schedule 59, single conductor wire and twin conductor wire; schedule 60, whisk brooms, black metal buttons, and 27-inch wide twills; schedule 61, emery cloth, files, sand, flint, and garnet paper, vises, pipe wrenches, and knife handle screw wrenches; schedule 62,  $\frac{3}{8}$ -inch rubber air hose, upper deck fire hose, and canvas-laid rubber wash deck hose; schedule 63, galvanized, malleable-iron pipe fittings, and 54-56 inch wide artificial leather; schedule 64, locomotive crane and lifting magnet; schedule 65, truck (electric) and crane; schedule 66, armor plates; schedule 67, main feed water heaters; schedule 68, D. C. 120 V. blowers; schedule 69, carbon steel twist drills; schedule 70, 10 K. W. electrolytic generators; schedule 71, radio transmitting sets; schedule 72, antennas, masts, transmitting sets, generators, etc.; schedule 73, radio wave meters; schedule 74, radio receivers; and schedule 75, radio transmitting sets.

**Bituminous coal, No. 3542.**—Sealed proposals will be received by the Lighthouse Inspector, Ketchikan, Alaska, until September 15, 1916, for furnishing approximately 800 tons steam and 200 tons sacked bituminous coal, to be delivered at Ketchikan and Juneau, Alaska. Further information may be obtained from the Inspector.

**Medical supplies, No. 3543.**—Sealed proposals will be received at the Medical Supply Depot, United States Army, 543 Greenwich Street, New York, N. Y., until September 6, 1916, for furnishing and delivering acetic acid, ether, ammonia, benzine, camphor, codain sulphate, etc.

**Building fog signal house, No. 3544.**—Sealed proposals will be received by the Lighthouse Inspector, Boston, Mass., until September 21, 1916, for building a fog signal house, Wings Neck Light Station, Pocasset, Mass. Further information may be obtained from the Boston office.

## FOREIGN TRADE OPPORTUNITIES.

Reserved addresses may be obtained from the **Bureau** and its **district offices**. Request for each opportunity should be on a separate sheet and **state opportunity number**. The **Bureau** does not furnish credit ratings or assume responsibility as to the standing of foreign inquirers; the usual precautions should be taken in all cases.

- Printers' supplies*, No. 22284.—A man in France informs an American consular officer of his desire to be placed in touch with American firms dealing in printers' supplies, such as composing sticks, printers' pinchers, metal composing galleys, typometers, etc. Correspondence in French. Reference.
- Machinery*, No. 22285.—The Bureau is informed that a man in Argentina desires to be placed in touch with manufacturers of a fully equipped machine for the manufacture of snap fasteners for clothing. Sample of the snap fastener which it is desired to manufacture may be inspected at the Bureau or its district offices. (Refer to Miscel. No. 144.)
- Wearing apparel, soap, etc.* No. 22286.—An American consular officer in the Far East writes that a firm in his district desires to enter into commercial relations with American exporters of wines, spirits, beer, soap, shoes and shoe polish, hats, handkerchiefs, hosiery, neckwear, singlets, perfumery, fancy goods, watches, cigarettes and tobacco, articles for aerated-water manufacturers, cheap paper for lithographers and printers, cheap cigarette paper, stationery, hand machinery for preparing rice from paddy, filters for filtering wines and spirits, etc. Reference.
- Paper felt*, No. 22287.—A paper mill in Switzerland has requested an American consular officer to secure offers for paper felt used in paper mills, such as wool felt, wheat felt, dry felt, rotation felt, etc. Correspondence in French or German. Reference.
- Dry goods, novelties, etc.*, No. 22288.—A man in South Africa desires to secure the exclusive agency for that territory of American firms handling dry goods, knitted goods, hosiery, celluloid goods, and novelties. References.
- Clothing, leather, etc.*, No. 22289.—The commercial agent of the Bureau in New York City reports that an Australian business man who is now in that city wishes to form commercial relations with American manufacturers and exporters of fancy leather bags and purses for women, chiffon and georgette cloths, and ready-to-wear cheap suits for men. The man wishes to travel in Australia and New Zealand, acting on a commission basis.
- Machinery*, No. 22290.—An American consular officer in the United Kingdom reports that an oil refinery in his district desires to receive proposals from American manufacturers in a position to supply the requisite machinery and equipment for a plant for the production of edible oils under the vacuum process.
- General representation*, No. 22291.—A man in France informs an American consular officer of his desire to represent American manufacturers and exporters in that country. No particular line is specified. Correspondence in English.
- Oil nuts*, No. 22292.—An American consular officer in Brazil transmits the name of a firm in his district which desires to communicate with American importers and others interested in the purchase of oil nuts for medicinal and other purpose. Further information may be obtained from the Bureau or its district offices.
- Machinery*, No. 22293.—One of the leading wool exporting firms in New Zealand informs an American consular officer of its desire to get into communication with manufacturers of wool carbonizing machinery, capable of treating at least eight or ten bales of wool per day.
- Umbrella frames*, No. 22294.—A wholesale dealer in Spain informs an American consular officer that he is in the market for steel and iron frames for umbrellas and sunshades. Correspondence in English. References.
- Paper*, No. 22295.—A manufacturing company in the United States informs the Bureau that one of its customers in Chile is in the market for typewriter paper. Reference. A sample of the paper desired may be inspected at the Bureau or its district offices. (Refer to Miscel. No. 145.)

# SEP 25 1916 COMMERCE REPORTS



DAILY CONSULAR AND TRADE REPORTS  
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### ALBERTA BREEDERS HOLD ANNUAL WOOL SALE.

[Consul Harold D. Clum, Calgary, Alberta, Canada, Aug. 24.]

The annual wool sale of the Alberta Sheep Breeders' Association was held at Calgary on August 4. A total of 280,515 pounds of wool was disposed of for \$83,867, the average price being 29.9 cents a pound.

### CUBA'S GREATEST SUGAR CROP.

[Consul Henry M. Wolcott, detailed as vice consul at Habana, Aug. 15.]

Figures presented in the August 14 issue of Himely's Sugar Review indicate that Cuba's sugar production in the present year will be somewhat in excess of the estimate of 3,000,000 tons that has been the consensus of opinion of experts, and will surpass by approximately 500,000 tons the largest previous production. Mr. Himely's figures, in tons of 2,240 pounds, are: Total arrivals to date, 2,939,556; total exportation, 2,439,734; consumption, 51,946; in stock, 447,876. There were five mills still grinding during the week ending August 12.

### AUSTRALIAN WHEAT POOL TO CONTINUE ANOTHER YEAR

[Melbourne correspondence in London Economist for Aug. 12.]

Several important steps have lately been taken in connection with the Australian wheat pool. It is announced that a sale of 200,000 tons of wheat has been made to the French Government for delivery spread over 12 months, at current prices; that is, the prices ruling at present. Arrangements have been made with the British Government to advance sufficient money against the unsold wheat in the pool to enable the Government to liquidate the overdraft with the banks in Australia.

The accounts of the pool in its present form are to be closed on September 30, but the pool will require to be continued into next year, as it appears impossible to dispose of all the wheat this year, while the freight question will apparently continue to be more or less acute until the war terminates.

[For earlier references to the Australian wheat pool see COMMERCE REPORTS for Dec. 11, 1915, and May 18, 1916.]

**CONDITION OF SICILIAN FRUIT CROPS.**

[Consul Samuel H. Shank, Palermo, Italy, Aug. 3.]

The average production of lemons in Sicily for the last five years was 558,800 tons, while the production for 1915 was 600,000. It is estimated that the yield for this year will be a little below the average.

This year's crop would probably have been above the average had it not been for the hot winds which blew on the 3d and 4th of July. The heat was unprecedented, reaching 45° C. (113° F.). Perhaps one-half of the summer crop had been gathered before the heat wave came, but that remaining on the trees, which would have been gathered in July, August, and September, was largely destroyed. Possibly one-fourth of it will be usable. Some orchards that were favorably situated and some fruit that was protected were saved, but this was a small proportion.

**Lemons for the American Market.**

Lemon shipments from Palermo to the United States for the first seven months of 1915 amounted to 1,294,184 boxes, while for the like period this year the number of boxes was 1,037,095, a reduction of 257,089 boxes. The number shipped in July was 4,920 less than last year.

Because of the destruction of the young fruit by heat, a lack of water, and a scarcity of labor, the crop of 1916-17 will probably not amount to more than half a normal one. The quantity available for export to the United States will depend on many conditions which are not yet to be foreseen. The opening of the markets of Europe might take all the fruit not needed for domestic consumption, leaving practically nothing for the American market. Should the conditions of the European market remain the same and the price in America continue high, naturally all that could be spared from domestic use would be shipped to the United States. In any event it seems that the shipment to the United States of the winter crop which commences in November will be materially reduced.

**Grapes and Olives.**

The grape crop of 1915 in Sicily was 423,300 tons; the average for the five years ending with 1915 was 669,900 tons. At present (August 1) it appears that the crop will be a medium one, but this can not be stated definitely yet. The hot winds did not damage the crop to any great extent, and the prospects for a normal crop are considered good.

It was believed that the olive crop would be somewhat larger than the average, but the heat has damaged the crop some and it will probably be 10 per cent short. The average for the last five years was 172,400 tons.

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**Concession for Sulphur Plant in Chile.**

A concession of mountain land near Antofagasta has been granted to the firm of Errazuriz y Paulsen for the establishment of a sulphur plant. The concession is for five years, the Chilean Government reserving the right to terminate it sooner, according to the decree in the *Diario Oficial* of July 18.



**CHINESE TRADE IN FOREIGN SUNDRIES AFFECTED.**

[Consul Albert W. Pontius, Foochow, July 21.]

Imports of foreign sundries into the Foochow district during the past year amounted to more than \$2,000,000. About 20 native firms are handling foreign sundries on a large scale. Such firms are styled "Su Kuang," from the fact that formerly all of the sundries were received from Soochow (Su) and Canton (Kuang), although the foreign article has now replaced the native product to a large extent.

Existing financial conditions have operated to make the trade in general less extensive than in the preceding year. The resultant accumulation of stocks has caused a considerable decline in prices during the past few months.

**Low Japanese Prices an Important Factor.**

About 50 per cent of the trade in foreign sundries is in the Japanese manufactured articles, the cheapness of which is the chief appealing factor. Since the outbreak of the war, the Japanese articles have largely replaced the imports from Germany, Austria, and Belgium.

Most of the foreign sundries are imported from Hongkong by the native merchants here through brokers or agents at that place, and only a small share of the total is purchased in Shanghai.

The British manufacturer has had a good trade in sundries in the past, on account of the location of British firms in this port and the near-by trade centers of Hongkong and Shanghai. American manufacturers have no effective representation in this port, and their trade, as a result, is a negligible quantity.

**Classes of Foreign Sundries Chiefly in Demand.**

Foreign sundries in popular demand are shell, bone, and porcelain buttons, candles, enamelled ware, basins, mugs, cuspidors, ewers, chambers, window glass, handkerchiefs, hats and caps, lamps and lampware, mirrors, needles, perfumery, cotton thread on spools, shirts, washing and toilet soap, toilet wax, and umbrellas. Full particulars concerning these articles, with prices, may be obtained by interested inquirers upon application to this consular office.

[A list of native firms in Foochow which have facilities for handling correspondence in English may be obtained from the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, its district or cooperative offices. Refer to file No. 79647.]

**SHIPBUILDING ACTIVITY ALONG THE BAY OF FUNDY.**

[Consul E. Verne Richardson, Moncton, New Brunswick, Canada, Aug. 23.]

The neighborhood of Parrsboro, Nova Scotia, on the Minas Basin, one of the arms of the upper Bay of Fundy, and known locally as the "seaport town" of Cumberland County, is feeling the effect of the general present demand for ocean tonnage. Along the adjacent shore four large wooden sailing vessels are on the stocks. At Parrsboro proper a good sized three-masted schooner has recently been laid down, while at Advocate and Port Greville, near-by towns, several ocean-going craft are in course of construction. Ship carpenters and woodworkers are in demand and are receiving excellent wages.

**SCIENCE CONQUERS OBSTACLE TO PINEAPPLE GROWTH.**

[A. P. Taylor, correspondent, Honolulu, July 28.]

A discovery which may greatly increase the output of pineapples in the Hawaiian Islands has been announced by M. O. Johnson, chemist of the United States experiment station in Honolulu. He has developed a method of neutralizing the action of manganese on pineapples grown on soils heavily impregnated with this mineral.

An area variously estimated at 6,000 to 10,000 acres on this island has black-top soils which are impregnated with manganese in proportions up to 2 or 3 per cent of the weight per acre-foot. When pineapples are planted on these soils they grow well for a time, but as the harvest time approaches the leaves drop and become yellow. The fruit usually forms, but does not develop properly, and it ripens before attaining full maturity, or, on the worst lands, fruit hardly forms at all.

The manganese pineapple is not good to eat out-of-hand and is hardly worth canning, for no sugar is formed and the juices have a peculiar acidity. In years past much good money that has been put into pineapple plantations has vanished because of the poor crops of unsalable fruit produced on fields containing abnormal quantities of manganese.

The subject has been investigated by the Hawaii experiment station. Bulletins 26 and 28 and press bulletin 23 dealt with it. From a practical standpoint, all that had been accomplished until recently was to advise prospective planters to have chemical analyses made of their soils, and if they found manganese present, not to plant pineapples.

**Poor Results Obtained from Fertilizer Experiments.**

Fertilizer experiments have been undertaken, but no results were obtained except from barnyard manure. When manure was added to the fields at the rate of 12 or more tons per acre, the pineapple grower sometimes had a fairly normal crop of the ripened product and sometimes did not. Stable manure at the rate of 12 tons per acre was an expensive proposition, and had it not been for the Army post at Leilehua, even enough manure for experimental purposes would not have been obtainable.

In the investigations conducted during the past year, charts were prepared, and soil and pineapple-plant analyses plotted, with the result that it was observed that the manganese dioxide present in the soils was alkaline in its reaction and that when it occurred in unusual proportions it rendered all the iron in the soil insoluble. It therefore appeared that the sick pineapples were dying for lack of iron, although chemical analyses showed as high as 20 to 30 per cent of iron present in the soils. The case was parallel to that of the "ancient mariner" who saw "water, water everywhere, but not a drop to drink."

There was an abundance of iron in the Kunia and Wahiawa soils, but it was locked up with the manganese so firmly that the pineapple roots could not get hold of any of it. The experiments proved that it was lack of soluble iron that was causing the trouble. By means of the simple expedient of injecting a hypodermic needleful of iron sulphate solution into a yellow and discouraged-looking pineapple plant, a change was produced, for it promptly turned green, took on a new lease of life, and grew as all proper pineapples should grow.

**Field Experiments Show Method of Treatment.**

It would be out of the question to inject iron into each individual pineapple plant, and field experiments were undertaken to find some other way. No results were obtained by putting iron salts into the soil, where they could be taken up by the roots in the usual way, so the plan of painting or wetting the leaves with a copperas solution was tried and proved successful. Sick pines, with yellow, droopy leaves, were able to absorb enough iron through their leaves to satisfy their needs.

The ripening of the pines has been watched with considerable interest, as some doubts were felt as to the flavor of the pineapples themselves. The palatability tests, just performed, have indicated no appreciable difference between the flavor of the treated pines grown on manganese soil and the normal pines grown on the best pineapple land. The intense acidity of the untreated pines on manganese soil is well known to those familiar with local pineapple problems.

The details of the application of this method have not been fully perfected, as the most suitable strength of solution, the number of sprayings, and other matters are being worked out. Some of them are best determined by the pineapple growers themselves, especially where the individual facilities for work may vary considerably.

**SUCCESSFUL OPERATION OF AGRARIAN PLEDGE LAW.**

[Consul General W. Henry Robertson, Buenos Aires, Argentina, July 26; supplementing article published in *COMMERCE REPORTS* for Apr. 21, 1916, p. 282.]

The Director of the Division of Rural Economy and Agricultural Statistics of the Department of Agriculture in Argentina has furnished data of the operation of the agrarian pledge law for the month of June, 1916, of which a digest has been published in several Argentine newspapers. These statistics show that the law is producing excellent results, there having been 1,122 contracts entered into for a total sum of 11,500,000 pesos paper (\$1,882,900 American currency), equally distributed between cattle breeding and agriculture in Buenos Aires, Cordoba, Santa Fé, and the Pampa Central. Proportionately, also, the small producer has been well served, especially as regards small loans during seeding time.

Thus, according to *La Nacion*, the success of the law has been proven by the first 18 months' working, agrarian pledges making credit available for the small man outside the ordinary sphere of banking operations.

The official report shows that fears as to the repayment of the advances made against the security of pledges have been groundless, and that there has been no need for judicial action, and but few cases of renewal, the latter being as a rule justified by bad weather or other accidental conditions—all of this speaking well for the manner in which debtors have complied with the terms of the law.

The opinion is expressed that, in view of the above-mentioned results, the system of agrarian pledges is one that should be more generally adopted by the banks here as affording a safe and profitable method of reducing the congestion caused by their heavy deposits. It is claimed that these operations should be especially encouraged by the Banco de la Nación Argentina, since the pledges are safe and of rapid circulation, the agricultural cycle being but six months.

**DEMAND FOR AMERICAN PAPER BAGS ABROAD.****SOUTH AFRICA.**

[Vice Consul Charles H. Heisler, Cape Town, June 29.]

Merchants in South Africa fear a shortage in paper bags if extra supplies are not soon forthcoming. Shipments of such bags, principally from England in the past, are received in decreasing quantities, and as English manufacturers are not accepting future orders the present stocks on hand will soon be practically exhausted, unless it is possible to obtain a good source of supply elsewhere.

The bags used in Cape of Good Hope are not home products. Besides those imported from England, there have been some from the United States. The sale of American bags is very small in comparison with the English trade. The American bag is used only by confectioners and fruit dealers, while the English, which is made of drab or kraft paper, is used almost exclusively by grocers and general dealers throughout the country.

**Present Price Said to be Double Pre-War Rate.**

It is almost impossible to give any idea of present cost prices, on account of the scarcity of paper and the fact that English manufacturers will not submit quotations. The pre-war price for English bags was £17 (\$82.73) per ton, packing free, in bales of 100 parcels, each parcel of 5 pounds, sizes from  $\frac{1}{2}$  to 25. The present price is said to be about double the pre-war rate.

Paper bags, not printed upon, are classified under No. 193 of the South African import tariff and pay an import duty of 20 per cent ad valorem. A rebate of 3 per cent ad valorem is accorded to manufacturers of such articles in the United Kingdom and reciprocating British colonies.

[Samples of English and American bags, supplied by a local firm as typical examples of paper bags used on the Cape Town market, may be inspected, and lists of wholesale grocers importing paper bags and of manufacturers' agents interested in such articles, may be obtained at the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce and its district or cooperative officers. Refer to file No. 78901.]

**CANARY ISLANDS.**

[Consul George K. Stiles, Teneriffe, July 15.]

**Prices High and Expected to Go Higher.**

Paper bags of all classes and thin manila paper for packing fruits are scarce in this market, and prices have increased  $33\frac{1}{3}$  per cent since January. This affords an opportunity for American producers of these articles, especially as a decided price increase is expected by dealers here, in view of large supplies needed to pack the coming crop.

Imports of "fruit" paper and of paper bags in 1914 totaled \$173,700, and the amounts from various countries were: Belgium, \$9,800; Germany, \$11,900; United Kingdom, \$28,000; Netherlands, \$33,000; Norway, \$50,000; Spain, \$12,000; Sweden, \$29,000.

Careful estimates give a total of \$231,465 during 1915 for the same classes of merchandise. This means increased values due to higher prices, with quantities stationary. Supplies from Germany and Belgium were cut off in 1915, while the Netherlands and Great Britain contributed greatly reduced quantities. For the first six

months of 1916 practically all "fruit" paper has come from Scandinavian manufacturers, but is said to be increasingly difficult to procure, while prices are rapidly advancing.

**Dimensions of Fruit Paper Sold at Teneriffe.**

"Fruit" paper (so called in the trade) is extremely light and has a yellow color. It is commonly sold here in the following dimensions: 50 by 76, 25 by 25, 21 by 21, 19 by 19, 17 by 17, and 15 by 15 centimeters. (Centimeter=0.3937 inch.)

The Scandinavian "fruit" paper arrives in bales of 75 kilos (165 pounds) net; gross weight, 176 pounds. The present price is \$0.23 per kilo (10½ cents per pound).

The changes in price since the beginning of the war have been: In July, 1914, "fruit" paper was 73 pesetas per 100 kilos; in July, 1915, it was 90, and on July 14, 1916, it had reached 120. Prices by September, when it will be used for the fall crop of bananas and vegetables, are expected to show an additional advance of from 10 to 15 per cent. Prices quoted are wholesale by jobbers to packers. Approximately 15 per cent less would indicate the c. i. f. prices at Canary ports made by Scandinavian factories. (Peseta=\$0.193; kilo=2.2 pounds).

The bulk of the paper bags for this market are manufactured by hand in Teneriffe, at a single factory. Labor is cheap, mostly child labor, and the pay is 30 cents for a 10-hour day. The bags are crude, in a few sizes only, and can not compare for utility with the American article. The sizes produced here are: Eighths, 11 by 7 inches; quarters, 13¼ by 8¾ inches; halves, 17 by 10½ inches. Wholesale prices per thousand are, respectively, 12, 18, and 28 pesetas. These prices include printing at discretion of buyer.

**Stocks of Paper for Bag Manufacture Exhausted.**

Paper for bag manufacture has come entirely from Germany, and judicious buying of heavy pre-war stocks has kept prices down. Exhaustion of these old stocks is now announced, and supplies must come from Sweden, Norway, or the United States.

The usual terms for this class of merchandise are cash against documents at a Canary Island port, but introductory sales at from 30 to 60 days would assist materially in opening the market to American producers. In dealing with the higher class of buyers it might prove quite feasible. Freights from New York to Canary ports are now quoted at \$40 per ton or per 40 cubic feet, which is practically the same as the Cadiz, Spain, rate. The rate from Scandinavian ports was recently at \$25, giving a small advantage to those ports as against American shipments. There are no duties on "fruit" paper, wrapping paper, or paper bags, in Canary ports.

**BRITISH CHINA.**

[Vice Consul A. E. Carleton, Hongkong, June 8.]

**Restricted to European and Chinese Department Stores.**

The trade in paper bags of all sizes has never been of material importance in Hongkong, for the use of bags is practically restricted to European and Chinese department stores, which form a very small percentage of the retailers in the colony. The purchases of the larger stores have been extremely limited, and it is doubtful if any con-

siderable volume of trade will ever be developed, although with low prices and educative propaganda among the lesser Chinese merchants, the demand would no doubt be largely increased over what it now is.

For general marketing purposes the Chinese use no bags, and in case of perishable merchandise a substitute of dried lily leaf is employed. This can be bought at a very low price, which precludes any effective competition by paper bags even of the most inferior class. In the case of eggs and other articles of a similar nature, the native shopkeepers make, by hand, a rough bag out of the poorest Chinese paper, and for fish, a fiber basket costing but a cent or two is used.

The imported bags have been bought chiefly in England, although the United States furnishes some stocks. The bags bought for this market range from  $\frac{1}{4}$  to 6 pounds, and are of the cheaper grades. According to prices for 1913, furnished to the American consulate, the American bag was cheaper than the English, but this was due to heavy discounts granted by an American exporting house.

The following prices (in United States currency) were paid in 1913 per thousand for bags from England and the United States, respectively: Size  $\frac{1}{4}$  pound, 64 cents from England, 50 cents from United States;  $\frac{1}{2}$  pound, 66 cents and 60 cents; 1 pound, 72 cents and 75 cents; 2 pounds, \$1.08 and \$1; 3 pounds, \$1.56 and \$1.25; 4 pounds, \$1.80 and \$1.45; 6 pounds, \$2.22 and \$2.

[A list of Hongkong importers and merchants possibly interested may be obtained from the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, its district or cooperative offices. Refer to file No. 78409.]

#### **SAMOA.**

[Consul Mason Mitchell, Apia, May 23.]

##### **Australia is Chief Source of Supply.**

There are no manufacturers of paper bags in Samoa, but those which are used here are obtained largely from Sydney, Australia, with a few from America. The sizes that find a sale here are the  $\frac{1}{4}$ , 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6 pound in lighter paper and the 14-pound heavy paper bags.

The bags from Sydney are laid down in Apia, all charges paid, as follows, per thousand:  $\frac{1}{4}$ -pound, 61 cents; 1-pound, 95 cents; 2-pound, \$1.14; 3-pound, \$1.42; 4-pound, \$1.56; 5-pound, \$1.89; 6-pound, \$2.03. Of these amounts 25 per cent is for freight, customs duties, landing charges, etc. Import duties levied on paper bags in Samoa are at the rate of  $12\frac{1}{2}$  per cent.

[Samples of bags from Sydney that are sold in Samoa may be inspected, and names of importers of paper bags at Apia, may be obtained at the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, its district or cooperative offices. Refer to file No. 79430b.]

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#### **NEW NAVIGATION COMPANY IN PUNTA ARENAS.**

The Chilean Government has given official approval to the organization of La Fortuna Navigation Co. of Punta Arenas. This company has a paid-up capital of £20,000 (\$97,000), and its purpose is to navigate the Strait of Magellan and adjacent canals, calling at the ports of Patagonia and Tierra del Fuego and Malvinas Islands. It will purchase or lease boats to be used in this coastwise service, beginning operations before the 1st of October.

**REGULATIONS FOR SECOND SAMPLE FAIR IN FRANCE.**

[Consul J. E. Jones, Lyon, Aug. 8.]

Plans for the second sample fair at Lyon, to be held during the first two weeks of March, 1917, have been published in a circular that has just been issued. It is pointed out that this fair may produce a large increase in the export business, as demonstrated by the exposition of 1916, which attracted visitors from all parts of the world.

Lyon is particularly well located to hold a great sample fair. It is at the gates of the South of France, near Spain and Italy, adjoining Switzerland, with railroad accommodations second to none, and stands at the junction of all the roads to central Europe. It is stated that Lyon is in direct and rapid communication with all the great ports, and that its importance as a railway center is indicated by its nine stations, where eight railway systems meet. The city itself has a population of more than 700,000.

The Lyon Fair does not consist simply of windows and show cases, where merchandise is displayed to the gaze of the public, but of real shops and showrooms, where manufacturers control their own exhibits. Each one arranges his samples, patterns, or models, and receives prospective purchasers. He is strictly forbidden, however, to deliver any article during the period of the fair or to sell any article of goods at retail.

**Interesting Catalogue to be Published.**

An interesting catalogue is to be published, giving the list of exhibitors and articles. This makes it easy to locate an exhibit. The date of publication will be early in 1917, and all advertisements should be in the printer's hands between September 15 and December 31, 1916.

The fair will be located on the banks of the Rhone, which are very broad and ornamented by double rows of trees. These are served by an admirable system of tramways reaching any part of the city.

During the 1917 fair, many public buildings are to be utilized, as was the case last year, for overflow exhibits.

Booths are really little shops, complete in every detail, and extending for some 6 miles on both sides of the Rhone. These shops are about 13 feet 6 inches square, occupying an area of about 20 square yards, which gives interior measurements of 13 feet square. Those who need the space are permitted to hire two or more stands. In that event all partitions are to be removed or so arranged as to provide a private office with a communicating door. The stands have wooden floors and ceilings 10 feet high, with fronts of glass. Each is permitted to furnish his own stand as he pleases.

The general rule is that a stand can not be held by more than one exhibitor, but for the less important industries the committee has decided to let semidetached stands, each complete in itself, 6 feet 9 inches front by 13½ feet in depth.

**Sections in Gallery of the Minor Industries.**

For those exhibitors who have only one article, and especially for inventors, there is to be special provision in the "gallery of the minor industries," containing sections 32 inches wide and 11 feet

high, with a table for demonstrations and a chair. To this gallery the public will be admitted free of charge.

The committee emphasizes the point that the charge for the stands is based upon actual cost of construction. The stand 13 feet 6 inches square costs 550 francs (\$106), without any furnishings. Numerous firms in Lyon let furniture and rugs, charging a small amount. The price of one of the semidetached stands is 350 francs (\$68), and a location in the gallery of minor industries costs 130 francs (\$25).

As the stands are constructed according to the number of applications, it is absolutely necessary that those who intend to exhibit make application at the earliest possible moment. The time limit has been fixed at December 31, 1916, and all applications should be made on special forms.

It is required that each stand shall have a person in charge to give explanations and take orders. If the manufacturer can not come or send a representative, the management will provide a capable person. This, it is stated, is without prejudice and does not bind in any way.

The payment of half the amount due, 275 francs for each full stand hired and 175 francs for a semidetached stand, must be made by a draft due September 30, 1916, for all applications made and accepted before September 15. Applications made after that date should be accompanied by checks or money orders. Payment of the second half of the amount charged is due on or before December 31, 1916. More than 500 applications have already been received for space at the second fair.

#### **System of Publicity Organized Throughout World.**

The directors point out that a vast system of publicity has been organized throughout the world in order to attract a great throng of buyers. Early in January each exhibitor will be notified of the exact location of his stand. The committee also holds at the disposal of stand holders, at cost price, cards of invitation which may be used by them. These cards are to be beautifully engraved and stamped with the coat of arms of the city.

The official catalogue will appear toward the end of January, in order that it may be distributed in foreign countries. Each stand holder will receive a copy free. Published under the direction of the committee, it will contain an alphabetical list of all the stand holders recorded up to December 31, 1916; a list of the exhibitors grouped according to their professions, trades, etc.; a list of the goods exhibited by each, and a list of firms according to their countries of origin.

The inscription of stand holders in these lists is gratis, but in addition to these gratuitous notices, each exhibitor may obtain the insertion of supplementary lines or notices by paying for them. Applications received and granted after December 31, 1916, will not appear in the official catalogue, but in a supplement which will be issued at the opening of the fair.

The French Government has decreed to the fair the privileges of bonded warehouses, and in this way it will benefit by the temporary admission of goods, free of duty. Thus, products and articles may enter France without paying any duty, and gold and silver articles will not be hall-marked or stamped.



**Insurance Against All Risks and Claims.**

Insurance provided will insure by a single contract all objects sent to the fair from the moment they leave the workshop, factory, warehouse, or depot until their return there against all risks such as fire, theft, voyage by land or sea, damage from water, breakages, and risks of war, as well as against all actions, claims by neighbors, tenants' risks, civic responsibilities, etc. It is universal and complete insurance, without a complicated contract. Each stand holder is requested to indicate the total sum for which he wishes to be insured. The premium will vary according to the country of origin of the goods. The insurance is obligatory. It is recommended that those who intend to exhibit make arrangements at the earliest possible moment.

A special department has been organized at the American consulate in Lyon, where all matters concerning the fair will receive prompt and careful attention. It is urged that new catalogues be sent to the American consul at Lyon as early as possible, in order that they may be promptly listed and arranged.

[A seven-page description of the first sample fair at Lyon was published in *COMMERCE REPORTS* for May 5, 1916. A preliminary statement regarding the second fair appeared in the issue of Aug. 22, 1916, and an announcement from the American representative in that of Aug. 29, 1916. Copies of the entry forms to be used by exhibitors, upon which are also printed the regulations applying to the fair, may be obtained from the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, or its district or cooperative offices. Refer to file No. 79850.]

**AMERICAN CONSULAR OFFICERS ON LEAVE OF ABSENCE.**

The following American consular officers are on leave of absence in the United States, and will be glad to confer with business men and commercial organizations relative to conditions in their respective jurisdictions. The consul's time is available primarily for personal interviews. He has limited facilities for correspondence, and except in urgent cases letters should be directed to the consulate.

Name.	Post.	Expiration of venue.	Address.
Hale, F. D. ....	Huddersfield, England	Sept. 5	Lunenburg, Vt.
Jewell, John F. ....	Cheloo, China	Oct. 1	Galena, Ill.
Kemper, Graham H. ....	Erfurt, Germany	Sept. 10	Department of State, Washington, D. C.
Hazeltine, Ross	Port Antonio, Jamaica	Oct. 1	Ido.
Laine, James Oliver	Karachi, India	Sept. 30	C/o University Club, Kansas City, Mo.
Leonard, Walter A.	Colombo, Ceylon	Oct. 14	Essex, Iowa.
Osborne, John Ball	Havre, France	Oct. 21	Department of State, Washington, D. C.
Mansfield, Robert E.	Vancouver, Canada	Sept. 15	Rushville, Ind.
Pike, William J.	St. Gall, Switzerland	Nov. 1	Department of State, Washington, D. C.

**Canal and Paving Works in Montevideo.**

The Congress of Uruguay has decreed that plans shall be made for dredging and making into a canal the River Miguelete, which runs through Montevideo and empties into the bay. The decree, which is published in the *Diario Oficial* of July 17, states that in addition to the work in the stream, an avenue is to be laid out on each bank, draining, grading, and paving will be done, bridges built, and lighting and general ornamentation added. Plans for the work must be submitted for approval to Congress.

**CROP CONDITIONS IN HONDURAS.**

[Consul E. M. Lawton, Tegucigalpa, Aug. 10.]

The present outlook for agricultural crops in Honduras for 1916 promise satisfactory returns. For the years 1914 and 1915 this country suffered from drought with added devastation caused by a grasshopper plague. In comparison, the year 1916 has so far been most seasonable, with abundant rains, and the grasshoppers have almost entirely disappeared, having been seen in but two or three Departments of the Republic.

The general rainfall in some sections has been excessive, so that the bottom lands have had too much moisture. The beginning of August usually marks about half of the annual rainfall, so that there is some apprehension that the secondary crops which are usually planted in September will also be injured by a wet season. However, the Department of Agriculture is of the opinion that the crops for the current year will probably be 50 per cent better than for 1915.

**Agricultural Experiment Station.**

As a nucleus for more extensive development later, the Honduras Department of Agriculture has started experimental farming near Tegucigalpa. A considerable tract of ground belonging to the State, located on the Carretara del Sur, some 5 miles from this city, has been selected.

Nursery work, as well as horticulture and farming, will be tried and the Government officials state that it is intended to add to the work gradually so that the present modest beginnings will eventually become a complete experimental station and agricultural school. The ground is rolling with both lowlands and uplands for trials on dry as well as irrigated farming.

Dr. Manuel S. Lopez, Minister of Fomento and Agriculture, is for the present the person to be addressed in regard to the work.

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**WINE-CROP PROSPECTS IN ALSACE-LORRAINE.**

[Consul Milo A. Jewett, Kehl, Germany, Aug. 5.]

According to reports from various parts of Alsace-Lorraine, it appears that under the most favorable conditions the 1916 wine crop in that district will not be more than half a normal yield. The vines budded very early, and up to the middle of May it looked as though the blossoms would be early also. From the middle of May to the end of July the weather was wet and cool, and as a result blossoming was slow and many blossoms failed to develop into grapes. Mildew appeared in many places but not to a very unusual extent. More serious damage has been done by oidium. Owing to shortage of labor, the vineyards have not received as much attention as they required.

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**Opening of Branch Railway in Venezuela.**

The Government of Venezuela announced, in the Gaceta Oficial of July 27, the opening to public service of a branch of the Bolívar Railway between Palma Sola and San Felipe.

**CHANGES IN NEW ZEALAND'S COMMERCE.**

[Consul General Alfred A. Winslow, Auckland, July 19.]

**Import Figures Getting Nearer Normal Values.**

The United Kingdom and possessions in 1914 supplied imports into New Zealand to the value of \$85,892,664, against \$53,676,006 for 1904, while the balance of the world sent only \$20,470,017 and \$11,008,023, respectively. From the United States goods valued at \$11,110,054 were received in 1914, against \$7,435,598 in 1904, which shows that Americans did not hold their relative position in the struggle. American imports for 1915, however, amounted to \$12,654,107, against the United Kingdom's \$54,218,001.

The imports into New Zealand for the five months ended May 31, 1916, were \$46,113,222, against \$38,713,280 for the corresponding period in 1915, and \$46,831,420 for a similar period in 1914, showing a return to about the value of imports under normal conditions. This does not convey a very accurate impression of the real imports, however, since the prices of imported articles have increased at least 20 per cent. The actual imports, therefore, have been below normal, which leaves stocks very short at this time.

**New Record in Dairy Products and Frozen Meat.**

The exports of dairy products and frozen meat from New Zealand for 1915 were in excess of any previous year. Butter valued at \$13,142,591 was exported in 1915, against \$11,380,680 in 1914; the cheese figures were \$13,286,572 and \$12,478,314, respectively; and the frozen meat exports for 1915 were valued at \$37,931,423, against \$28,532,591 for 1914. These records were more than maintained during the first three months of 1916.

During May, 1916, shipments of 3,296,926 pounds of frozen meat were made from Auckland to English ports. This was more than double the amount shipped during May, 1915. These exports from Auckland during the last eleven months show an increase of about 32 per cent.

**Report on Per Capita Wealth and Indebtedness.**

The per capita wealth of New Zealand, according to a statement made by the Minister of Finance, amounts to \$2,277, with the State and local indebtedness at \$525.58, and mortgage indebtedness at \$549.51. Imports were given as \$97.33 per capita and exports as \$141.12 per capita.

During the fiscal year ended March 31, 1915, the New Zealand Government registered mortgages covering the entire dominion to the value of \$108,722,793, and during that time mortgages to the value of \$60,781,651 were released, making the increased mortgage indebtedness during the year \$47,941,142. The total mortgage indebtedness of the country is given as \$557,448,913.

During the past four years the rate of interest paid has materially increased. In 1911 fully 60 per cent of the loans were made at 5 per cent or less, while in 1915 fully 65 per cent of the mortgages were drawing more than 5 per cent.

**Kauri-Gum Industry Suffers from Effects of War.**

There has been some increase in the exports of kauri gum during the first six months of 1916, as compared with 1915, but far below the

quantity for the first six months of 1914. A very large proportion of this went to the United States—2,311 tons, as against 615 tons for all Europe. The gum industry in New Zealand has suffered seriously on account of the war. During the month of June, the supplies in Auckland increased materially and reached a total of 560 tons, but they were principally of an inferior quality.

**Decreased Khaki Demand to Aid in Supplying Other Needs.**

According to late information given out, the New Zealand Government has consumed in woolen khaki piece goods for uniforms, overcoats, working shirts, and trousers for soldiers, from 80 to 90 per cent of the output of the New Zealand woolen mills during the months from January to August. It is expected that the Government demand for khaki will be materially reduced after September 1, when the woolen mills may be able to supply the needs of the ordinary trade in the more common woolen textiles.

**Government Coal Mines Operated at Fair Profit.**

The New Zealand Government operated three coal mines at a fair profit during 1915, and it is estimated that if the rate is maintained the State Coal Department will be able to pay off all losses, interest, and sinking fund held against the development of this industry, at the end of four years. However, it is claimed that the very best of the veins have been worked, with the result that at the end of a few years practically the same territory must be worked over again at a large additional expense.

**Year's Record in Post and Telegraph Department.**

The Post and Telegraph Department of New Zealand reports that the total revenue for the year ended March 31, 1916, was \$8,252,401, an increase of \$1,638,536 over the preceding year. The Post Office Savings Bank Department showed a credit balance in favor of depositors of \$107,872,615 on that date. Compared with 1914, the volume of letters increased by 0.61 per cent, while post cards decreased 10.05 per cent, and other articles decreased 12.55 per cent. The parcel-post increase was 11.61 per cent.

**Hog Raising—Imports of Tea—Whaling Prospects.**

During the 10 years ended December 31, 1915, 1,556,388 hogs were slaughtered in New Zealand, of which 96 per cent were consumed within the Dominion. During 1906, there were 72,573 hogs slaughtered in the country, compared with 241,683 in 1915, an increase for the 10 years of more than 200 per cent. At the close of 1911, the Dominion had 348,754 hogs.

The imports of tea into New Zealand in 1915 amounted to 9,150,139 pounds, and in 1914 to 9,951,774 pounds. The increase over the average for 1905 and 1906, which was 6,023,750 pounds, was remarkable.

The prospects for the whaling season in the South Pacific are reported good. One whaling expedition, it is said, has taken nine fairly good specimens thus far this year, against four during a similar period last year. New Zealand exported 44,628 gallons of whale oil during 1914.

**FOREIGN TRADE OPPORTUNITIES.**

Reserved addresses may be obtained from the **Bureau** and its **district offices**. Request for each opportunity should be on a separate sheet and **state opportunity number**. The **Bureau** does not furnish credit ratings or assume responsibility as to the standing of foreign inquirers; the usual precautions should be taken in all cases.

**Pharmaceutical products, etc., No. 22296.**—An import and export commission merchant in Spain informs an American consular officer that he is in the market for shoe leather, drugs, and chemical and pharmaceutical products. Cash will be paid against shipping documents, Spain or New York. Correspondence in English. References.

**Stationery, school supplies, etc., No. 22297.**—An American consular officer in Russia writes that a firm in his district is in the market for all kinds of school fittings and supplies; office supplies, including drafting instruments; stationery supplies; photographic supplies; household articles; cash registers, balances, scales, etc.; printing machinery, binding and knitting machinery, and shoes for women and children.

**Machinery, No. 22298.**—An American consular officer in Central America transmits the name of a merchant tailor, who desires to receive catalogues descriptive of the latest models of buttonhole machinery.

**Furniture, confectionery, etc., No. 22299.**—A firm in Australia informs an American consular officer of its desire to represent American manufacturers of furniture, such as bedroom and dining-room chairs; chair seats; babies' folding carriages; refrigerators; high-grade confectionery put up in fancy packages, and shoes for women and children.

**Household articles, etc., No. 22300.**—An American consular officer in France reports that a firm in his district desires to enter into commercial relations with American manufacturers of porcelain household articles, aluminum ware, and footwear for women and children.

**Agricultural implements, No. 22301.**—An American consular officer in Brazil is in receipt of a communication from a business man who desires to be placed in touch with American manufacturers of agricultural machines and implements. Catalogues in duplicate are desired. Reference.

**Furniture, etc., No. 22302.**—A manufacturers' agent in the West Indies desires to be placed in touch with American manufacturers of coffins, undertakers' supplies, and furniture.

**Old newspapers, No. 22303.**—A shipping firm in the United Kingdom advises an American consular officer of its desire to get in touch with exporters in the United States of unused old white newspapers for shipment to the Far East. Reference.

**Agricultural machinery, etc., No. 22304.**—An American consular officer in a foreign colonial possession in East Africa writes that a bank in his district is desirous of obtaining catalogues of agricultural machinery and implements, hardware, doors and window sashes, marine motors, irrigation pumps, boots and shoes, haberdashery, hosiery, office furniture, household supplies, and stationery. Catalogues should be accompanied by price lists. Export discounts, telegraphic codes used, and terms of payment should be stated.

**OFFICES OF THE BUREAU OF FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC COMMERCE.****DISTRICT OFFICES.**

**NEW YORK:** Room 409, Customhouse.  
**BOSTON:** 18th floor, Customhouse.  
**CHICAGO:** 504 Federal Building.  
**ST. LOUIS:** 402 Third National Bank Building.  
**ATLANTA:** 521 Post Office Building.  
**NEW ORLEANS:** 1020 Hibernia Bank Building.  
**SAN FRANCISCO:** 307 Customhouse.  
**SEATTLE:** 848 Henry Building.

**COOPERATIVE OFFICES.**

**CLEVELAND:** Chamber of Commerce.  
**CINCINNATI:** Chamber of Commerce.  
**CINCINNATI:** C., N. O. & T. P. Ry. Co.  
**LOS ANGELES:** Chamber of Commerce.  
**PHILADELPHIA:** Chamber of Commerce.  
**CHATTANOOGA:** South American Agent, Southern Ry. Co.

## PROPOSALS FOR GOVERNMENT SUPPLIES AND CONSTRUCTION.

[Correspondence should be direct with the offices named, and specifications can usually be obtained at the points where the goods are to be delivered or the work is to be performed. In cases where the time limit is too short to permit firms to submit tenders, they should ask to be placed on the mailing lists of such offices to receive notices calling for future supplies or work of a similar nature.]

*Navy Department supplies*, No. 3545.—Sealed proposals will be received at the Bureau of Supplies and Accounts, Navy Department, Washington, D. C., to which Bureau firms desiring to submit proposals should apply, giving schedule numbers, for the supply of the following: Schedule 76, compound geared deck winches and complete windlasses; schedule 77, electric and steam driven air compressors; schedule 78, furnishing and applying bituminous compositions; schedule 79, evaporated milk; schedule 80, four-passenger automobile; schedule 81, hydraulic triple pump; schedule 82, surface condensor; schedule 83, magnifiers, 34-inch diameter level vials, and ammonium picrate; schedule 84, horizontal centrifugal pumps; schedule 85, furnishing and installing safety gasoline storage distributing system; schedule 86, 72-inch wide white table linen, and 22-inch wide and 36-inch long linen glass towels; schedule 87, tinned bacon; schedule 88, file handles; schedule 89, enameled cast-iron bathtubs, bells for 26-foot and 65-foot motor boats, files, brass wood screws, and lard oil; schedule 90, boiler tube brushes, and 28-inch wide turkish towels; schedule 91, 50-gallon barrels alcohol, white gum shellac, sodium silicate solution, and whitening; schedule 92, crockery for staterooms and bathrooms, rubber air hose, unlined linen fire hose, 20 and 40-gallon steam jacketed kettles, coal-burning 3-foot range sections, 40-inch wide burlap, cotton furniture covering, 45-inch and 72-inch wide bleached and unbleached cotton sheeting, and sheet zinc; schedule 93, hacksaw blades for hand frames, one-half and 1 pint brass squirt cans, files, galvanized iron hammock rings, 22-foot 4-inch long band saws, metal cutting circular saws, and galvanized iron or steel sail thimbles; schedule 94, ingot copper, ferromanganese, and bar spring steel; schedule 95, three-fourth inch flexible copper steam hose, and electric portable safety lanterns; schedule 96, polishing cloths; schedule 97, electrical hoisting and rotating equipments, and mechanical steering gears; schedule 98, 10-inch diameter lignum-vitæ, domestic white oak, yellow pine, firsts and seconds poplar, and New England spruce; schedule 99, sheet brass, strip brass, bar copper, and soft sheet copper; schedule 100, steel angles, I beams, channels, etc., steel plates, ribbed steel plates, and black and galvanized steel sheets; schedule 101, steel castings; schedule 102, steel hull rivets; schedule 103, electrically heated sterilizing outfits; schedule 104, steel pipe; and schedule 105, tinned lima beans, tinned string beans, tinned corn, tinned peaches, and tinned tomatoes.

*Panama Canal supplies*, No. 3546.—Sealed proposals will be received at the office of the general purchasing officer of the Panama Canal, Washington, D. C., until September 14, 1916, for furnishing, by steamer, free of all charges, on dock, at either Colon (Atlantic port) or port of Ancon (Balboa, Canal Zone) (Pacific port), Isthmus of Panama, steel, boiler tubes, steel pipe, chain, steel cable, barbed wire, iron castings, coupler pins, spring plates, electric cable and wire, switch boxes, steel reflectors, electrical sleeving, fish paper and tape, refrigerating machines, barrel bolts, shelf brackets, tackle blocks, paint brushes, calcimine brushes, hose, ice-cream freezers, window glass, vitrified pipe, magnesite pipe covering and boiler lagging, hose, packing, asbestos gaskets, tarpaulins, canvas, hunting, oilcloth, emery cloth, sand-paper, toilet paper, bristol board, journal books, chalk line, rubber boots, goat's hair, gold leaf, shellac, enamel, japan drier, paints, zinc sulphate, metal polish, soap polish, soap, borax, beeswax, paraffin wax, bicarbonate of soda, vaselline, chloride of lime, lye, muriatic acid, and yellow-pine lumber. (Circular 1075.)

*Repairs to light vessel*, No. 3547.—Sealed proposals will be received by the lighthouse inspector, Boston, Mass., for repairs to light vessel No. 56. Information will be supplied on application to the above office.

# COMMERCE REPORTS



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No. 207 Washington, D. C., Saturday, September 2 1916

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## AUSTRALIAN INDUSTRIAL COMMISSION TO UNITED STATES.

[Excerpt from Melbourne Age, transmitted by Commercial Attaché Phillip B. Kennedy, July 14.]

It has been decided by the Commonwealth Government to appoint a commission to visit the United States to investigate and report upon the methods of manufacture and production in that country and the conditions of employment therein. The commission will consist of six representatives of the manufacturers in Australia, one from each State, together with six representatives of the workers, one also from each State. The chambers of manufactures in each capital city and the central labor organization in each State will be asked to submit three nominations, and a selection will be made from them by the Commonwealth Government.

The industries to be investigated by the commission are (a) iron, engineering, and allied trades, (b) timber, building material, etc., (c) leather, (d) textiles, (e) paper, and (f) foodstuffs. Manufacturers' representatives will be men having special knowledge of these industries, and will be appointed for the several States as follows: Iron trades, New South Wales; textile, Victoria; leather, South Australia; foodstuffs, Queensland; timber and building material, West Australia; paper, Tasmania. The same principle will apply in the selection of the representatives of the labor organizations.

Each section of the commission will furnish a report on the industry it represents, separate reports being furnished by the representatives of the manufacturers and the representatives of the workers. The commission is expected to return not later than six months from the date of departure from Australia. The whole of the expenses will be borne by the Commonwealth Government.

## Exports from Guadeloupe.

Consul Henry T. Wilcox, at Guadeloupe, French West Indies, reports that 8,582,811 pounds of sugar valued at \$458,845, 192,509 pounds of coffee valued at \$53,377, and 227,438 pounds of cocoa valued at \$63,062 were exported from the island during the month of July.

## COMMERCE OF THE PORT OF SANTOS.

[Consul Carl F. Deichman, Santos, Brazil; all sums in United States currency.]

According to data collected by the Secretary of Agriculture the movement of commerce through the port of Santos with foreign countries in the first four months of this year reached a value of \$46,892,809 (imports \$14,442,613, exports \$32,450,196), or \$8,263,337 less than in January-April, 1915 (when imports amounted to \$10,729,622, and exports to \$44,426,524). The chief gains in imports occurred in cotton, iron and steel, drugs and chemicals, leather, coal, corn, and wines, the value of these and other leading imports having been:

Articles.	January-April—		Articles.	January-April—	
	1915	1916		1915	1916
Cotton bales and manufactured articles .....	\$398,307	\$1,041,300	Jute and hemp for sack- ing .....	\$65,150	\$28,765
Steel and iron in bars and in manufactured articles .....	597,601	1,044,403	Jute and hemp, raw .....	553,081	522,814
Industrial machinery .....	70,199	84,435	Coal .....	511,139	706,836
Agricultural machinery .....	6,967	22,366	Kerosene .....	227,880	334,479
Various machinery and machinery parts .....	440,756	522,182	Dried codfish .....	276,691	186,614
Chemical products and pharmaceutical special- ties .....	340,188	503,060	Corn flour .....	268,894	302,426
Skin and leather prepared for manufacture .....	289,047	578,179	Corn .....	2,312,170	2,465,624
			Wine, fine and common ..	837,252	1,229,769
			Various foodstuffs .....	972,489	950,696
			Other products .....	2,582,293	3,928,286
			Total .....	10,729,622	14,442,613

## Imports, by Countries of Origin.

The United States occupied first place as a supplier of merchandise, imports from that country being more than double those in January-April, 1915. Argentina was second, having exchanged places with the United States; and Great Britain and Italy ranked, respectively, third and fourth in both years, as the following table shows:

Imported from—	January-April—		Imported from—	January-April—	
	1915	1916		1915	1916
United States .....	\$2,023,277	\$4,406,240	Great Britain .....	\$1,950,902	\$3,536,363
Argentina .....	2,592,652	2,552,962	Italy .....	1,457,951	1,343,259
Austria-Hungary .....	40,014	112	Portugal .....	448,830	354,306
Belgium .....	35,074	18,899	Other countries .....	1,290,974	1,920,420
France .....	373,833	733,831			
Germany .....	516,146	6,332	Total .....	10,729,622	14,442,613

## Falling Off in Coffee Exports.

As to exports, coffee is the chief article shipped from Santos to foreign countries, and the \$13,000,000 decline in its value more than accounted for the decrease in the total value for the four-month period under review, as the following comparative statement discloses:



Articles.	January-April—	
	1915	1916
Coffee .....	\$43,937,726	\$30,999,807
Chilled meat .....	56,889	870,972
Rubber .....	1,999	40,741
Bananas .....	107,198	153,925
Other products .....	262,712	384,751
Total .....	44,426,524	32,450,196

The quantity of coffee exported in these four months was: In 1915—4,451,611 sacks; in 1916—3,234,422 sacks.

#### United States the Port's Best Customer.

Notwithstanding a falling off of more than \$3,000,000 in the value of its purchases from Santos, the United States remained the port's best customer, whereas Holland dropped from second to fourth place, France rose from third to second, Sweden dropped from fourth to fifth, Great Britain from fifth to sixth, and Italy rose from sixth to third place. The value of the exports from the port of Santos to these and the other principal destinations is shown below:

Exported to—	January-April—		Exported to—	January-April—	
	1915	1916		1915	1916
United States .....	\$16,892,133	\$13,728,247	Norway .....	\$507,863	\$563,501
Argentina .....	552,970	700,165	Spain .....	591,515	462,364
Denmark .....	807,306	742,011	Sweden .....	4,291,342	1,738,841
France .....	7,599,333	7,197,198	Other countries .....	577,725	306,050
Great Britain .....	1,665,596	1,562,529			
Holland .....	9,448,971	1,949,281	Total .....	44,426,524	32,450,196
Italy .....	1,401,770	3,500,000			

### AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT LINE OF CARGO STEAMERS.

[Melbourne correspondence dated June 28 in London Economist for Aug. 12.]

It has just been announced that the Australian Government has purchased 15 tramp steamers, which will be worked under the title of the Commonwealth Government Line. The 15 steamers aggregate 63,684 tons. A number of them are already well known in Australia in connection with the timber trade, and their place will be taken by sailing vessels. The steamers will be sent to Australia to load wheat as they become available.

#### Government Operation Affects Outward Voyages Only.

[American Commercial Attaché Philip B. Kennedy, Melbourne, July 8.]

It is now announced that the fleet of cargo vessels recently purchased for the Government of Australia will be operated by the Commonwealth only for voyages from Australia to Great Britain. This will insure direct control by the Commonwealth Government of the freight rates charged on Australian exports. For return voyages to Australia the vessels will be leased to the regular steamship lines, and the rate agreements which have been in force will not be interfered with.

**FRUIT-CANNING INDUSTRY OF ARGENTINA.**

[Commercial Attaché Albert Hale, Buenos Aires, July 18.]

Argentine fruit can not be compared with that grown in California, for the reason that little attention has yet been given to scientific growing. Grapes of very fine quality are grown here, and the wine industry in Mendoza is carried on in an up-to-date and scientific manner. There is great room for improvement, however, in the growing of other fruits, such as peaches and pears.

The fruit most grown here is the clingstone peach. Freestone peaches are also raised, but would be of no importance to the canner because the people here refuse to buy them. The Argentine Department of Agriculture advises that the "Real Jorge Amarillo" (Yellow Royal George) is undoubtedly the best clingstone peach for this country. This, so the department states, is not the same fruit as the "Royal George" of Europe, which has white meat and a free stone. The "Real Jorge Amarillo" ripens about the middle of January.

**Freestone Peaches, Pears, Etc.—Number of Trees.**

The best freestone peach, in the judgment of the Department of Agriculture, is the "Admirable Jaune." It is said to be of good flavor and large and juicy. It ripens in February. The California "Lowell" and "Muir" varieties are also grown here, but the "Admirable Jaune" is considered to be the better. Fresh freestone peaches can be purchased for table use, but there is no market for them in cans.

There are very few pears raised in Argentina, and those that are found here are claimed to be unfit for canning. A few American "Bartlett" pears are grown and also some called "Duquesa de Angulema." Both varieties are said to be good for table use. Although there are seven canneries in the country surrounding Buenos Aires, none of them attempts to do anything with pears. It seems that the quantity grown just about supplies the demand for fresh fruit. Apricots are practically unknown.

No statement can be made as to the approximate number of trees of each of the above-mentioned fruits. No census has ever been taken, and no one seems to be sufficiently familiar with all the fruit-growing districts to make even a wild guess. At any rate, the information would be misleading, as the trees vary so greatly in productivity.

**Best Locations for Canneries.**

If an entire canning plant is put in, with a department for making cans, etc., the industry can be satisfactorily carried on here. Cans of a sort are obtainable here, but they must be soldered, and are not so desirable as those on which no solder is used. Sheet metal must be imported from the United States or England for the manufacture of cans.

There are three districts where fruit-canning might be carried on. The first, and most important, is the Tigle District, some 20 miles north of Buenos Aires. This district consists of a great number of small islands that form the delta of the Paraná River. Here most of the fruit of the Republic is grown, and almost all of the canneries in operation are located in or near this region. Practically no other fruit than peaches is grown here. Water transportation, both from

the peach orchards to the canneries and from the canneries to Buenos Aires, is very good.

The second district is that of Mendoza, in the far western part of the Republic. This is the grape country, and in addition some other fruits are raised. A cannery was put in here some time ago, but was not a success.

The third district is near Dolores, some distance to the south of Buenos Aires and not far from Bahia Blanca. Here a fine quality of freestone peaches is raised, but they are sold in the markets almost exclusively for table use.

#### **Approximate Cost of Fruits for Canning.**

There is no fixed price for fruit and there is no fixed measure of quantity by which it is sold. In the Tigre District there is a wholesale fruit market where peaches are sold in baskets weighing from 30 to 45 pounds each. Prices range from \$0.25 to \$1.70 United States currency per basket. Normally \$0.43 a basket is considered a fair price. Some time ago, however, a disease called white scale became prevalent in the peach orchards and killed a great many of the trees. Therefore, there has been a shortage of fruit, and it is expected that this condition will continue for some time, since the growers seem to be slow in setting out new trees. Occasionally the canneries will pay a fixed price for the fruit of an entire orchard and take chances of losing it by frost, rain, or some other cause, but they prefer not to purchase in this manner on account of the risk involved.

No prices are available as to the cost of fruits for canning other than peaches, since they are at present sold to the markets in small lots, and it is probable that entirely different prices would prevail if large quantities were purchased.

There seems to be no uniformity about the fruit here, as in the United States. Fruit is picked just as it happens to come and is sold without sorting or grading. In canning it is said to be impossible to put a certain number of fruit of a certain size in a can, as is done in the United States. They merely fill up the can with large and small fruit.

#### **Sugar Prices Advanced—Cost of Labor.**

The sugar used is refined in the country, in the Province of Tucumán. In normal times it costs about 30 per cent more than sugar in the United States. At present, and probably during the coming year, it will cost from 50 to 60 per cent more. This is due to the failure of this year's crop. Also, sugar is controlled by a trust here, and it is said that they have exported sugar to Europe at a less price than it can be obtained for in the local market. There is a protective tariff on sugar, but this has recently been suspended to neutralize the effect of the crop shortage.

[A review of the sugar industry of Tucumán Province appeared in *COMMERCE REPORTS* for Sept. 21, 1914; an account of the present shortage of sugar in Argentina, in the issue for July 24, 1916.]

The "peon" or common laborer usually receives the equivalent of \$1.70, United States currency, per day. The canning season is very short (from the middle of January to the middle of March), and it is therefore necessary to pay the peon higher wages than he receives in other lines of work. The men and women who operate the paring and pitting machines work by the piece and

make \$3.40, \$3.60, or \$4.25 per day. They are not so skillful nor do they work so carefully as do cannery employees in the United States. In the United States the labor required in canneries is often recruited to a considerable extent from students on summer vacations, etc. This is not so here. All employees are of the peon or laboring class.

### **NORWEGIAN COD AND HERRING FISHERIES.**

[Consul General E. Haldeman Dennison, Christiania, Aug. 9.]

The great Norwegian cod fishery, which extends along the coast from Finmarken to the vicinity of Bergen, and is most productive at the Lofoten Islands, has closed with a total catch of 51,397,000 fish. This is 15,437,000 fish less than in 1915, and less than in any year since 1908. The greater part of the catch, 44,641,000 fish, were salted and prepared as split fish, 3,256,000 were dried as stock fish, and most of the remainder were exported fresh. Although the catch was under the average, the great demand for fish, due to the war, made the value greater than in any previous year. The official estimate is \$20,100,000. In 1915 the estimated value was only \$9,461,000 and in 1914 \$8,584,500.

The value of the herring landed during the past season was about \$23,000,000 for the "green fish," and the value of the canned fish exported, chiefly sprats and small herrings, was about \$14,000,000.

These figures indicate the great profits that the Norwegian fishing industry has made, due to the high prices obtained because of the existing war in Europe.

#### **British Purchase Catch—Export Duties.**

It has been reported that the British Government has purchased this year's entire Norwegian fish catch, and that the purchase includes also sardines and other canned fish.

In virtue of a resolution of the Storting, export duties have been placed upon a large variety of fish and fishery products, the amounts ranging from 1 crown (26.8 cents) per 100 kilos for split fish to 5 crowns (\$1.34) per barrel for spiced herrings. These duties came into force on March 30 and will continue until June 30, 1917, unless modified by royal decree. Another law prohibits the export of tinned goods after July 8, except at 14 towns specified, and then only under strict regulations.

### **LEATHER AND SHOE TRADE OF LEEDS.**

[Consul Homer M. Byington, Leeds, England, Aug. 17.]

The following statement regarding conditions in the leather and shoe trade of Leeds was taken from the Yorkshire Post:

The output of all descriptions of leather continues to be on the largest possible scale, and it is now certain that but for the stringent regulations which the Government authorities are exercising over the cost of the raw and finished products that quotations would be considerably in excess of those ruling. Local tanners and curriers are producing large quantities of accouterment and boot leathers. Leathers for civilian needs are becoming increasingly scarce and dear. The manufacture of army and ordinary boots and shoes is well maintained, but for the producer the financial results are far from satisfactory. There has been a quickening demand for summer footwear, and wholesale and retail distributors are busy.

**PAPER SHORTAGE CURTAILS PRINTING IN NEW ZEALAND.**

[Consul General Alfred A. Winslow, Auckland, July 17.]

The paper shortage in New Zealand continues to interfere seriously with the printing business in general, and is felt by the New Zealand Government, limiting the publications turned out by the departments. There has been talk of suspending some of their publications, because of the difficulty in getting paper, as well as the great increase in price.

Supplies of certain lines of paper, cardboards, pasteboards, etc., even at any price are almost impossible to obtain, and it seems unlikely that this condition of affairs will improve much until some time after the close of the war, unless American manufacturers are able to relieve the situation.

The scarcity of envelopes is very marked, and it is almost impossible to obtain certain lines. One firm in Auckland took orders for 25,000,000 envelopes, but has been able to get orders accepted in the United States for only 15,000,000, and to date only 5,000,000 of those have been delivered, the balance to come forward as soon as possible.

**Duty on Various Classes of Paper and on Envelopes.**

The duty on the different classes of paper varies from the 1 per cent war tax to 25 per cent from the United Kingdom and possessions and 12½ per cent additional from all other countries plus the 1 per cent war tax. Unprinted envelopes pay a duty of 20 per cent from the United Kingdom and possessions, and 10 per cent additional from all other countries plus the 1 per cent war tax. At present, the question of duty, save on print paper, does not seem to be a very important matter, since it is practically impossible to secure these grades of paper from the United Kingdom or possessions. Canada is now supplying a very large proportion of the print paper.

[An article on the shortage of print paper in New Zealand was published in *COMMERCE REPORTS* for Jan. 15, 1916.]

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**PRICE OF CASEIN IN SIBERIA.**

[Consul John K. Caldwell, Vladivostok, Asiatic Russia, July 10.]

American importers have applied to a number of the largest butter manufacturers in Moscow inquiring as to whether they could not supply casein for the American market, where there is a great demand. Unfortunately, the Russian firms were unable to secure casein from any of the butter-making districts.

Investigation proves that the production of casein in the Siberian butter districts has ceased entirely. Before the war the price of casein dropped to 2 and 3 rubles (\$1 to \$1.50) per pood of 36.11 pounds, whereas the normal price was 4 to 5 rubles (\$2 to \$2.50). At the same time the price of cattle increased to such an extent that it became more profitable to feed the calves and pigs with the skimmed milk from which casein is manufactured. At present the value of skimmed milk has increased still more, and all casein factories in the northern district as well as in Siberia have shut down.

The Moscow firms state that casein can only again be obtained from Russia providing the price is not less than 5 to 6 rubles (\$2.50 to \$3) per pood.

**CONSTRUCTION WORK.****CANADA.**

[Vice Consul G. C. Woodward, Vancouver, British Columbia, Aug. 19.]

**Construction of Jetty at New Westminster.**

The Marsh Hutton Power Contracting Co. of New Westminster, British Columbia, recently received instructions from the Dominion Government to proceed with the construction of the third unit of the large jetty being constructed at the mouth of the Fraser River for the purpose of confining its channel. This unit will be 10,000 feet in length and will cost about \$500,000. It is proposed to construct another jetty on the opposite side of the river in order to keep the channel automatically clear.

The first unit of the jetty, completed last year, was 6,900 feet in length, that of the second unit, which was started in May, 1915, is 7,100 feet in length. With the third unit completed this jetty will be approximately 14,000 feet in length.

**NEW ZEALAND.**

[Consul General Alfred A. Winslow, Auckland, July 19.]

**New Reinforced Concrete Bridge.**

A reinforced concrete bridge across the Tamaki River has just been completed, at a cost of \$67,709. It is an up-to-date structure, on the principal thoroughfare leading east from Auckland. Seventy-five per cent of the cost was paid by the Manakau County Council and the remainder by other tributary local bodies.

**Additions to Auckland Hospital and Costley Home.**

Contracts have been let for additions to the children's ward of the Auckland Main Hospital and to the Costley Home, under the supervision of the architect, Mr. G. W. Allsop. The addition to the Auckland Hospital is to cost \$91,471. The contractor is J. J. Holland, of Auckland. The addition to the Costley Home will supply 37 additional beds, at a cost of \$28,303. Facer & Co., Auckland, are the contractors. These structures are to be of brick and reinforced concrete, with slate roofs.

**To Start Dilworth Agricultural Institute.**

The contract has been let to W. E. Hutchinson, of Auckland, for \$33,978, to construct the first unit of the Dilworth Agricultural Institute for Boys at Papatoetoe, near Auckland. It will accommodate 300 boys. This is a gift of the late Mr. Dilworth, of this city, and is to be built of brick, with tiled roof and modern sanitary conveniences. It has been ordered that the work be completed as soon as possible. Instruction will be given in agriculture, horticulture, and general farm methods.

**SWITZERLAND.**

[Consul General Francis B. Keene, Zurich, Aug. 14.]

**New Roundhouse.**

The managing directors of the Swiss Federal Railways approved on the 12th instant the expenditure of 4,460,000 francs (\$860,780) for the construction of a new locomotive depot or roundhouse in the Brauerstrasse near the main station of Zurich. This is understood to be the first step in the extension of the main station which

has become necessary owing to the greatly increased traffic, particularly the passenger traffic, which, during the years 1900 to 1913, has increased from a total of 1,618,700 passengers to 4,489,200. The freight traffic during the same period increased about 46 per cent, and the average number of the trains handled at the station has increased during the same period from 270 to 402.

#### URUGUAY.

[Consul Herman L. Spahr, Montevideo, July 8.]

The State Insurance Bank (*Bance de Seguris del Estado*) has purchased a lot in the business section of Montevideo, corner of Rincon and Misiones Streets, and will construct and occupy a new building there. The bank has also bought a lot in the Cerro suburb, where a dispensary will be built in order that when the workmen of the frigorificos, slaughterhouses, and other establishments of that industrial section suffer accidents proper and prompt attention may be given.

The firm of Carlisle, Crocker & Co., one of the leading importers of American goods in Montevideo, has begun the erection of a large new building on calle Uruguay. This firm has been located on calle Rincon for many years, but the necessity of keeping a larger stock on hand caused it to decide to build a store and warehouse of its own.

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#### MACHINERY FOR NATAL'S SUGAR PLANTATIONS.

[Commercial Agent Juan Homs, Pretoria, South Africa, July 20.]

In the course of my investigation of the agricultural-implement market of South Africa I have incidentally collected a good deal of information in respect to sugar-cane growing in Natal and Zululand. I find that not only has this branch of farming become of considerable importance, but also that a very notable expansion of the industry is in sight. In 1915, 140,000 acres were devoted to sugar-cane growing, 46,000 acres are now being prepared for cane, and 184,000 acres of land have been recently inspected and declared suitable for that crop. In a conversation with a sugar planter about two weeks ago I ascertained that a large syndicate is at present in the market for the purchase of 110,000 acres of sugar-cane land. Vast areas, particularly in Zululand, are said to be capable of producing sugar cane.

The cane is manufactured into sugar by about 30 mills, all of which are equipped with British machinery. Several men in the business have informed me that they have often observed descriptions of machinery and appliances in American sugar journals that they feel could be easily sold in South Africa if the manufacturers made the necessary efforts to that effect. [A list of Natal sugar mills and mill agents may be obtained from the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce or its district and cooperative offices by referring to file No. 1008.] I am not in a position to indicate the best methods for the sale of such goods, but I assume that it would be necessary to send from the factory a man possessing all the necessary knowledge and experience respecting the construction of and the work performed by the machines, to see whether any alteration would be necessary to successfully crush the type of cane generally grown in Natal.

**EMPLOYEES OF LIGHTHOUSE BUREAU COMMENDED.**

Several employees of the United States Bureau of Lighthouses have been commended by the Acting Secretary of Commerce during the past month for services rendered in the saving of life and property under circumstances which in most instances required courageous action. Rescues were made during shipwrecks or while vessels were in distress, and several persons were saved from drowning. Those commended were:

Capt. John P. Johnson, George Larsen, second officer, T. J. Nolen, chief engineer, Viktor Karlsson, quartermaster, August Gohra, seaman, and E. J. McTeer, seaman, of the lighthouse tender *Cypress*, for heroic services rendered in the saving of life and property during the hurricane of July 13, 14, and 15, 1916, which visited Charleston, S. C., and vicinity. The Acting Secretary commended as especially praiseworthy the rescue of 21 men from the wrecked U. S. S. *Hector*, which was accomplished under conditions demanding seamanship of a high order and courage which was not found lacking; and also the fact that the tender *Cypress* was the only vessel in Charleston which would undertake the perilous voyage to Sullivan's Island, which she did successfully, bringing back 97 persons and safely landing them at Charleston.

George R. Smith, keeper, and Leon R. Smith, assistant keeper, of Red Fish Bar Cut Light Station, Tex., for assistance rendered the schooner *Adelc*, which foundered in the vicinity of Red Fish Bar Cut Light Station, and also Keeper George R. Smith for assistance rendered three men on the motor tug *Fortune*, which was wrecked off Red Fish Bar Cut Light Station.

William H. Schellenger, keeper, and Clinton H. Hickman, second assistant keeper, of Harbor of Refuge Light Station, Del., for assistance rendered a party of six persons whose motor boat became disabled in the vicinity of Harbor of Refuge Light Station.

James McCormick, keeper, of South Fox Island Light Station, Mich., for assistance rendered to a woman on South Fox Island, who was ill and in need of medical attention. Mention was also made in the letter of the part taken by the assistant keepers at the station in connection with the assistance rendered.

William J. Tate, keeper of North Landing River Lights, N. C., for services rendered on the night of July 16, 1916, to a launch with one occupant, which became disabled in the vicinity of North Landing River Lights, and for assistance rendered on July 23, 1916, to the schooner *Hobson*, which went ashore near Long Point Lighthouse Depot Reservation, N. C.

**Keeper of Light Station Goes Alone to Rescue of Three Men.**

August F. Wichmann, keeper of Cape Romain Light Station, S. C., for aid rendered the captain and crew of the wrecked schooner-barge *Northwest*. The keeper of this station not only provided dry clothes and food for the captain and five men of the vessel, but he went alone to the rescue of three of them, including the captain, who were in too weak a condition to reach the station, and carried the captain on his back part of the way along a beach covered by the water to a depth of from 1 to 2 feet, during which time he was in danger of drowning.

Emil F. Redell, commanding the lighthouse tender *Snowdrop*, for assistance rendered a party of 10 persons who were in danger because of storm in Mosquito Creek, Winyah Bay, S. C.

Rufus A. Brooks, commanding the lighthouse tender *Jessamine*, for assistance rendered the schooner *Jessie Irving*, which was ashore on Kent Island shoal, Md.

D. Ingram, mate of Columbia River Light Vessel No. 88, for assistance rendered by him and by T. Hawkins and C. H. Hansen, seamen, and S. Southman, fireman, to the vessel *Nora*, on July 28, 1916, while that vessel was in distress in the vicinity of the light-vessel station.

W. G. Marshall, keeper of Windmill Point Light Station, Mich., for assistance rendered by him to a man in danger of drowning in the vicinity of that light station.

Thomas J. Armstrong, keeper of Michigan City Light Station, Ind., for assistance rendered in saving a boy from drowning.



J. M. Kendley, first officer of the lighthouse tender *Maple*, for assistance rendered the schooner *Rattler*, which was in distress and in a sinking condition in the vicinity of Cornfield Harbor, Md.

Thomas E. Martin, first assistant keeper of Michigan City Light Station, Ind., for assistance rendered in saving two persons from drowning.

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### SWISS TOBACCO COMPANY FORMED.

[Consul Philip Holland, Basel, Aug. 11.]

A corporation has been organized in Basel, Switzerland, under the name of The Tobacco Export Co. of Basel, Switzerland, and Clarks-ville, Tenn., with a paid-up capital of 1,000,000 francs (\$193,000). The head offices are in Basel and a branch office is located in Clarks-ville. The capital has been provided by Swiss and Dutch subjects. The president and organizer of the corporation has for many years been an importer in Basel of American tobaccos. The purpose of the corporation is to buy direct and import Tennessee, Kentucky, Maryland, and Virginia tobaccos of the heavy, black kind from which cheap cheroots (locally called stumpen) are made.

The smoking of these stumpen is very general among the industrial classes and frequently among the well-to-do.

For a long time the heavy sea-island tobaccos were imported by Germany, made into stumpen and distributed throughout Europe. This trade has gradually diminished while the trade in Kentucky and Tennessee tobaccos has augmented. This has been brought about largely by the superior quality of the American tobaccos, which are better grown and cured and do not reach the European market in the state of fermentation which so frequently happens to tobaccos imported from countries where there are no facilities for housing, curing, bulking, and packing.

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### NEW ZEALAND MAY UTILIZE LARGE IRON DEPOSITS.

[Consul General Alfred A. Winslow, Auckland, July 17.]

There are large deposits of iron in New Zealand, much of it being found in iron sand at Taranaki, near New Plymouth, on the North Island, where several attempts have been made to produce pig iron in commercial quantities, beginning as early as 1848. All were without success with the possible exception of a plant just completed which has turned out a few tons of excellent pig iron.

It is stated that the pig iron produced at different times in this section of New Zealand from iron sand is of a very high quality, samples having been sent to England to be tested. It is probable that all the pig iron and all of the commercial iron needed in this country could be produced here. The cost of production is placed at \$11.49 per ton, which probably could be considerably reduced if an up-to-date plant were installed and operated continuously. Coal is found in the vicinity and the plant could be located within easy reach of tidewater, assuring cheap transportation.

The imports of pig iron into New Zealand for 1914 amounted to 10,805 tons, valued at \$225,567, of which the United States supplied 85 tons valued at \$1,698, while the United Kingdom supplied 9,284 tons valued at \$190,961.

**JAPAN'S INCREASED GOLD SPECIE.**

[Extract from Japan Chronicle, forwarded by Consul General George H. Scidmore, Yokohama, July 21.]

The Asahi of Osaka claims to have obtained confirmation of the report that Japan has been taking up British treasury bills with the object of utilizing her increased gold specie held abroad.

On July 17, 1916, Japan's gold specie totaled \$293,118,000, of which \$94,715,000 was held by the Government, and the remaining \$198,403,000 by the Bank of Japan. The Government's share was all held abroad—\$49,850,000 in the United States and \$44,865,000 in Europe. The Government has invested the specie in Europe in British treasury bills and otherwise utilized it so as to yield an interest of 4 or 5 per cent.

The specie held in the United States has been deposited with a few banks on current account. These banks, having more than sufficient funds on hand, do not allow interest of more than  $1\frac{1}{2}$  per cent per annum on Japan's specie. In these circumstances the Japanese authorities made a study of the best way of utilizing the specie and, according to the Asahi, have been in communication with the British Government, with the result that it has now been informally decided that Japan shall subscribe to British treasury bills with her specie in the United States.

**Large Total of Treasury Bills to be Taken.**

The British treasury bills to be taken up by the Japanese Government under the agreement are for \$49,850,000, bearing interest at 5 per cent per annum and redeemable in one year.

There are two considerable advantages for Japan under the new agreement: First, the specie will yield interest of 5 per cent, instead of the  $1\frac{1}{2}$  per cent now allowed on it, a gain of  $3\frac{1}{2}$  per cent; secondly, any losses due to the dollar-pound exchange are to be borne by the British Government.

The Osaka paper concludes by saying that the new agreement made is one of the best possible measures for the utilization of the Government's gold specie abroad.

**AMERICAN CONSULAR OFFICERS ON LEAVE OF ABSENCE.**

The following American consular officers are on leave of absence in the United States, and will be glad to confer with business men and commercial organizations relative to conditions in their respective jurisdictions. The consul's time is available primarily for personal interviews. He has limited facilities for correspondence, and except in urgent cases letters should be directed to the consulate.

Name.	Post.	Expiration of leave.	Address.
Hale, F. D. ....	Huddersfield, England	Sept. 5	Lunenburg, Vt.
Jewell, John F. ....	Chefoo, China	Oct. 1	Galena, Ill.
Kemper, Graham H. ....	Erfurt, Germany	Sept. 10	Department of State, Washington, D. C.
Hazeltine, Ross. ....	Port Antonio, Jamaica	Oct. 1	Do.
Laing, James Oliver. ....	Karachi, India	Sept. 30	C/o University Club Kansas City, Mo.
Leonard, Walter A. ....	Colombo, Ceylon	Oct. 14	Essex, Iowa.
Osborne, John Ball. ....	Havre, France	Oct. 21	Department of State Washington, D. C.
Mansfield, Robert E. ....	Vancouver, Canada	Sept. 15	Rushville, Ind.
Pike, William J. ....	St. Gall, Switzerland	Nov. 1	Department of State Washington, D. C.

### GOVERNMENT LOANS TO NITRATE PRODUCERS.

The Chilean Government has again taken measures to advance funds to nitrate producers for the marketing of their product. The policy of temporary assistance which the Government found it necessary to adopt during the period of depression following the outbreak of the European war was extended in 1915, and its renewal is deemed advisable this year. The provisions of the new law are much the same as those of the law of 1914 [see *COMMERCE REPORTS* for Dec. 28, 1915], the advances being on the basis of 3 pesos (42 cents) for each Spanish quintal (101.4 pounds) of nitrate at the plants of the producers, and 4 pesos (56 cents) for the same quantity at ports ready for shipment. Advances are limited to the sum corresponding to 15,000,000 quintals of nitrate.

The funds advanced are secured by the nitrate, and are refunded on receipt of the proceeds from the exports of the producers. Nitrate producers who mortgage their plants in favor of the Government, or who give other acceptable security, may obtain treasury warrants directly. These obligations draw 6 per cent annual interest. The new law provides that advances will be made only to nitrate producers who agree to maintain their plants at their normal production.

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### HARVEST HELP FOR THE PRAIRIE PROVINCES.

[Vice Consul G. C. Woodward, Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada, Aug. 19.]

The local authorities report that since July 26, 3,730 applications have been filed for employment in the harvest fields of the Prairie Provinces, the only exemption as regards nationality being Asiatics. Certificates have been issued to 3,260 applicants. Included in this number were about 75 female cooks.

A special rate of 1 cent per mile from Vancouver and 1½ cents per mile return was made by the various transcontinental roads.

It is expected that approximately 40,000 men will be required this year, about 8,000 in Alberta, 9,000 in Manitoba, and 23,000 in Saskatchewan, the wages ranging from \$2.75 to \$3 per day for common labor and from \$6 to \$7 per day for mechanics, such as engineers, including board. The employment is expected to last about three months.

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### HAWAIIAN STOCK EXCHANGE REACHES HIGHEST RECORD.

[A. P. Taylor, correspondent, Honolulu.]

The business of the Honolulu Stock and Bond Exchange transacted during the fiscal year ended July 31, 1916, exceeded that of the preceding year by more than 100 per cent and was 33½ per cent more than in the best previous year in the history of the association.

In 1915-16 the total transactions on the exchange amounted to \$14,551,987. The best previous year was 1912, when the volume of business reached \$11,380,714. Last year the business transacted amounted to \$6,629,405.

Sugar stocks handled through the Stock and Bond Exchange were valued at \$11,941,927. Of the miscellaneous stocks, 37,070 shares were handled, of a value of \$1,089,462. Bonds of a par value of \$1,525,400 were handled.

**HOW FLUCTUATION IN SILVER INFLUENCES TRADE IN CHINA.**

[Consul General Thomas Sammons, Shanghai, July 28.]

The fluctuations in the price of silver have some peculiar and unexpected effects upon the import and export trade of China. Contrary to the general impression, the export trade from this country does not necessarily flourish when the price of silver is exceptionally low. The reason for this situation is that the Chinese exporter and the foreign importer do not, at such times, seem able to agree upon what is a fair price for the goods under such conditions.

It seems to the average foreign importer to be an excellent opportunity to buy at a price in silver which would be reasonable under ordinary conditions but which, at the low value of silver, corresponds to an unusually small value in gold and, therefore, offers an opportunity for large profits in reselling on a gold basis to the foreign consumer.

**Chinese Dealers Are Well Posted.**

The Chinese dealers in the interior who have exports for sale are not unadvised as to the true situation. They are kept posted through a system of guilds which furnish information not less accurate than reports issued by commercial organizations in the United States regarding the real values of their goods in the world's markets, and accordingly they demand just about what the foreign importer can afford to pay and still make a small profit. The result is that the Chinese exporter and the foreign importer seem unable to agree upon a satisfactory trading basis. This interferes with their business transactions.

**When Silver Shows a Tendency to Rise.**

On the other hand, the situation is quite the reverse when silver shows a tendency to rise in value. The foreign buyer is then anxious to supply his wants in Chinese goods before their value in gold becomes too high on account of the rise in the price of silver. The Chinese dealer, too, is anxious to clear his stock before the increasing cost of silver results in giving him a much smaller amount of silver for his goods than he could when silver is lower in value. The two, therefore, experience little difficulty in arranging a price for the goods satisfactory to both, with the result that exports materially increase during such periods.

An examination of trade statistics shows that during periods of comparatively lower values of silver the export trade is heavy, whereas just the opposite is true when the value of silver has been high. Perhaps the best returns are recorded when silver maintains an average value equivalent to about 60 to 62½ cents gold to the tael, with a tendency to rise.

**OFFICES OF THE BUREAU OF FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC COMMERCE.****DISTRICT OFFICES.**

NEW YORK: Room 409, Customhouse.  
 BOSTON: 18th floor, Customhouse.  
 CHICAGO: 504 Federal Building.  
 ST. LOUIS: 402 Third National Bank Building.  
 ATLANTA: 521 Post Office Building.  
 NEW ORLEANS: 1020 Hibernia Bank Building.  
 SAN FRANCISCO: 307 Customhouse.  
 SEATTLE: 848 Henry Building.

**COOPERATIVE OFFICES.**

CLEVELAND: Chamber of Commerce.  
 CINCINNATI: Chamber of Commerce.  
 CINCINNATI: C., N. O. & T. P. Ry. Co.  
 LOS ANGELES: Chamber of Commerce.  
 PHILADELPHIA: Chamber of Commerce.  
 CHATTANOOGA: South American Agent, Southern Ry. Co.

### CHANGE IN TITLE OF NAVAL RADIO SERVICE.

Hereafter the Naval Radio Service will be known as the "Naval Communication Service." Charges on all traffic exchanged between other systems (radio, telegraph, and cable) and radio stations (ship and shore) operated by the Navy will be accounted for by the Naval Communication Service. In addition to his other duties, the Director of Naval Communication will perform the duties formerly assigned to the Superintendent of Naval Radio Service.

Correspondence relating to the Naval Communication Service should be addressed to the Director of Naval Communications, Radio, Va. Remittances should be made payable to the Naval Communication Service. If used, money orders should be drawn on postmaster, Washington, D. C.

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### YOUNG TROUT IN BRITISH COLUMBIA WATERS.

[Vice Consul G. C. Woodward, Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada, Aug. 19.]

During the past week the Provincial Fisheries Department has liberated some 90,000 young trout in lakes along the route of the Pacific & Great Eastern Railway, including Green, Alberta, and the connecting fresh-water lakes on the divide between Squamish and Pemberton Meadows, and in Kelly Lake, near Clinton.

An egg-collecting station was established last spring at Birkenhead Lake, 6 miles above D'Arcy, the station at the head of Anderson Lake. One hundred thousand trout eggs were collected and forwarded to the hatchery at Seton Lake, where they were hatched and distributed in the different lakes.

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### INDUSTRIAL EDUCATION IN URUGUAY.

A law providing for industrial education in Uruguay has recently been passed by Congress, and is published in the *Diario Oficial* of July 24. Primary and secondary industrial schools will be established, and normal industrial schools, schools in which workmen may perfect themselves in their particular lines, and free day and evening classes will complete the opportunities to be offered for industrial advancement. The President will appoint a council of industrial education to arrange courses of study, and a national inspector will have the technical direction of the instruction.

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### NEW URUGUAYAN LAW ON INHERITANCE TAXES.

The inheritance-tax law which was passed in Uruguay in 1914 has been substituted by a law promulgated in the *Diario Oficial* of July 13. Under the new percentage of taxes, the rate on the inheritances of near relatives varies from 1 per cent on sums from 500 pesos (peso=\$1.034) to 2,500 pesos, to 7 per cent on sums over 250,000 pesos. The inheritances of distant relatives are taxed from 11 per cent on sums over 300 pesos to 27 per cent on sums over 250,000 pesos.

## FOREIGN TRADE OPPORTUNITIES.

Reserved addresses may be obtained from the Bureau and its district offices. Request for each opportunity should be on a separate sheet and state opportunity number. The Bureau does not furnish credit ratings or assume responsibility as to the standing of foreign inquirers; the usual precautions should be taken in all cases.

*Wearing apparel, etc.*, No. 22305.—Supplementing foreign trade opportunity No. 22001, a firm in Central America informs the Bureau that it desires to represent American manufacturers of enameled ware, decorated metal toilet sets, ropes and twines, men's shirts and collars, umbrellas, light rain-proof coats, towels, bed spreads, and cottonades, etc. Terms desired, cash against documents at destination. Reference.

*Fire truck*, No. 22306.—The commercial attaché of the Department of Commerce in Chile writes that a firm in that country wishes to purchase an auto fire truck and desires to receive catalogues, quotations, etc., on a first-class machine. The truck should be complete with a pump and engine, and equipped to carry firemen. Reference.

*Saddle felt*, No. 22307.—An American consular officer in Switzerland reports that an agent in his district wishes to buy saddle felt. Cash will be paid with order for deliveries in American port.

*Iron beds, clothing, etc.*, No. 22308.—The Bureau is in receipt of a letter from a business man in Greece asking for the names and addresses of American manufacturers and exporters of iron beds, parts; and all kinds of clothing; etc.

*Piece and dress goods*, No. 22309.—One of the commercial agents of the Bureau writes that an American citizen, who has had considerable experience in South American trade, wishes to form commercial relations with American manufacturers and exporters with a view to representing them on a salary or commission basis in Argentina, Uruguay, and Chile. The man is particularly interested in cotton piece goods and woollen dress goods. References.

*Watchmaker's supplies*, No. 22310.—An American consular officer in the West Indies writes that a merchant desires to be placed in communication with American manufacturers of watchmaker's supplies. Catalogues and correspondence may be in English.

*Acroplanes, etc.*, No. 22311.—One of the commercial attachés of the Department of Commerce in South America writes that one of the Government departments will be permitted to spend about \$180,000 immediately after January 1, 1917, for the purchase of aeroplanes and accessories. Catalogues and full information should be sent at once.

*Yarn*, No. 22312.—A representative of a Swiss firm informed one of the commercial agents of the Bureau that he is desirous of being placed in touch with American manufacturers and exporters of aloe yarn, manila yarn, and sisal yarn for the manufacture of binding twine. References.

*Notions, etc.*, No. 22313.—An American consular officer in France reports that a business man in his district wishes to represent, on a commission basis, American producers and exporters of all kinds of goods suitable for department stores. Reference.

*Shoe findings, etc.*, No. 22314.—The Bureau is in receipt of a letter from a merchant in the West Indies who states that one of his agents in Venezuela wishes to correspond with American manufacturers and dealers in supplies for shoemakers, such as buttons, ornaments, rubber heels, polish, thread, nails, etc.

*Hardware, etc.*, No. 22315.—The commercial attaché of the Department of Commerce in France transmits the name and address of a business man who wishes to represent American manufacturers and exporters of hardware and other commodities which may be marketable in France. Reference.

# COMMERCE REPORTS



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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

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## BRITISH RESTRICTIONS ON THE SALE OF GASOLINE.

[Vice Consul Hamilton C. Claiborne, Bradford, England, Aug. 9.]

Subsequent to the national stock taking of the supplies of gasoline in the British Isles, and based upon the figures revealed by the governmental census of motor fuel available for distribution, allotments were made upon an average basis of 25 per cent of the amounts applied for by the owners of private cars, 60 per cent for commercial cars, and 50 per cent for public vehicles, such as omnibuses and taxicabs. A maximum allowance of 30 gallons a month was fixed for private cars, and 2 gallons monthly for motorcycles. Applications were made on the prescribed forms, and warrants have been issued for a monthly supply by the "Petrol Committee" or its subsidiary organizations. No gasoline can be purchased without such a warrant, and the amount obtained is indicated on the warrant at the time of sale by the seller.

According to an article published in *The Autocar* following a recent debate in the House of Commons, it was contended that the present shortage is due to a scarcity of "tankers" rather than any failure of the world's supply.

## TRADE-EXTENSION NEEDS IN SWITZERLAND.

[Consul Lewis W. Haskell, Geneva, Aug. 8.]

The American consulate at Geneva, having moved into new and commodious quarters in the center of the city, at No. 8 Rue Petitot, has a special room set apart for catalogues and as a commercial reading room. Manufacturers and others who are interested in the extension of American foreign trade are asked to keep the office supplied with late editions of catalogues and other data useful to commercial inquirers. Trade directories and trade papers, together with American newspapers carrying advertisements, are also available in this commercial reading room, and it is urged that files as complete as possible be provided.

## EXPORTS OF BREADSTUFFS, OILS, COTTON, ETC.

The usual monthly bulletin showing exports of domestic breadstuffs, cottonseed oil, food animals, meat and dairy products, cotton, and mineral oils from the principal customs districts of the United States has just been completed by the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, Department of Commerce. It shows exports as follows:

Items.	July.		7 months ending July.	
	1916	1915	1916	1915
<b>EXPORTS BY GROUPS.</b>				
Breadstuffs.....dollars...	23,271,840	23,297,088	248,414,174	343,032,004
Cottonseed oil.....pounds...	5,357,633	21,045,237	132,919,225	234,806,247
.....dollars...	561,976	1,481,626	13,135,152	16,612,954
Cattle, hogs, and sheep.....dollars...	87,439	1,253,731	608,154	1,806,063
Meat and dairy products.....dollars...	15,118,167	19,660,673	155,626,500	155,257,385
.....bales.....	470,753	244,474	3,709,517	5,937,361
Cotton.....pounds...	244,075,108	126,347,513	1,936,537,156	3,086,920,881
.....dollars...	32,632,784	11,688,439	249,271,086	271,151,817
Mineral oils.....gallons...	264,242,799	215,596,601	1,429,210,976	1,286,660,756
.....dollars...	21,567,601	12,711,950	116,904,304	78,818,006
Total.....dollars...	93,239,807	70,093,507	777,968,460	866,679,121
<b>EXPORTS BY PRINCIPAL ARTICLES.</b>				
Corn.....bushels...	5,120,343	2,100,892	32,121,000	33,655,636
.....dollars...	4,384,053	1,755,480	26,526,261	31,439,784
Oats.....bushels...	8,260,212	8,764,179	62,310,560	71,658,736
.....dollars...	3,833,028	5,212,715	31,373,877	44,000,345
Wheat.....bushels...	6,348,616	7,819,600	89,120,556	123,282,141
.....dollars...	7,723,519	9,826,542	115,901,787	184,906,694
Flour.....barrels...	905,095	830,143	9,324,449	9,306,726
.....dollars...	4,914,181	5,265,522	52,055,393	61,232,980
Beef, canned.....pounds...	2,915,339	10,060,222	29,418,422	56,202,576
.....dollars...	699,303	1,446,686	6,320,584	8,736,233
Beef, fresh.....pounds...	16,672,669	21,378,100	127,525,825	163,627,802
.....dollars...	2,209,722	2,728,283	15,750,478	20,895,859
Beef, pickled, etc.....pounds...	2,804,736	9,150,121	17,633,082	28,715,482
.....dollars...	312,485	935,759	1,888,326	3,079,840
Olivo oil.....pounds...	5,224,062	8,338,017	45,641,369	55,293,106
.....dollars...	717,870	1,096,044	5,905,389	6,736,232
Bacon.....pounds...	29,977,321	37,971,504	331,764,385	288,733,609
.....dollars...	4,022,673	5,233,444	46,029,523	38,542,536
Hams and shoulders.....pounds...	14,939,891	26,970,771	172,950,172	180,742,800
.....dollars...	2,310,387	3,820,686	25,686,006	22,644,367
Lard.....pounds...	25,542,205	21,021,515	270,358,894	298,671,511
.....dollars...	3,534,481	2,195,076	32,591,706	31,927,884
Neutral lard.....pounds...	1,544,137	1,191,867	19,396,463	20,617,327
.....dollars...	210,608	126,098	2,430,805	2,362,735
Pork, pickled, etc.....pounds...	8,818,763	5,162,430	75,581,367	37,152,083
.....dollars...	406,559	542,657	8,829,789	3,996,486
Lard compounds.....pounds...	2,765,567	5,353,606	26,882,579	40,729,967
.....dollars...	341,743	453,266	2,980,252	3,496,486
Crude oil.....gallons...	10,523,619	11,327,922	94,317,777	87,897,717
.....dollars...	491,523	202,323	4,230,262	2,397,014
Illuminating oil.....gallons...	72,149,821	79,695,922	474,718,542	495,323,057
.....dollars...	4,742,069	4,598,933	32,040,870	29,492,368
Lubricating oil.....gallons...	25,692,649	24,745,533	153,365,371	141,567,141
.....dollars...	4,135,948	3,278,588	24,386,071	18,510,028
Gasoline, naphtha, etc.....gallons...	47,857,244	23,471,978	195,622,302	157,224,250
.....dollars...	9,456,465	2,545,980	38,363,680	17,705,104
Kerosine, fuel oil, etc.....gallons...	98,119,466	77,014,336	511,798,984	404,646,589
.....dollars...	2,747,596	2,146,206	14,006,571	10,714,104

## Sample Fair at Sydney.

Commercial Attaché Philip B. Kennedy, at Melbourne, Australia, reports that the Sydney Chamber of Commerce expects to hold a fair and exhibition during September, 1917, and it is announced in the papers that British manufacturers had reserved 20,000 square feet of space for exhibition purposes. The present intention is to exhibit British and allied goods only.



## MARKET FOR FIRE EXTINGUISHERS IN FRANCE.

[Consul William H. Hunt, St. Etienne, Aug. 4.]

With the exception of one or two local hardware merchants who handle French-made portable hand fire extinguishers there are no importers of or dealers handling fire apparatus or fire-department supplies in the St. Etienne district. The center of this class of trade is in Paris. St. Etienne has not taken an advanced position in the use of modern and up-to-date fire-department equipment and supplies.

A market might be developed for portable hand fire extinguishers in this district, but the successful introduction and sale of an article of this kind would require the personal efforts of an aggressive agent on the spot, with the necessary time to cover the region, armed with apparatus, and able to show by practical demonstration the superiority of the American-made article.

### American Exporters Must Meet Continental Prices.

Before the outbreak of war the competition of hand fire extinguishers made on the Continent was quite important, based largely on the active manner in which the trade was pushed and the low prices at which they were sold. The prices of the best-known French makes were \$3.86, \$4.82, and \$6.17, and they contained from 2 to 4 liters. If American exporters can offer good hand fire extinguishers in this market at about the prices quoted, it will probably be possible to develop considerable business after the cessation of hostilities.

Fire extinguishers are classified under numbers 512*bis*, 575, and 579 of the French import tariff, according to the materials of which they are made, and pay an import duty, if made of copper or iron, of 50 francs per 100 kilos net weight (\$4.38 per 100 pounds); and if nickel or nickel plated, 150 francs per 100 kilos net weight (\$13.13 per 100 pounds). This is the general tariff applicable to this class of goods imported from America. The rubber hose for hand fire extinguishers is classified under No. 620 of the French import tariff and pays an import duty of 90 francs per 100 kilos net weight (\$7.88 per 100 pounds). This is the old general tariff applicable on this class of goods from the United States.

[A list of possible agents in St. Etienne for fire extinguishers may be obtained from the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, its district or cooperative offices. Refer to file No. 79599.]

## WATER FRONT IMPROVED AT VERA CRUZ.

[Consul William W. Canada, Vera Cruz, Mexico, Aug. 10.]

In order to beautify the esplanade along the water front called the "Malecón," the favorite promenade of the people of Vera Cruz in the late afternoon and evening, the Mexican authorities are providing a new electric-light system. The lights are being placed about 25 feet apart in the center of the esplanade, in a line approximately 400 yards long. They are arranged in clusters of five, which surmount ornamental iron supports.

The Vera Cruz Electric Light, Power, and Traction Co., an English concern with an American manager, is installing the system. Since the beginning of the European war, the company has bought most of its supplies in the United States.

**AGRICULTURAL IMPLEMENTS FOR COFFEE ESTATES.**

[Special Agent Frank H. von Motz, São Paulo, Brazil, July 16.]

During the course of a tour of the State of São Paulo I visited the fazenda of Senhor Vidal near Araraquara—one of the most productive coffee estates in that section of Brazil. After inspecting the drying courts and other features of the industrial side of coffee-raising, under the guidance of the manager of the estate, I expressed a desire to know something of the agricultural side of plantation work. The manager stated that most of the land devoted to coffee culture is timber land. The timber is cut down and the best part of it used for fence posts, telegraph posts, and lumber. What remains is sold for firewood or burned in the field. It is necessary, in every case, to burn over the land before planting, as the undergrowth between the trees is very heavy and if not burned is apt to take new life after it has been cut down.

After the land has been cleared of everything but the charred stumps of the trees it is plowed with 6 to 12 inch walking plows or with reversible disk plows having 24-inch disks. Wherever it is possible to do so the land is then disked with disk harrows, followed by harrowing with spike-tooth harrows. The young plants are then set out or the seed is planted, some growers using one method and some the other. During the rainy summer months (December, January, and February) the weeds grow very fast, and it is necessary to work the land between the plants with 5-tooth cultivators, pulverizing harrows, or, where the presence of tree stumps interfere, with hand hoes.

On several occasions I have seen an interesting use made of spike-tooth harrows. The Brazilian coffee grower takes two 30-tooth sections and, placing them side by side, secures them in that position with four strips of hardwood. These strips are quite heavy and are bolted to the harrow sections, and in this way a solid 60-tooth harrow is made, which, on account of the weight of the wood, penetrates the soil, thoroughly working it and destroying the growth of weeds.

**Plows, Harrows, and Corn Planters Only Lines in Demand.**

In a general way it may be stated that the field for the sale of agricultural implements on coffee estates is confined to walking plows, reversible-disk plows, disk and spike-tooth harrows, and pulverizing harrows. Some growers plant corn between the rows of coffee trees and for that purpose use one-horse corn planters with either double-disk or runner furrow openers and with pressure wheels. Where corn alone is planted the two-furrow planter with runner opener is largely used.

Owing to the moisture in the soil at planting time the single-disk furrow opener is not a success, and I saw several American corn planters with single-disk furrow openers that had been abandoned. If the manufacturers supplying the trade will furnish a double-disk opener on corn planters, they will meet with much better success. It must be remembered, however, that much of the land in the State of São Paulo is very hilly and that by far the greater number of farmers use one-horse corn planters.

Cheap one-hole hand corn shellers are found on nearly every large estate. In this State it is customary to snap the corn and store it in a barn or shed until it is wanted for feed. It is then ground quite

fine in power mills having chilled burrs, the whole ear (husk and all) being fed into the mill. This ground corn and sugar-cane tops that have been put through a chaff cutter and cut into  $\frac{1}{4}$ -inch lengths form the principal food of work animals as well as food for cows and pigs.

### ARGENTINA TRADE IN ALFALFA SEED.

[Consul William Dawson, jr., Rosario, July 24.]

The cultivation of alfalfa has increased very rapidly in Argentina. Figures published by the Ministry of Agriculture show the following areas under this crop: 1872—261,392 acres; 1888—963,729 acres; 1895—1,762,079 acres; 1914—18,219,998 acres. Of the area under alfalfa in 1914, some 14,000,000 acres fell to the Provinces of Buenos Aires, Cordoba, and Santa Fe, which led in the order named. Other Provinces and Territories figuring in statistics with more than 100,000 acres under alfalfa in 1914 were Pampa Central, San Luis, Entre Rios, Mendoza, and San Juan.

The placing of large tracts under alfalfa led to an active importation of foreign seed, which has, however, fallen off in recent years. This is probably due to two chief causes—the augmented production of Argentine seed and the real-estate crisis that resulted in the failure of many large rural proprietors.

Practically all the alfalfa seed imported is entered at Buenos Aires. Rosario is credited with less than 1 per cent of the total imports in 1910, about 3 per cent in 1911, a little under 5 per cent in 1912, and no imports in 1913. Imports at other points of this consular district are insignificant. The total imports of alfalfa seed amounted to 251 metric tons in 1914 and 871 metric tons in 1915.

#### Prices and Packing—Rosario Dealers.

The price of alfalfa seed is subject to great variation. Wholesale dealers at Rosario state that as a rule seed costs them from 4 to 8 paper pesos per 10 kilos (7.7 to 15.4 cents per pound). Under exceptional circumstances they claim to have paid as low as 3 pesos (5.8 cents per pound) and as high as 11 pesos (21.2 cents per pound). Alfalfa is sown in September and March, the March sowing being the more important. Wholesalers must receive seed by February 15 and August 15, as the case may be. Seed is generally packed in good-grade jute bags holding from 60 to 70 kilos (132 to 154 pounds). Alfalfa seed is free of duty. [The regulations governing the importation of alfalfa seed were published in COMMERCE REPORTS for September 21, 1915, p. 1385.]

Argentine seed, purchased largely in the interior Provinces, is handled at Rosario by a number of firms. Several local wholesalers have also imported alfalfa seed on a small scale. As already stated, however, practically all imported seed is entered at Buenos Aires. The interest of Rosario firms is only spasmodic and depends largely on the condition of the local market. A list of firms which might be interested in American seed, if particularly attractive as respects quality and price, accompanies this report [and may be obtained from the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce or its district and cooperative offices upon referring to file No. 79614]. Any correspondence addressed to those firms should be in Spanish. It should include price quotations c. i. f. Rosario, if possible, and should be accompanied by a small sample of seed.

## FOREIGN TRADE OF THE PHILIPPINES FOR SIX MONTHS.

The total value of the foreign trade of the Philippine Islands increased from 106,358,860 pesos for the first six months of 1915 to 114,983,795 for the same period in 1916. The imports decreased in value from 47,727,660 pesos for the first six months of 1915 to 41,050,542 for the same period in 1916, while the exports increased from 58,631,200 to 73,933,253 pesos. The following table shows the share of each country in the import and export trade of the Philippine Islands during the first six months of 1915 and 1916, the values being given in pesos (1 peso=50 cents gold):

Country.	1915			1916		
	Imports.	Exports.	Total trade.	Imports.	Exports.	Total trade.
	<i>Pesos.</i>	<i>Pesos.</i>	<i>Pesos.</i>	<i>Pesos.</i>	<i>Pesos.</i>	<i>Pesos.</i>
United States.....	25,239,218	23,575,940	48,815,158	20,065,814	23,946,569	54,032,383
Hawaii.....	251,762	109,372	361,134	132,398	159,158	341,556
Porto Rico.....	4,406	.....	4,406	.....	.....	.....
Guam.....	2,736	108,128	110,864	119	61,367	61,986
United Kingdom.....	3,075,942	9,599,704	12,675,546	2,494,394	17,126,087	19,610,451
Japan.....	3,544,123	5,381,780	8,925,902	4,320,732	5,767,536	10,088,329
France.....	651,292	7,508,964	8,160,256	630,430	3,065,408	3,695,828
French East Indies.....	6,548,212	16,500	6,564,712	4,692,991	113,374	4,806,365
Hongkong.....	187,858	3,736,386	3,924,244	101,934	4,519,228	4,621,162
Spain.....	935,340	2,840,320	3,775,660	785,492	2,396,910	3,082,382
China.....	2,476,246	1,238,944	3,714,190	2,473,854	2,009,340	4,483,094
Italy.....	159,136	2,457,226	2,616,362	107,171	1,174,999	1,282,170
British East Indies.....	1,030,234	1,134,340	2,165,074	1,398,298	1,686,232	3,084,526
Australasia.....	1,528,032	430,948	1,958,980	1,102,509	864,009	1,977,178
Switzerland.....	547,062	51,396	598,458	520,190	170,764	690,999
Dutch East Indies.....	512,568	37,310	549,878	1,182,097	110,281	1,292,978
Siam.....	337,390	27,374	365,470	352,919	29,599	382,907
Netherlands.....	115,264	247,944	363,908	101,962	401,560	503,512
Germany.....	239,788	136	239,924	63,006	.....	63,006
Japanese China.....	106,178	1,554	107,732	125,219	.....	125,219
Norway.....	85,006	.....	85,006	246,518	.....	246,518
Denmark.....	78,440	.....	78,440	38,993	6,420	45,406
Sweden.....	38,014	.....	38,014	10,711	.....	10,711
Austria-Hungary.....	16,772	.....	15,772	5,231	.....	8,221
Canada.....	13,794	309	14,094	7,544	429	7,973
Belgium.....	1,270	.....	1,270	17,328	.....	17,328
Egypt.....	218	1,910	2,128	68	391,699	391,673
Other countries.....	8,126	124,644	132,670	22,032	90,210	102,242
Total.....	47,727,660	58,631,200	106,358,860	41,050,542	73,933,253	114,983,795

## Some of the Principal Imports.

There was a considerable decrease in the imports of cotton and manufactures, rice, iron and steel manufactures, wheat flour, and other leading articles of import, as shown by the following table showing some of the principal articles imported into the islands during the first six months of 1915 and 1916:

Articles.	1915	1916	Articles.	1915	1916
	<i>Pesos.</i>	<i>Pesos.</i>		<i>Pesos.</i>	<i>Pesos.</i>
Agricultural implements, and parts.....	71,930	85,006	Chemicals, drugs, dyes, and medicines.....	798,348	1,154,539
Carabao.....	83,812	.....	Coal.....	1,367,408	1,470,988
Other cattle.....	374,394	275,488	Cocoa or cacao.....	210,046	423,430
Books, and other printed matter.....	481,044	468,894	Coffee.....	311,346	228,114
Brass, and manufactures of.....	149,684	164,907	Copper, and manufactures of.....	104,996	108,742
Wheat flour.....	2,091,936	1,856,925	Cotton, and manufactures of.....	11,289,090	8,492,609
Other breadstuffs.....	913,782	472,920	Diamonds and other precious stones, unset.....	233,000	229,746
Automobiles, and parts of.....	1,038,224	1,326,659	Earthen, stone, and china ware.....	121,572	143,615
Other cars, carriages, etc., and parts of.....	181,418	240,686	Eggs.....	496,738	463,930
Cement.....	412,286	293,265			

Articles.	1915	1916	Articles.	1915	1916
Fibers, vegetable, and manufactures of	<i>Pesos.</i> 729,418	<i>Pesos.</i> 523,525	Paper, and manufactures of	<i>Pesos.</i> 631,367	<i>Pesos.</i> 719,453
Fish and fish products	525,398	641,311	Perfumery and all toilet preparations	145,963	192,704
Fruits and nuts	314,348	345,812	Photograph equipment and supplies	113,212	97,036
Glass and glassware	245,224	237,797	Plated ware, gold, and silver	74,000	74,654
Gold, platinum, and silver, and manufactures of	58,898	65,322	Rice	4,843,420	6,567,582
India rubber, manufactures of	212,998	361,984	Silk, and manufactures of	815,204	882,542
Electrical instruments and apparatus	342,888	242,800	Soap	187,211	419,364
Motion-picture apparatus, and films for	191,137	291,738	Spirits, wines, and malt liquors	321,707	290,962
Other instruments and apparatus	149,380	169,790	Sugar and molasses	122,780	198,608
Iron and steel, and manufactures of	3,369,330	3,737,200	Tobacco, and manufactures of	400,591	339,648
Leather, and manufactures of	894,322	1,348,006	Vegetables	727,660	645,994
Meat products	1,215,943	1,596,712	Wax	113,760	138,960
Dairy products	761,772	994,724	Wood, and manufactures of	221,711	294,680
Musical instruments, and parts of	70,856	57,814	Wool, and manufactures of	98,283	376,000
Illuminating oil	716,111	1,069,216	Other imports	3,263,994	2,894,106
Other oils	1,053,396	887,294			
Paints and pigments	266,425	202,470	Total	41,050,542	47,727,660

The amount of duties collected on imports decreased from 5,423,666 pesos for the 1915 period to 4,426,627 pesos for the 1916 period.

#### The Principal Exports.

The increase in the value of the exports was due principally to the greater shipments of hemp and sugar, as shown by the following table showing the principal exports from the islands during the first six months of 1915 and 1916:

Articles.	1915	1916	Articles.	1915	1916
<i>Pesos.</i>	<i>Pesos.</i>		<i>Pesos.</i>	<i>Pesos.</i>	
Beche de mer	77,736	36,400	Rice	1,914	2,603
Bees wax	21,764	6,712	Rubber, crude	10,668	12,924
Carabao hides	7,524	2,096	Sapan wood	5,998	52,952
Coconut cake		4,050	Sesame seeds	4,284	5,313
Coconut oil	2,540,226	2,875,545	Shark fins	15,636	16,021
Copper, scrap and old	67,624	130,075	Shells	283,390	257,953
Copra	15,183,400	6,026,821	Spirits, distilled	7,308	17,117
Cowhides	9,614	36,186	Sponges		17,000
Elemt	476	29,936	Sugar	10,227,870	22,014,073
Embroideries	196,700	698,061	Tobacco:		
Fruits	48,396	43,526	Cigars	2,100,178	2,555,294
Furniture	17,698	8,393	Cigarettes	42,020	47,089
Glue	11,862	11,662	Other tobacco	1,535,000	2,517,654
Gum copal	93,134	127,341	Other articles:		
Gutta-percha	22,234	16,285	Cinnamon	1,092	4,361
Hats	241,614	576,284	Coconut, desiccated	384	8,654
Hemp, knotted	205,764	370,664	Indigo	2,350	30,231
Hemp rope	102,140	139,767	Knotted bamboo	4,718	3,570
Hemp	24,038,582	30,510,981	Matches	8,630	300
Lumber	212,734	578,273	Orchids	4,792	6,822
Maquey	463,994	1,846,260	Rattan	30,778	33,423
Malt liquors	22,582	5,659	Shoes	410	8,140
Metals, metal compositions, and manufactures of	18,688	160,156	Soap	678	6,654
Pacol	2,010	7,288	All other domestic exports	206,736	200,042
Pearl buttons	72,980	125,328	Exports of foreign merchandise	456,800	1,734,175
Pill nuts	110	7,130			
			Total exports	58,631,200	73,933,253

#### British Columbia Mining Dividends.

Vice Consul G. C. Woodward reports from Vancouver that the dividends paid by British Columbia mines during the first six months of 1916 amounted to \$1,966,354, being approximately double the amount distributed during the same period of the previous year.

# INCREASED EXPORTS FROM BELFAST TO UNITED STATES.

[Consul Hunter Sharp, Belfast, Ireland, Aug. 15.]

According to invoices certified at the Belfast consulate, the total value of exports to the United States for the first six months in 1916 was \$10,112,372, an increase of \$2,567,772 as compared with the corresponding period in 1915.

Linen goods amounting to \$8,254,053, increased by the value of \$2,067,517. Yarn and thread increased \$227,841 and \$44,451, respectively. Flax, valued at \$631,447, shows an increase of \$41,680. The exports of cotton goods, aggregating \$428,738, increased \$104,680; bleached cloth forming the largest single item. Whisky, valued at \$121,139 shows an increase of \$58,731.

Shipments to the Philippine Islands amounted to \$2,974, a decrease of \$1,497; to Porto Rico, \$6,819, an increase of \$6,218 as compared with the first six months in 1915. Exports to these possessions consisted principally of manufactures of flax. There were no certified invoices for shipments to Hawaii during the first six months in 1916.

## Exports to United States.

The following table shows the declared values of exports from Belfast to the United States for the first six months of 1915 and 1916:

Articles.	1915	1916	Articles.	1915	1916
<b>Cotton:</b>			<b>Flax, manufactures of—Con.</b>		
<b>Cloth—</b>			<b>Handkerchiefs—Con.</b>		
Not bleached.....	\$1,274	\$1,800	Hemstitched.....	\$218,959	\$306,934
Bleached.....	89,118	134,354	Embroidered.....	323,506	343,083
Mercerized.....	4,416	5,392	Woven flax articles, n. e. s. ..	1,112,262	1,342,637
Printed.....	4,080		<b>Thread:</b>		
Dyed.....	3,211		From yarn not finer		
<b>Damask.....</b>	<b>32,251</b>	<b>67,207</b>	than 5 lea.....	1,220	4,056
<b>Embroideries.....</b>	<b>11,228</b>	<b>12,942</b>	From yarn finer than		
<b>Handkerchiefs—</b>			6 lea.....	63,180	104,265
Not hemmed.....	11,491	15,068	<b>Yarns:</b>		
Hemmed or hem-			Not finer than 8 lea.....	2,174	3,157
stitched.....	23,213	24,353	Finer than 8 lea and		
Embroidered.....	83,759	59,542	not finer than 80 lea ..	59,016	394,678
Woven articles, n. e. s. ..	20,223	12,175	Finer than 80 lea.....	37,261	19,667
Manufactures, n. e. s. ..	22,919	68,528	<b>Fruit preserves not over</b>		
All other.....	16,875	29,377	10 per cent alcohol.....	7,320	
<b>Felt.....</b>	<b>19,724</b>	<b>52,340</b>	<b>Fusel oil.....</b>	<b>4,006</b>	
<b>Flax:</b>			<b>Ginger ale in bottles.....</b>	<b>26,644</b>	<b>33,541</b>
Not hackled.....		60,845	<b>Grass seed.....</b>	<b>19,919</b>	<b>24,195</b>
Hackled.....	574,645	551,836	<b>Household effects.....</b>	<b>2,171</b>	<b>1,364</b>
Noils.....	8,278	5,318	<b>Manufactures of jute:</b>		
Tow of.....	6,844	4,448	Burlaps.....		26,691
<b>Flax, manufactures of:</b>			Plain.....		1,148
Embroideries and			<b>Machinery.....</b>	<b>7,366</b>	<b>4,365</b>
laces.....	31,920	40,165	<b>Nursery stock.....</b>	<b>4,470</b>	<b>7,705</b>
Fabrics, plain woven.....	3,077,356	4,764,527	<b>Paper stock.....</b>	<b>62,069</b>	<b>33,889</b>
Fabrics not plain wov-			<b>Whisky.....</b>	<b>62,408</b>	<b>121,139</b>
en.....	1,392,205	1,394,986	<b>Wool manufactures, cloth..</b>	<b>6,426</b>	<b>19,998</b>
<b>Handkerchiefs—</b>			<b>All other articles.....</b>	<b>77,700</b>	<b>35,554</b>
Not hemmed or			<b>Total.....</b>	<b>7,544,000</b>	<b>10,112,372</b>
hemmed only.....	30,268	61,731			

## New Mining Companies in Chile.

The organization of two new mining companies in Chile has recently received Government approval. The first, "Compañía Minera Domeyko," was organized in Santiago with a capital of 500,000 pesos (paper), to acquire and exploit mines in the department of Combarbala. The second, "Nueva Compañía Minera de Las Vacas," capitalized in Valparaiso at 1,500,000 pesos, purposes to work gold mines in the mining district of Las Vacas in Los Vilos.

**ECUADOR MARKET REPORT FOR JUNE.**

[Consul General Frederic W. Goding, Guayaquil, July 19.]

In order to have an accurate understanding of the prices of the principal exports from Ecuador, a few explanations are necessary, as those given are for warehouse delivery in Guayaquil. In all cases the prices are for 100 pounds.

To the quotations for cacao, \$2.63 for export duty, cleaning, baggage, and lighterage on each 100 pounds must be added to show the cost f. o. b. If \$1.70 for freight be also added the cost delivered at the port of New York will be arrived at. For each 100 pounds of coffee \$0.64 is to be added for export duty, bagging, and lighterage. With hides, the price quoted should be augmented by \$2.96 for poisoning, export duty, and lighterage. To the price quoted for shelled ivory nuts \$1.06 is to be added for export duty, bagging, and lighterage. The quotations for rubber are to be increased by \$5.72 per 100 pounds for export duty, bagging, and lighterage.

These additions for duty, bagging, etc., are permanent and should always be added to the prices quoted for this market.

**Prices of Leading Exports.**

The price for Arriba cacao was maintained at \$11.43 by the Asociación until June 10; from June 12 to 17, at \$11.87; from June 19 to 21, at \$12.29; and from that date to the end of the month at \$12.71. These advances were due to the reaction in the local rate of exchange, as the prices in Europe and the United States remained stationary. The receipts of cacao to date exceed those for the corresponding period of last year by 8,750,000 pounds. The shipments for the month, in pounds, were: To Chile, 36,052; France, 207,146; Spain, 276,050; United Kingdom, 4,937,650; United States, 2,423,122; a total of 7,880,020 pounds.

The coffee market has been quiet, with a downward tendency, owing to the proximity of the new crop. The prices quoted were: For first grade, \$8.05; second grade, \$7.63. Chile purchased 69,895 pounds; France, 10,293; Panama, 43,156, and Peru, 5,145 pounds.

Hide prices remained stationary during the month, serranos being quoted at \$17.95, criollos at \$16.10, and picados at \$8.48. Shipments totaling 67,100 pounds went to the United States.

As usual, the ivory-nut market was weak, with declining prices, the shelled nuts being quoted at \$1.06. Spain took all the nuts exported—56,667 pounds.

There were no variations in rubber prices, maroma bringing \$25.42 and hojas \$21.19. There were 3,984 pounds exported to the United States.

**Imports During June—Exchange.**

The imports aggregated 5,639 tons, the sources being: France, 1,465 packages; Holland, 159; Mexico, 18; Peru, 971; United Kingdom, 15,090; United States, 31,144; West Indies, 562.

The rate of exchange on New York for commercial paper has been at 2.36, with some selling at 2.32, whereas the mint rate is 2.053.

The California State Superintendent of Banks has issued a license to the Sumitomo Bank (Ltd.) of Osaka, Japan, to establish a branch in San Francisco. The allotment of capital to the branch is \$300,000. The San Francisco Call announces the bank's plans to open this month.

## BRITISH COLONIAL BONDS AS INVESTMENTS.

[Special Agent Frederic M. Halsey, Aug. 11.]

In British West Indian colonial bonds and inscribed stock is to be found a class of "near at home" securities well worthy of notice. The West Indian possessions of Great Britain, many of them long dormant, are feeling the benefits of the present boom in sugar. Plantations have been cleared and put in order, and more progress is to be noted than has existed at any time during the past quarter century. British Guiana, Great Britain's only South American possession, has likewise felt the effects of the rise in sugar.

The securities of the British colonies are free from all stamp taxes, and in normal times sell at very high figures. At present prices, in view of their short maturities, their yield in several instances is well above 5 per cent, and in the event of their being called for payment by sinking fund the yield and profit will be much larger. The present low prices should be noted:

Securities.	When redeemable.	Price on July 27, 1914.	Present price.	De- cline.
Antigua 4 per cent. ....	1919-1944	100	77	23
Barbados 3½ per cent. ....	1925-1942	88	74	14
British Guiana 4 per cent. ....	1935	90	85	14
British Guiana 3 per cent. ....	1923-1945	78	74	4
Grenada 4 per cent. ....	1917-1942	99	79	20
Jamaica 4 per cent. ....	1934	100	85	15
Jamaica 3½ per cent. ....	1919-1940	88	73	15
Jamaica 3 per cent. ....	1922-1944	79	75	4
St. Lucia 4 per cent. ....	1919-1944	93	82	16
Trinidad 4 per cent. ....	1917-1942	101	85	16
Trinidad 3 per cent. ....	1922-1944	78	63	15

These are the asked prices; the stocks could doubtless be obtained at lower figures.

**The Antigua, Guiana, Barbados, and Grenada Loans.**

The 4 per cent bonds of the Island of Antigua were first offered for public subscription in the year 1894, the price being 103½. The issue is for £100,000 (\$486,650), which is practically the entire public debt of the island. A sinking fund will purchase bonds up to par from 1919 to 1944.

The 4 per cent and 3 per cent loans of the colony of British Guiana are outstanding to the amounts of £194,500 and £250,000 (\$946,535 and \$1,216,625), respectively. These issues and other securities to an aggregate amount of about £100,000 represent the total debt of the colony. The 4 per cent loan was originally issued at about 98, while the 3 per cent issue was brought out part at 96½ and part at 93. Both issues are provided with sinking funds.

The Barbados 3½ per cent loan is for £375,000 (\$1,824,940). The original offering price of this issue was 102½ per cent, which reflects the excellent credit of this island.

Grenada's 4 per cent loan is outstanding to the amount of £123,000 (\$598,580), this representing practically the entire debt of the colony. The issue was originally brought out at about 101 and at one time sold as high as 111½. Conditions on this island are said to be much better than for some time past, and it should be able to take care of its obligations without assistance of the mother country. Sinking fund begins operation next year and will redeem bonds prior to 1943.



**The Jamaica, St. Lucia, and Trinidad Issues.**

The Jamaica loans are outstanding as follows: 4 per cent, £1,099,048 (\$5,348,515); 3½ per cent, £1,493,600 (\$7,268,605); 3 per cent, £200,000 (\$973,300). The 4 per cent loan was originally subscribed for at prices averaging from 103 to 103½ and is being purchased from time to time for a sinking fund, which will keep the issue alive until its final retirement in 1934. The 3½ per cent loan was issued in 1906 to acquire the Jamaica Railway, the bonds being taken by the company's first-mortgage bondholders. The 3 per cent issue was brought out at slightly above 100, reflecting the high credit of the largest British West Indian island.

St. Lucia is enjoying prosperity now that the British West Indian naval station has been established there. The 4 per cent bond issue is for £85,479 (\$415,985). It was brought out at 102 and higher. St. Lucia has also a small 4½ per cent debenture issue (£49,100, or \$238,945) outstanding; these debentures may be purchased at about 90-91. They are being redeemed by a sinking fund, which buys the debentures up to par.

Trinidad, with its oil boom and increased production of sugar, is in excellent financial condition. Its 4 per cent loan (£972,500, or \$4,732,670) sold originally at 99 to 103½. The 3 per cent loan (£600,000, or \$2,919,900) was brought out at 98.

**PHOTOGRAPHING INTERIOR STRUCTURE OF CONCRETE WORK.**

[Consul George Nicolas Ifft, St. Gall, Switzerland, July 21.]

Some successful experiments in photographing the iron reinforcements of concrete work with Roentgen rays, recently made by Inspecting Engineer E. Stettler of the Swiss Railway Department, are attracting much attention among Swiss construction engineers. The advantages of being able to make an examination of the condition of such reinforcements or the proper disposition and situation thereof without destroying the concrete structure are self-evident, as well as the desirability of being able to make an inspection of the position of the reinforcing iron rods upon the completion of the cement parts of a new building or a new cement structure.

Engineer Stettler, by the use of special plates adapted to any construction, has apparently obtained serviceable pictures of the inner structure of cement blocks. To eyes accustomed to pictures with great detail and much light and shadow, the first results of the Roentgen exposure may seem somewhat meager. However, the iron reinforcements in the pictures are shown in their proper size and situation, as also the connections and crossings, so that the imperfect connections can be clearly recognized.

**WATER SUPPLY FOR PUERTO BARRIOS.**

The Government of Guatemala has authorized the Guatemala Railway Co. to supply drinking water to the city of Puerto Barrios. The water will be taken from the River Las Escobas, in the jurisdiction of the port Estrada Cabrera, and pipe lines will be extended under water through the bay. The contract between the railway company and the Government, which is published in *El Guatemalteco* of August 3, specifies that the work must be completed within six months.

## CHILEAN TRADE STATISTICS.

[Consul General L. J. Keena, Valparaiso; all sums in U. S. currency.]

Figures just made public by the Chilean Statistical Bureau place the value of the Republic's imports in 1915 at \$55,922,218, or \$42,538,977 less than in 1914; exports are valued at \$117,606,865, or \$10,179,053 more than in 1914; thus giving to Chile's foreign commerce last year a total value of \$173,528,583, as contrasted with \$205,888,507 in 1914, \$263,075,578 in 1913, \$259,719,149 in 1912, \$248,058,202 in 1911, and \$224,365,190 in 1910.

The United States, France, Germany, and Great Britain are the four chief suppliers of the Chilean market, the value of Chile's imports from these countries in the past six years having been:

Imported from—	1910	1911	1912	1913	1914	1915
United States.....	\$13,369,774	\$15,775,969	\$16,806,341	\$20,089,158	\$20,148,576	\$18,628,455
France.....	7,010,929	6,931,713	7,261,061	6,623,260	4,306,107	1,700,383
Germany.....	26,296,071	32,696,171	33,189,070	29,578,138	25,899,770	3,568,569
United Kingdom.....	34,340,573	40,805,052	38,616,896	36,100,211	22,334,633	13,308,770
All other countries.....	27,564,932	31,172,574	26,202,638	27,874,234	25,882,109	18,691,621
Total.....	108,582,279	127,381,479	122,075,966	120,274,001	98,461,195	55,922,218

Notwithstanding the decline in the value of the merchandise imported into Chile from the United States in 1915 as compared with 1914, that country supplied one-third of the year's merchandise imports, as the following table discloses:

Countries.	1910	1911	1912	1913	1914	1915
	<i>Per ct.</i>	<i>Per ct.</i>	<i>Per ct.</i>	<i>Per ct.</i>	<i>Per ct.</i>	<i>Per ct.</i>
United States.....	12.31	12.38	13.76	16.70	20.46	33.33
France.....	6.45	5.44	5.94	5.50	4.27	3.04
Germany.....	24.22	25.66	27.18	24.59	26.29	6.41
United Kingdom.....	31.63	32.02	31.63	30.01	22.67	23.80
All other.....	25.39	24.50	21.49	23.20	26.31	33.42
Total.....	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00

## Slight Recovery in Exports.

The increase of \$10,179,053 that occurred in Chile's exports last year was due to the expansion of the Republic's trade with the United States and the increased shipments to "all other countries," these gains being sufficient to offset the complete disappearance of Germany as a customer for Chilean products. As officially given, the values of the exports from Chile for the past six years were:

Exported to—	1910	1911	1912	1913	1914	1915
United States.....	\$24,680,878	\$19,551,932	\$24,514,565	\$30,413,396	\$31,434,241	\$50,199,243
France.....	5,237,284	5,865,179	7,668,570	8,847,885	4,245,128	3,554,092
Germany.....	23,142,907	26,199,771	28,060,665	30,772,743	18,078,986	.....
United Kingdom.....	46,380,858	53,258,282	55,102,649	55,548,342	40,041,307	40,562,411
All other countries.....	16,334,984	15,801,559	22,296,674	17,219,221	13,627,650	23,270,619
Total.....	115,782,911	120,676,723	137,643,153	142,801,577	107,427,312	117,606,865

By thus taking 42.68 per cent of the exports, the United States became Chile's best customer in 1915, instead of occupying second

or third rank as in former years. The relative positions of the four leading purchasers of Chilean products during the last six years are shown by the following schedule:

Countries.	1910	1911	1912	1913	1914	1915
	<i>Per ct.</i>	<i>Per ct.</i>	<i>Per ct.</i>	<i>Per ct.</i>	<i>Per ct.</i>	<i>Per ct.</i>
United States.....	21.28	16.81	17.81	21.29	29.26	42.06
France.....	4.52	4.86	5.57	6.19	3.95	3.02
Germany.....	19.99	21.77	20.38	21.55	16.82	.....
United Kingdom.....	40.06	44.13	40.00	38.89	37.27	34.51
All others.....	14.15	12.43	16.24	12.08	12.70	19.79
Total.....	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00

### CONDITION OF BRITISH FLAX TRADE.

[Consul General Robert P. Skinner, London, Aug. 18.]

The arrangement by which British flax merchants were prohibited from buying or selling Russian flax or tow was explained by the financial secretary of the War Office in the House of Commons, on August 16, 1916. He said:

Toward the end of 1915 there was a serious shortage of Russian flax in this country, and for this reason the department was unable to obtain the full amount of linen goods required for Government purposes. In order to secure adequate supplies of Russian flax and so far as possible to prevent unreasonable inflation of prices, it was decided to centralize the purchase of Russian flax in the hands of the largest four firms in the trade, acting as Government agents. This course was rendered all the more necessary by the importance of organizing transit and shipment to and from the port of Archangel. The scheme was adopted on grounds of public policy and was elaborated in close consultation with the leading flax spinners and merchants. The arrangements for dealing with next season's crop are not yet settled, and I shall be prepared to consider any representations that may be made on the subject before coming to a decision.

[A statement regarding the British flax decree was published in **COMMERCE REPORTS** for Mar. 14, 1916.]

### NEW BRITISH TRADE ORGANIZATION IN MANCHURIA.

[Consul General P. S. Heintzleman, Mukden, July 27.]

With the active cooperation of the British Chamber of Commerce at Shanghai, a similar chamber was organized in Mukden on July 16, 1916, under the leadership of the British consul general. The board of officers of the chamber consists of a chairman, secretary, and standing committee. The primary object is to maintain and promote British trade interests in the consular district of Mukden, in conjunction with the chamber of commerce at Shanghai. Other objects are the arbitration of disputes between its members and Chinese merchants, the adoption of standard contract forms, and the protection of British interests as affected by the imposition of *likin* and other internal taxes.

All British merchants in Mukden are members of the chamber. There are only six British firms here, two of which are retailers. Meetings of the chamber for the present are being held in the office of the British consul general. The British consul general has notified the Chinese Foreign Office of the establishment of the chamber.

### NEW SECTIONS OF ATLANTIC COAST PILOT.

Editions of the United States Coast Pilot for the Atlantic Coast, Section C (Sandy Hook to Cape Henry, including Delaware and Chesapeake Bays), and Section E (Gulf of Mexico from Key West to the Rio Grande) have been issued by the United States Coast and Geodetic Survey. Section C is based mainly upon the work of the Survey, including the results of special examinations in 1914 and 1915, and the aids to navigation are corrected to May 12, 1916. Section E is based upon work which includes the results of special examinations in 1915, and the aids to navigation are corrected to May 6, 1916.

The price of each of these volumes is 50 cents. Agencies for the sale of the charts, coast pilots, and tide tables of the Coast and Geodetic Survey are established in many ports of the United States and in some foreign ports. They may also be purchased at the offices of the Coast and Geodetic Survey, Washington, D. C., or any of the suboffices.

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### LICENSE FEES FOR FISH PACKING IN BRITISH COLUMBIA.

[Vice Consul Irving N. Linnell, Prince Rupert, British Columbia, Canada, Aug. 11.]

Fish packing and shipping firms operating in Prince Rupert have received notice that hereafter it will be necessary for them to take out licenses from the Province of British Columbia, to cost \$100 a year, in order to carry on their business here. These companies already have municipal licenses from the city of Prince Rupert, for which they pay \$50 a year, and if they wish to do any salting of salmon they are further required to pay \$50 a year for a license from the Province of British Columbia and \$100 a year for a license from the Dominion of Canada. Thus a firm which packed and shipped halibut and also salt salmon would have to pay \$300 a year in license fees.

The majority of the companies operating here in the packing and shipping of fish are in reality branches of American companies, though most of them have obtained separate incorporations as Canadian companies.

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### NORWEGIAN FOOD COMMISSION.

[Consul General E. Haldeman Dennison, Christiania, Aug. 9.]

The State Food Commission established at the commencement of the war in order to provide sufficient supplies and regulate prices, [as reported in COMMERCE REPORTS for July 10, 1916] not having, it appears, proved entirely satisfactory in preventing a shortage of necessities and the imposition of excessive charges, the Government has now resolved to substitute for this commission a State Provision Department.

At the meeting of the Storting on July 27, the Prime Minister explained the general internal and international situation, and said the country was importuning the Government for supplies and that they therefore proposed to establish immediately a board to provide increased supplies of provisions and to regulate prices. They hoped that this would have the effect of securing sufficient quantities of the country's products for the home population.

**AMERICAN CONSULAR OFFICERS ON LEAVE OF ABSENCE.**

The following American consular officers are on leave of absence in the United States, and will be glad to confer with business men and commercial organizations relative to conditions in their respective jurisdictions. The consul's time is available primarily for personal interviews. He has limited facilities for correspondence, and except in urgent cases letters should be directed to the consulate.

Name.	Post.	Expiration of venue.	Address.
Jewell, John F. ....	Chefoo, China. ....	Oct. 1	Galena, Ill.
Kemper, Graham H. ....	Erfurt, Germany. ....	Sept. 10	Department of State, Washington, D. C.
Hazelstine, Ross. ....	Port Antonio, Jamaica	Oct. 1	Ido.
Laing, James Oliver. ....	Karachi, India. ....	Sept. 30	C/o University Club, Kansas City, Mo.
Leonard, Walter A. ....	Colombo, Ceylon. ....	Oct. 14	Essex, Iowa.
Osborne, John Ball. ....	Harre, France. ....	Oct. 21	Department of State, Washington, D. C.
Mansfield, Robert E. ....	Vancouver, Canada. ....	Sept. 15	Rushville, Ind.
Pike, William J. ....	St. Gall, Switzerland. ....	Nov. 1	Department of State, Washington, D. C.
Armstrong, John S. ....	Bristol, England. ....	Oct. 1	1200 Eutaw Place, Baltimore, Md.
Henry, Frank Anderson. ....	Puerto Plata, Dominican Republic.	Oct. 1	C/o Hallowell & Henry, 27 Pine St. New York City.

**LIFE INSURANCE BUSINESS AT SHANGHAI.**

[Consul General Thomas Sammons, Shanghai, China, July 22.]

Life insurance activity, mostly among natives, is reported satisfactory at Shanghai. One company reports that, considering the unsettled conditions in the country during the past year and the general depression in business throughout the East, its affairs show good results. New applications for insurance were received for a total of \$3,267,345, policies were issued for \$3,067,540, and applications for \$199,805 were postponed or declined. The total insurance in force March 31, 1916, was \$12,134,591.

**NEW JAPANESE ZINC PLANT TO ENTER FIELD.**

[Extract from Nagasaki Press, forwarded by Vice Consul Henry B. Hitchcock, Nagasaki, July 25.]

A zinc factory which is being built at Hikoshima, in the Shimonoseki Straits, by the Suzuki Shoten of Kobe, will be completed in a few weeks. Operations were commenced in April, 1916, and 2,500 hands have been employed. When the factory is completed, the number of employees will be increased by 1,500. The ore will be chiefly from Australia and Asiatic Russia, and will first be sent to a refinery at Chofu, which is also owned by the Kobe firm.

**OFFICES OF THE BUREAU OF FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC COMMERCE.****DISTRICT OFFICES.**

NEW YORK: Room 409, Customhouse.  
 BOSTON: 18th floor, Customhouse.  
 CHICAGO: 504 Federal Building.  
 ST. LOUIS: 402 Third National Bank Building.  
 ATLANTA: 521 Per. Office Building.  
 NEW ORLEANS: 1020 Hibernia Bank Building.  
 SAN FRANCISCO: 807 Customhouse.  
 SEATTLE: 848 Henry Building.

**COOPERATIVE OFFICES.**

CLEVELAND: Chamber of Commerce.  
 CINCINNATI: Chamber of Commerce.  
 CINCINNATI: C., N. O. & T. P. Ry. Co.  
 LOS ANGELES: Chamber of Commerce.  
 PHILADELPHIA: Chamber of Commerce.  
 CHATTANOOGA: South American Agent, Southern Ry. Co.

## FOREIGN TRADE OPPORTUNITIES.

Reserved addresses may be obtained from the Bureau and its district offices. Request for each opportunity should be on a separate sheet and state opportunity number. The Bureau does not furnish credit ratings or assume responsibility as to the standing of foreign inquirers; the usual precautions should be taken in all cases.

*Machinery*, No. 22316.—An American consular officer in Italy writes that a merchant in his district wishes to be put in touch with American manufacturers and exporters of machinery for the graphic industry. He wishes to act as a representative. Correspondence in Italian or French. References.

*General representation*, No. 22317.—A business man in France informs an American consular officer that he wishes to secure names and addresses of American manufacturers and exporters who are desirous of establishing agency connections in that country. No particular line is specified. References.

*Fish bags*, No. 22318.—An American consular officer in the Far East reports that a firm desires to place on the American market a cheap fish bag made of matting, with or without handles. It is estimated that the most expensive bag would cost approximately half a cent gold delivered in New York. Reference. (See also p. —, COMMERCE REPORTS.)

*Champagne*, No. 22319.—The commercial attaché of the Department of Commerce in France writes that a producer of champagne in that country desires to secure an agent in the United States to handle the commodity.

*Caseln*, No. 22320.—An American consular officer in Switzerland writes that a firm in his district wishes offers of caseln, first quality, for regular deliveries of 10 tons of more monthly. Quotations should be made f. o. b. New York. Samples, prices, etc., should be sent at once.

*Representation*, No. 22321.—The commercial attaché of the Department of Commerce in Brazil reports that a manufacturer's agent in that country wishes to represent an American export commission house. It is stated the man has had several years' experience as a representative of French manufacturers. Correspondence may be in English. Reference.

*Hollow ware, hats, etc.*, No. 22322.—A wholesale and retail firm in East Africa informs an American consular officer that it wishes to receive catalogues, price lists, etc., on brass goods, essential oils, fancy goods and novelties, hats and caps, silk goods, and silver-plated hollow ware. Correspondence in English.

*Thermometers*, No. 22323.—A French firm writes an American consular officer that it desires to represent, on a commission basis, American manufacturers of clinical thermometers. Catalogues, etc., should be in French. Terms should be clearly stated and the metric system used.

*Groceries, etc.*, No. 22324.—An American consular officer in Argentina reports that a firm in his district, which makes a specialty of handling American products, wishes to secure names and addresses of American manufacturers and exporters that may desire a representative in that country. The firm is particularly interested in groceries and allied lines. It does business principally on a commission basis. References.

*Furniture, etc.*, No. 22325.—A firm in France informs an American consular officer that it wishes to receive catalogues and price lists from American manufacturers of furniture, desk chairs, etc. Dimensions, etc., should be given in the metric system.

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Lists of wholesalers of cheap jewelry, department stores carrying jewelry, and retail dealers in jewelry at Santiago, Chile, forwarded by Commercial Attaché V. L. Havens, may be obtained from the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, its district or cooperative offices. Refer to file No. 1763.

# COMMERCE REPORTS

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## USE OF PACIFIC HIGHWAY.

[Vice Consul G. C. Woodward, Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada, Aug. 23.]

The records of the customs on the Pacific Highway at the boundary between British Columbia and Washington show that during the period from June 1 to August 15, 1916, 3,768 automobiles, carrying 14,700 passengers, crossed the boundary at this point. Seventy-five per cent of these machines were American owned.

The customs department is kept open between the hours of 7 in the evening and midnight for the accommodation of motorists, no charge being made for this service. Between midnight and 7 in the morning no machines are permitted to pass the boundary. On Sunday a fee of 25 cents is charged for inspection of machines.

## SUGAR PRODUCTION IN TAIWAN.

[Consul Edwin L. Neville, Taihoku, Aug. 10.]

The local semiofficial Taiwan Nichi Nichi Shinpo reports that the area devoted to sugar planting during the coming season will amount to 273,239 acres, an increase of 32,355 acres over the figures for 1915. It is confidently expected that the total crush will reach some 737,745,300 pounds of centrifugal raw sugar, and that there will be sufficient brown sugar produced by old-style native mills to bring the total sugar production up to 813,645,000 pounds.

This total is reached by reckoning 50,000 kin of cane per ko (27,000 pounds per acre) and estimating the sugar at 10 per cent of the cane crushed—not a high figure.

The cost of sugar here has been steadily rising since the outbreak of the war. At present the price of raw centrifugal sugar, wholesale, delivered at any railway station, ranges from 19.10 to 19.20 yen per picul (about \$0.07 per pound).

Unless the crop is seriously damaged by typhoons or parasites the present year gives every indication of being a prosperous one for the local sugar industry.

**BAVARIAN CROP OUTLOOK.**

[Vice Consul Frederick J. Schmeel, Munich, Germany. Aug. 11.]

In the absence of official forecasts, which are not made at this time, the following information from reliable sources may be taken to fairly represent the crop situation in Bavaria:

South of the Danube, in Upper Bavaria, the hay crop has been gathered in, except in a few Alpine districts. The quantity is 50 to 80 per cent greater than that of last year. The quality has suffered slightly in some districts on account of excessive rainfall. Rye and barley harvests are nearly finished; the quantity and quality of these are unexpectedly large and good. Wheat and oats are doing very well. Beets, fodder vetch, and potatoes promise to be plentiful.

In Lower Bavaria, the gathering in of grain is rapidly nearing its end. The straw crop proved good to excellent. Oats lead in grains, promising to excel the average crop during the past 10 years. Barley is expected to yield fairly good results. As to wheat, opinion seems divided, and the season may not produce more than a fair average harvest. Rye, however, is the least promising and, in some sections, may yield very poor results. Taken as a whole, the crops of 1916 in Lower Bavaria will largely excel those of 1915.

**Good Results North of Danube and in Palatinate.**

North of the Danube the hay crop was very abundant, particularly as to quantity. The quality, however, was somewhat affected by excessive rainfall. The stand of rye is excellent, barley is doing very well, and wheat promises good results, although in certain districts somewhat affected by yellow rust. The oat crop is likely to prove satisfactory beyond expectations. Beets are also most promising; legumes very satisfactory. Potatoes upon heavy soil suffered from the long rainy period, but they are expected to improve with more favorable weather. Grummet and clover are promising. Fodder and sugar beets promise a record crop. Hail has done no damage worth mentioning.

In the Palatinate the grain harvest, which, in the main, is now finished, exceeded all expectations and may be considered a record breaker as to both quality and quantity. The quality of the fruit crop has not been equaled in years.

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**JAPAN'S TRADE WITH RUSSIA.**

[Extract from Japan Gazette forwarded by Consul General George H. Scidmore, Yokohama, July 21.]

In the Chugai Shogyo, of Tokyo, Mr. Koyanagi, manager of the Russo-Japanese Association, states that during the first four months of this year the exports from Japan to Russia amounted in value to \$25,473,350. The exports during the month of May were \$8,973,000.

Mr. Koyanagi calls attention to the fact that among the exports during May were salt valued at \$124,625, onions, oranges, apples, soy, isinglass, camphor, raw silk, cotton flannel, etc., the greater portion of which was consigned to Siberia. The great drawback to Japan's foreign trade is that Japanese manufacturers are at present unable to turn out articles of a uniform standard in a comparatively short time.

[A review of the foreign trade of Japan for the first six months of 1916 was published in **COMMERCE REPORTS** for Aug. 26, 1916.]



**RAILWAY DEVELOPMENT IN NEW ZEALAND.**

[Consul General Alfred A. Winslow, Auckland, Aug. 1.]

According to the railways statement made to Parliament by the minister of railways there were on March 31, 1916, 2,970 miles of railway in New Zealand, against 2,955 miles at the end of the fiscal year ended with March 31, 1915. The construction cost of these lines at the close of the past fiscal year was \$181,691,167, with gross earnings for the year of \$22,134,574, against \$19,979,206 for the previous fiscal year. The net profits during the fiscal year ended March 31, 1916, were \$7,768,762, against \$5,766,812 for the year ended March 31, 1915.

It is estimated that the revenue of the current fiscal year will be \$21,607,260, with an estimated expenditure of \$14,818,492.

During the fiscal year ended March 31, 1916, there was expended on improvements on the New Zealand Government railways the sum of \$4,750,843, against an estimated expenditure for the current fiscal year of \$3,918,506.

During the present fiscal year it is proposed to begin work on new modern stations at Auckland, Wellington, and Christchurch.

**Scheme of Railway Improvements.**

According to late published statements, it is proposed to inaugurate an extensive scheme of railroad improvements in New Zealand following the close of the war, since it is recognized that better railway systems are necessary in order to develop the country so as to take care of a large number of the returned soldiers on the land. As it is, most of the valuable land is situated so far from the railway that the transportation problem makes it practically impracticable to raise grain for the markets, and this territory at present is only used for grazing and to some extent for dairying.

**STANDARD BASKET AND CONTAINER LAW SIGNED.**

Standards for Climax baskets for grapes, other fruits, and vegetables, and other types of baskets and containers used for small fruits, berries, and vegetables in interstate commerce are fixed by an act approved by the President August 31, 1916. The law will become effective November 1, 1917.

The effect of the act will be to require the use of the standards in manufacturing, sale, or shipment for all interstate commerce, whether the containers are filled or unfilled. A large part of the traffic in fruits and vegetable in this country enters interstate commerce. The law relates only to the containers, and will not affect local regulations in regard to heaped measure or other method of filling. A special exemption from the operations of the law is made for all containers manufactured, sold, or shipped, when intended for export to foreign countries, and when such containers accord with the specifications of the foreign purchasers or comply with the laws of the country to which a shipment is destined.

The examination and test of containers to determine whether they comply with the provisions of the act are made duties of the Department of Agriculture, and the Secretary of Agriculture is empowered to establish and promulgate rules and regulations allowing such reasonable tolerances and variations as may be found necessary.

**MANUFACTURE OF BAR-LE-DUC JELLY.**

[Consul Tracy Lay, Paris, France, Aug. 18.]

Bar-le-Duc jellies and jams take their name from the town of Bar-le-Duc, capital of the Department of Meuse, which specializes in their manufacture. They are prepared with currants specially chosen on account of their size, but which are not produced by any particular variety of currant bush. The following outline of the method of preparation may be of interest:

During the month of July each year, trained workers receive from the factories quantities of currants which they take home for the purpose of removing the seeds. In this process the berry is held in the fingers of one hand and the seeds are removed by means of a goose quill sharpened to a fine point. The work is exceedingly difficult and requires considerable dexterity acquired by long practice.

As soon as the currants are returned to the factory, sugar is added and the fruit cooked. The quantity of sugar used is much greater than in ordinary jams and jellies, owing to the fact that the jelly boils for only a short time in order to avoid the oversoftening of the berries. (Softening would cause them to lose their attractive appearance, which is the specialty of the Bar-le-Duc product, the whole berry being seen through the glass jar.) When prepared, the jelly is placed in small pots closed with a metal cap, and the pots are placed in boiling water to further insure the keeping qualities of the product. As Bar-le-Duc jelly is prepared chiefly for the export trade, this latter is essential.

**Export Trade—American Production of Currant Jelly.**

Five firms at Bar-le-Duc manufacture jelly in normal times. It is doubtful whether the jelly is now being made, owing to the fact that the district is in close proximity to the firing line and that many, if not most, of the civilians have left the region.

French statistics do not show the quantity of this jelly exported, but upon examination of the total exports of jams prepared either with sugar or honey it is found that the French export trade has decreased but little since the war, 1,005 tons of such jams having been exported in 1915, as compared with 1,025 tons in 1914 and 1,132 tons in 1913.

The only factor which appears to militate against the manufacture of similar jelly in the United States is that the cheap female labor required to remove the seeds from the currants would probably not be available, thus raising the cost of production to a figure much above that in France. It is hardly possible that such labor could be replaced by machinery in the delicate operation of handling currant berries for the removal of the seeds. As far as the French production is concerned, it does not appear likely that normal quantities will be available until after the cessation of hostilities, as the cost of sugar, the principal ingredient, is now double that in times of peace.

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A Chicago firm advises the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce of its success in obtaining a \$2,400 order for medical supplies from the U. S. War Department, through having followed up a "Trade Opportunity" that was published in **COMMERCE REPORTS**.

**RAILWAY PAYS PART OF COST OF FARM TRACTORS.**

[Vice Consul Davis B. Levis, St. Etienne, France, Aug. 10.]

The Paris, Lyons & Mediterranean Railway, which has adopted a policy of assistance to agricultural advancement along its lines, has been a keen observer of, and greatly interested in experiments with farm tractors, or "moto-culture," as it is called here. From the earliest trials of tractors this company has cooperated with farmers and agricultural experimental stations, has given free transportation for the machinery and men necessary for the demonstrations, and has delegated inspectors from its mechanical and traffic departments not only to follow the experiments in its own territory, but also to note the extension of use and the results in other countries.

Believing that the quickest action making for wider introduction will come from farmers themselves, the company has now granted a subsidy or refund of 10 per cent of the purchase price of tractor and plow combined, up to the value of 10,000 francs (about \$1,930), to syndicates or associations of farmers buying outfits before January 1, 1918.

As this is a land of comparatively small farms, it is almost imperative that collective users must enter into the arrangements for purchase. The refund will be based on the cost of machinery and freight to destination, and it is stipulated that the association must have more than one-half its farm lands in the section tributary to the railway. The offer of the company is limited to the first 30 tractors purchased.

[Action by the French Government granting subventions to agricultural syndicates and cooperative associations and to municipalities purchasing agricultural motor machinery was reported in *COMMERCE REPORTS* for Oct. 12, 1915.]

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**GOVERNMENT CONSTRUCTION OF HOMES IN NEW ZEALAND.**

[Consul General Alfred A. Winslow, Auckland. July 17.]

The New Zealand Government has erected during the past nine years 548 homes for workingmen in this Dominion, under the act entitled "Workers' Dwelling Act of 1905," which originally provided that the homes should cost no more than £300 (\$1,460) each, and these were to be placed at the disposal of the workers under a lease of 50 years, with a fixed rental of 5 per cent of the capital value of the dwelling, plus insurance and taxes.

Amendments have been introduced from time to time. The value of the building that might be constructed by the Government has been increased, and the cost of rentals or payments has also been raised, until now the rate of 7 per cent is collected instead of the original 5 per cent. The homes are built to cost as much as £550 (\$2,676), in case of men receiving as much as \$12.16 a week.

During 1915 the Government built 162 workers' homes, and there are now 38 under construction in the Dominion. This is undertaken in the interest of keeping down the cost of rent to the working people, and so far it seems to have been very satisfactory. It has been a real boon to the working class.

[A full discussion of the plans for workingmen's homes in New Zealand was published in *Daily Consular and Trade Reports* for Sept. 21, 1911.]

**CHINA'S PRODUCTION OF BEANS, BEAN OIL, AND BEAN CAKE.**

[Consul General Edwin S. Cunningham, Hankow, July 17.]

The soya or soy bean in recent years has become an important article of trade. It grows on a plant from 2 to 3 feet in height and is contained in pods about 2 inches long. The plant is cultivated everywhere, in fields by itself, around rice and similar crops, and as an undercrop to maize and sorghum. There are 25 to 50 varieties of the soya bean, but in commerce only 3 are ordinarily recognized—yellow, green, and black.

The yellow bean, which is of greatest importance, is found generally throughout Manchuria, and it is reported that the finest crops come from the highlands to the north of Mukden. The green variety comes from the Liaotung district and the Yalu basin, and the black bean from Liaoyang and the south of Mukden. There are two other varieties, the brown bean and the mottled bean, which are grown to some extent in the Yangtze Valley, but these varieties are of little importance.

**Grown Largely for Its Oil in Manchuria.**

The soya bean is put to many uses in the Far East. It is cooked and eaten as a vegetable, made into a sauce or soy, preserved as a pickle, ground into a flour and made into vermicelli, and employed extensively in the manufacture of vinegar. One particular variety, having small yellow seeds, is used in making bean curd. In Manchuria, however, the soya bean is grown almost exclusively for its oil properties and for the residual material called bean cake.

The soya bean contains about 18 per cent oil. When the hydraulic-press method is employed only 11 to 12 per cent of the oil can be extracted, but with the use of benzene in the chemical process 17 per cent is obtainable. This oil is used as an illuminant, a lubricant, for culinary purposes, and in the manufacture of soap. In southern China it is also used in the making of waterproof cloth, paper umbrellas and lanterns, and when mixed with lacquer is employed in the manufacture of varnish and printing ink.

Dairen is the center for the bean-oil industry, exporting more than eight times as much as Hankow, its nearest competitor. The oil mills, which are to be found in every town throughout the bean district, are growing in numbers and becoming more modern all the time. The old crush-stone mills worked by animals are rapidly giving way to up-to-date hydraulic, steam, and oil-motor plants. Hankow has about 10 such mills. During 1914 the local exportation of bean oil was 4,714 tons, valued at \$393,759 gold, and during 1915 there were 6,882 tons, valued at \$482,694.

**Japan Takes Practically All Bean Cake Exported.**

After the oil has been pressed from the bean, the residue is pressed into the round, flat cakes known as bean cake. The product is very valuable as a fodder for animals, and as a fertilizer. By chemical analysis it has the following percentages: Water, 17.71 per cent; oil, 9.60 per cent; albuminoids, 42.16 per cent; carbohydrates, 19.43 per cent; fiber, 6.54 per cent; ash, 4.56 per cent. Japan takes practically all the bean cake exported, and the United States none.

The greatest original exporting center for bean cake is Dairen; Newchwang is second, and Hankow a poor third, shipping in 1914

but 127,107 tons, valued at \$2,082,211 gold, while in 1915 the shipments amounted to 148,826 tons, valued at \$2,172,295 gold.

The shipments of soya beans passing through Hankow are, in the main, brought down by the Peking-Hankow Railway, very largely from the Province of Honan. Szechuan is so situated as to be capable of growing enormous quantities of this product, but until better and cheaper facilities for transportation are available its products will have little value beyond that derived from the local consumption. Upon the completion of the Hankow-Szechuan Railway that Province will in all probability soon become one of the richest regions in China.

At present, practically no foreign shipments of soya beans are being made, primarily because of the prohibitive freight rates, and secondly because of the 100 per cent rise in the original cost of the product itself.

[Lists of exporters of yellow, green, and black soya beans, of bean oil, and of bean cake at Hankow may be obtained from the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, its district or cooperative offices. Refer to file No. 79775.]

### CANTON'S EXPORTS OF SILK AND COCOONS.

According to a bulletin just issued by the Canton Chamber of Commerce, exports of raw and waste silk and pierced cocoons from that Chinese port during the first quarter of each of the last five silk years (beginning May 1) were, in bales of 112 pounds:

Classes and destinations.	May-July—				
	1912	1913	1914	1915	1916
Raw silk.....	<i>Bales.</i> 13,614	<i>Bales.</i> 18,165	<i>Bales.</i> 15,980	<i>Bales.</i> 10,171	<i>Bales.</i> 12,164
To England and Continent.....	11,169	13,315	10,448	3,539	7,196
To America.....	2,445	4,850	5,532	6,632	4,968
Waste silk.....	7,290	13,646	9,958	6,204	6,437
To England.....	2,530	2,581	2,578	2,209	1,804
To Continent.....	3,407	8,661	4,682	600	3,020
To America.....	1,353	2,404	2,700	3,395	1,611
Pierced cocoons.....	14	536	1,347	701	1,130
To England.....			10	701	
To Continent.....		536	1,337		930
To America.....	14				200

### CANADA PRODUCES ELECTROLYTIC COPPER.

[Consul William E. Alger, Fernie, British Columbia, Aug. 22.]

The first pure copper known to the trade as electrolytic copper was turned out at the new copper refinery in Trail, British Columbia, on August 20, 1916.

The electric current was switched on to some of the tanks containing the copper anodes, and the pure metal, the gold and silver values being left in the slimes, was the result. In the near future a daily production of 10 tons is expected. This is the only place in Canada where pure copper has been made.

[Articles on Canada's mineral production were published in COMMERCE REPORTS for Mar. 21 and Mar. 28, 1916, and one on the production of blister copper in British Columbia in the issue of Jan. 12, 1916.]

**HONGKONG AND SOUTH CHINA FLOUR MARKETS.**

[Vice Consul A. E. Carleton, Hongkong, July 11.]

The imports of foreign flour into Hongkong for the first six months of 1916 are given by one importer as follows: From the United States Pacific coast, 717,384 bags; from Canada, 107,662 bags; and from Australia, 52,000 bags; making a total of 877,046 bags. Another importer furnishes these figures: From the United States Pacific coast, 690,000 bags; from Canada, 103,000 bags; and from Australia, 30,000 bags; or a total of 823,000 bags.

These figures compared with the imports for the same period for the past six years are significant of the general flour situation, as the number of bags imported for the six months just ended were in nearly every case less than half of the average imports, and the smallest recorded, it is believed, since the introduction of American flour into Hongkong. The imports for the first six months from 1910 to 1915 were as follows, in bags: 1910, 1,588,705; 1911, 2,424,654; 1912, 3,041,112; 1913, 2,111,846; 1914, 2,543,815; and 1915, 1,204,508.

**Stocks of Flour on Hand—Prices.**

The stocks at the commencement of the year were not unusually heavy, being about 700,000 bags, and the present supply is in the neighborhood of 400,000 sacks. This is somewhat below the average at the end of the half year even in normal times, but with the present consumption it is apparently quite sufficient for the summer months. The Hongkong prices since the beginning of the year have declined from 50 to 70 cents, Hongkong money, caused by heavy stocks of Shanghai-made flour which had to be moved, and a light trade throughout the Straits Settlements. In June the trade improved considerably, due to a reported short harvest in North China, and some orders went forward to the Pacific coast, due to the decreased freight rates across the Pacific. In general it looks as if the present stock will have to last until new crop cargo is available in September.

Prices locally have fallen slightly, and at about the end of June flour was selling at approximately the following rates per sack ex godown: First-grade patent, \$1.65 to \$1.67 gold; cut-off, \$1.35 gold; straight, \$1.33 to \$1.35 gold; and seconds, \$1.40 to \$1.23.

In Hongkong consumption has fallen off, and in the poorer districts rice and bean meal have to a large extent taken the place of foreign flour which in the Far East is looked upon as a luxury. The coast markets have almost entirely drawn their supplies from other sources—Straits Settlements and Java from Australia, and Indo-China from the Philippines, American, or Australian flour. Foo-chow, Amoy, Swatow, and other places have taken almost entirely North China Flour.

**North China Flour.**

Hongkong importers of American flour have had to contend with a serious competition in North China flour, owing to a large crop in the North. Usually cereals can not be exported from China excepting to a Chinese port such as Shanghai to Canton direct, but during the past year licenses have been granted in a limited number of cases to export flour to Hongkong and other ports outside of China proper on payment of an export tax which amounted to 40

cents Hongkong currency a bag. Whether this competition will be permanent or not is hard to say, but a certain amount of encouragement is being given to extend the wheat fields in North China and attempts are being made to cultivate the grain in South China. Local dealers are inclined to believe that the native flour will not be able to compete with foreign flour when freights and prices are once more on a normal basis. Owing to British Government arrangements in Australia and the demand for Canadian flour in Europe, these producing countries are unable to enter the local market to any great extent in spite of large crops.

### TRINIDAD GOVERNMENT FLOATING DOCK AND WORKSHOP.

[Consul Andrew J. McConnico, Trinidad, British West Indies, Aug. 18.]

The Director of Public Works recently issued his report on the administration of the Trinidad Government Floating Dock and Workshop from April 1 to December 31, 1915, showing that the cost of administration was \$61,555, and the revenues \$53,160, thus representing a loss of \$8,395 for the period. (The report is for the fractional year in order to make it conform with the new financial year ending Dec. 31, instead of Mar. 31 as formerly.)

The total tonnage docked during the nine months was 8,299 tons, yielding \$7,508, or an average of \$0.90 per ton. For the fiscal year 1914-15 (Apr. 1, 1914, to Mar. 31, 1915) the tonnage docked was 37,398 tons, yielding \$23,204, or an average of \$0.62 per ton; and for 1913-14 the tonnage was 42,284, yielding \$22,604, or an average of \$0.53 per ton.

The Director attributes the decided loss in business to the withdrawal of the intercolonial and coastal steamers and to the fact that, owing to the shortage of tonnage, steamers now have no time to dock save at terminal ports. The whole outlook of this undertaking, he says, at one time so promising, has been altered by the war.

### AMERICAN CONSULAR OFFICERS ON LEAVE OF ABSENCE.

The following American consular officers are on leave of absence in the United States, and will be glad to confer with business men and commercial organizations relative to conditions in their respective jurisdictions. The consul's time is available primarily for personal interviews. He has limited facilities for correspondence, and except in urgent cases letters should be directed to the consulate.

Name.	Post.	Expiration of leave.	Address.
Jewell, John F.....	Chefoo, China.....	Oct. 1	Galena, Ill.
Kemper, Graham H.....	Erfurt, Germany.....	Sept. 10	Department of State, Washington, D. C.
Hasseltine, Ross.....	Port Antonio, Jamaica	Oct. 1	Do.
Laing, James Oliver.....	Karachi, India.....	Sept. 30	C/o University Club, Kansas City, Mo.
Leonard, Walter A.....	Colombo, Ceylon.....	Oct. 14	Essex, Iowa.
Osborne, John Ball.....	Havre, France.....	Oct. 21	Department of State, Washington, D. C.
Mansfield, Robert E.....	Vancouver, Canada.....	Sept. 15	Rushville, Ind.
Pike, William J.....	St. Gall, Switzerland.....	Nov. 1	Department of State, Washington, D. C.
Armstrong, John S.....	Bristol, England.....	.....	1200 Eutaw Place, Baltimore, Md.
Henry, Frank Anderson.....	Puerto Plata, Dominican Republic.	Oct. 1	C/o Hallowell & Henry, 27 Pine St., New York City.

**AGRICULTURAL IMPLEMENTS FOR RICE PLANTATIONS.**

[Special Agent Frank H. von Motz, São Paulo, Brazil, July 23.]

In going from São Paulo to Taubate and from there to Tremembe and out into the rice country one's train passes through a mountainous region of little agricultural value until the Parahyba River is crossed. The valley of this river is now being devoted to rice culture, with splendid results. The clay soil is rich in organic matter that has been washed down from the mountains, but it is very difficult to work when wet. Much of this area consists of cut-over timberland and on only a few farms have the stumps been removed.

During July the land is plowed to a depth of 3 or 4 inches with walking plows of 10 to 12 inch cut and reversible-disk plows having 24-inch disks. The plows are usually drawn by three small mules or two yokes of oxen.

**American Steel Plows Introduced.**

On one plantation I saw a European plow of a light, cheap construction, which has been sold in great numbers in all parts of the rice district of the State of São Paulo. It is an all-steel walking plow with draft rod, hanging cutter, and gauge wheel, and is sold in two sizes (10 and 12 inch).

As soon as I had examined it carefully I was in a position to appreciate that at least two American agricultural-implement manufacturers can supply a similar article. I placed this information before two of the largest import houses in São Paulo, with the result that sample lots are going to be ordered from the United States at once; and I am told that in all probability it will be the means of selling 1,800 to 2,000 walking plows annually. In other words, it means that there will be that much new business for American manufacturers, and something that will be permanent. It must be remembered, in supplying the plow for this market, that only steel plows with steel handles and wood hand grips are wanted. This plow is sure to lead to the sale of 9 and 12 inch sugar-land plows.

Another plow for which there is a large market in this State is a 7-inch, wood-beam, steel-bottom walking plow. The equipment required comprises two wooden handles, gauge wheel, extra share, and hanging cutter.

**Disk Plows and Harrows.**

In the reversible-disk plows two well-known American makes lead over all others. However, one of these, constructed almost entirely of steel, would give much more satisfaction and would have a much greater sale if the manufacturer would increase by two or three the number of teeth in the ratchet on the seat spring. This is the only complaint a dozen large landowners had to make in discussing the merits of the implement. The object of this change is to have a wider range of adjustment for the furrow wheels; this might be accomplished in other ways than the one suggested, but would not be understood by the men who handle the plows.

After the land has been plowed it is disked with 4 to 6 foot disk harrows having 18 or 20 inch disks. All disk harrows are equipped with weight boxes and oscillating scrapers. Many of them employ a double-wheel tongue truck, but the single-wheel combination tongue



truck and forecarriage is just as popular. Cutaway disk harrows have been introduced and sold but are not well liked. After the land has been disked it is harrowed with spike-tooth harrows and is then ready for planting.

#### **Wider Spacing on Grain Drills.**

It is very important that American manufacturers of grain drills should know that only drills with double-disk furrow openers are wanted in the rice districts of the State of São Paulo. Single-disk openers have been thoroughly tried out and have been found to have a tendency to clog on account of the moist, sticky condition of the clay soil.

Heretofore manufacturers have been supplying fluted feed drills with 8-inch spacing. To make these drills suitable for planting rice in this district, the farmer removes every other set of openers so as to plant in rows 16 inches apart. The popular-sized drills are those having 8 and 10 furrow openers, which, when changed, as stated, become 4 and 5 furrow drills. The furrow openers and all parts which are removed are of very little value to the farmer, and he is looking for someone who will build a rice drill with 16-inch spacing between rows, double-disk furrow openers, low press wheel, and ox pole.

The type of feed is not so very important, but it is important to get away from a construction that compels the farmer to buy a grain drill with four or five extra sets of furrow openers and all the other parts that go with them.

#### **Binders Should Have Tongue Truck.**

The planting season begins about August 25, and the rice is harvested in January or February. For the latter operation 5 and 6 foot self-binders are used. All rice binders for Brazil should have a good strong tongue truck. On several plantations I found the farmers using disk-harrow tongue trucks on their binders, and they could not be induced to do without tongue trucks even on 5-foot binders.

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### **COAL SHORTAGE CURTAILS CHILE'S TRAIN SERVICE.**

[Consul General L. J. Keena, Valparaiso, Aug. 1.]

The State Railways, July 20, 1916, reduced the train service in Zone No. 1 of the system, which covers the Valparaiso-Santiago district, because of a shortage of coal. Prior to July 20 there were 18 passenger trains arriving at and 18 departing from Valparaiso station of the State Railways. Seven of the trains each way were withdrawn from the schedule on July 20.

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#### **British Columbia Smelter Receipts.**

Vice Consul G. C. Woodward reports from Vancouver that the receipts of the smelter at Trail, British Columbia, amounted to \$284,978 during the seven months ended July 31, 1916, of which the shipments from the Roseland district amounted to \$201,051, and from East Kootenay, \$42,292.

**PROFITS OF JAPAN'S EXPANDING INDUSTRIES.**

[Consul General George H. Scidmore, Yokohama, Aug. 2.]

**Rapid Increase in Output and Earnings of Spinning Companies.**

The Japan Gazette quotes the Chugai Shogyo of Tokio as stating that the net profits of various cotton-spinning companies in Japan during the first half of the present year amounted to \$9,334,412. Compared with the corresponding period last year, the figures show an increase of \$2,218,325. This tendency is declared due to the continuation of the war, which is creating a greater demand for Japanese articles in various countries in the South Pacific, in India, China, and other countries.

The number of spinning mill companies in Japan, according to the Japan Advertiser, is now 36, with total capital invested of more than \$42,871,000. The number of spindles at work, according to the investigation made in June, was 2,763,000. The workers employed in the mills number 23,590 males and 99,760 females, a total of 123,350. The output of yarns averages 160,000 bales a month.

Compared with conditions in 1906, striking progress has been made. The number of spindles and the output have been doubled in 10 years. The number of laborers has not made a corresponding increase, and this shows the increasing efficiency of the labor. A striking feature is that the number of companies has decreased from 48 to 36, and this shows the tendency toward amalgamation.

The Advertiser states that one thing which can not be overlooked is that there is a strong tendency toward the increase of spindles and capital by various mills, and that it is expected there will be a further remarkable increase in these respects at the end of this year.

**Favorable Opportunity for Extension of Equipments.**

The Japan Chronicle, in a discussion of the spinning industry of the country, says that as money is very easy, there is now a good opportunity for extensions of equipment, except for some difficulties in the way of importing machinery. Consequently, it says, there has been a sort of competition in expansion among spinning companies. According to the latest investigations made by the Spinning Association, quoted by the Asahi of Osaka, between January and June 10 companies increased their capital altogether by \$11,886,109, producing at the end of June, \$68,876,111, total capital, of which about \$42,000,000 was paid up. The total amount shows an increase of \$8,845,259 in comparison with the end of June, 1914, that is, before the outbreak of war.

The new spindles now being fitted up number 487,818, while it is contemplated that another 254,152 shall be added. Of the former, 234,804 spindles are for the spinning of thick yarns up to 20's; 200,662 for yarns between 20's and 42's, and the remaining 52,352 for 43's or over.

During the first six months of 1916 the output of cotton yarn amounted to 982,488 bales of 500 pounds each, an increase of 156,634 bales, as compared with the corresponding period of last year. Exports of cotton yarn amounted to 292,466 bales, an increase of 31,222 bales. The smaller percentage of increase in exports is accounted for by an increase in domestic consumption and increased requirements for weaving by the spinning companies themselves.

The output of cotton cloths from the beginning of the year to the end of May amounted to \$17,400,641, an increase of \$7,976,000, or about 90 per cent. Exports of cotton cloths amounted to \$12,040,271, an increase of \$3,988,000 or about 50 per cent.

#### Condition of New Industries Investigated.

The Advertiser states that the Department of Agriculture and Commerce, with the cooperation of the prefectural authorities, has been investigating the condition of new industries which have sprung up as the result of the war. The object is to determine how they can be maintained after the war. It is said that the Government's economic committee is also studying the problem. Industrial reports have reached and are still reaching the central authorities regarding production in the various factories.

Not only in the subsidized dyestuff company, but also in other companies, including the Tokyo Gas Co., Osaka Gas Co., and the Mitsui Mining Co., a great quantity of aniline salt, and a kind of black sulphuric dyes are being made.

A great quantity of bismuth, salicylic acid, antipyrine, formalin, and other drugs are now being produced in industrial centers.

The prominent feature in glass making is that the Asahi Glass Factory is producing a great quantity of sheet glass, which not only is meeting the home demand, but also is being exported to the South Sea Islands, Australia, and France.

In the celluloid industry, the productive capacity has been increased and the output has been more than doubled.

The war has stopped the supply of paper from Europe to China, India, and other countries in the Orient. The Japanese mills have met the demand to the extent of \$2,163,490 a year, besides fully supplying the home demand. During the war, the domestic production of pulp has increased to more than 150,000 tons a year, and the independent supply of pulp to home paper mills is about to be realized. There are signs that the output will increase.

The domestic production of phosphorus is now quite sufficient to meet the requirements of match factories.

Many factories for the production of potassium chlorate have now sprung up, and the supply is even considered to be in excess of the demand. The soda industry also is making satisfactory progress.

#### Great Foreign Demand for Japanese Porcelain.

A considerable increase in the demand for Japanese porcelain, as a substitute for European products, in the United States, Canada, Australia, India, and the South Seas is reported by the Japan Chronicle. Before the war, the yearly exports amounted to about \$1,994,000 in value, but this year more than \$2,492,500 worth has already been exported in the first six months.

In Owari, Mino, Kyoto, Kyushu, and other porcelain-producing centers in Japan, manufacturers are almost suspending the manufacture of goods for domestic use, and are throwing their energies into articles for export. According to merchants here, Japanese porcelain goods, especially insulators and other articles for industrial purposes, shipped to India, Australia, and the South Seas compare quite favorably both in price and quality with European products, but table utensils exported to the United States, Canada, and

other places are inferior to German goods in many respects, and it is expected that the Japanese articles will find it difficult to maintain a place on the markets opened to them by the war.

**Prosperity of Foreign Trade in Toys Unprecedented.**

The foreign trade in Japanese toys has prospered without precedent since the war began. Especially conspicuous is the increasing demand for wooden toys. The exports of toys of all kinds amounted to only \$1,246,250 in 1913 and to \$1,296,100 in 1914. The amount reached \$2,243,250 in 1915. Toys exported during the first five months of 1916 were valued at \$1,246,250, as much as during the whole of 1913. If the increase continues at this pace, the amount for the year would reach about \$3,489,500.

The figures given appear in the customs returns under the heading of toys, but the Japan Advertiser states that many other articles exported under the item of pottery goods and silk goods in reality are toys. According to an expert in this business, the wooden toys are the most in demand. Next come celluloid and rubber. Metal, textile, and paper toys follow in the order given.

Of the wooden toys, those made in Hakone are the most popular. Shizuoka and Nagoya makers are said to be producing cheaper goods which are being exported in the name of genuine Hakone toys. Wooden toys are also produced in Miyajima, Toyama, Kanazawa, Osaka, and Tokyo, but the goods from these places have their own peculiar characteristics and are not an imitation of the Hakone toys.

The special feature of the Hakone goods is the excellent workmanship in the inlaying of different colored pieces of wood in elaborate designs.

**Flour-Milling Industry Makes Steady Progress.**

Japan's flour-milling industry is now making steady progress. It also grew to an appreciable extent in the business boom that followed the Russo-Japanese War. Before that war, Japan's annual imports of flour amounted to about \$1,985,000, but a few years later the import figures fell to about \$198,500. The Japan Advertiser emphasizes the fact that the progress now being made is more remarkable than the success achieved eight or nine years ago, for Japan has not only been able to dispense with her imports of flour, but is now exporting to some extent. The latest figures of the foreign trade in flour are: Imports, 1913, 37,152,400 pounds; 1914, 26,813,734 pounds; 1915, 4,041,066 pounds; exports, 1913, 84,896 pounds; 1914, 3,639,605 pounds; 1915, 32,913,678 pounds.

Both the quantity and value of exports have shown a slight decrease this year, but it has been due entirely to the scarcity of shipping space and the increase in freight rates.

The total capacity of all the flour mills is now said to be about 74,250 bushels, presenting a striking contrast to the condition before the Russo-Japanese War, when the total daily capacity was between 2,475 and 3,465 bushels. The newspaper says, in conclusion:

This condition, like many other booms, is largely due to the present war. It remains to be seen whether this state of things will be maintained permanently. The clue to the solution of this question is whether Japan can command an independent supply of wheat. Japan relies largely upon the foreign supply of wheat, though the home supply is increasing.

### **NO AMERICAN CONSULATE AT MANAGUA.**

Consul John A. Gamon, of Corinto, suggests that the closing of the American consulate at Managua, Nicaragua, be given renewed publicity. That consulate was closed in 1911, but Consul Gamon reports that mail from the United States still arrives for the Managua office. These letters are turned over to Consul Gamon either by the Nicaraguan postal authorities or by the American legation at Managua; but in view of their large number and of the fact that they frequently duplicate correspondence sent direct to the Corinto consulate, he suggests that the closing of the Managua office be again brought to the attention of American exporters.

At present United States consuls are stationed only at Bluefields and Corinto, Nicaragua, with consular agents at Matagalpa and San Juan del Sur.

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### **OUTPUT OF COAL ON VANCOUVER ISLAND.**

[Vice Consul R. M. Newcomb, Victoria, British Columbia, Canada, Aug. 25.]

The Western Fuel Co., Canadian Collieries (Ltd.), Pacific Coast Coal Mines (Ltd.), and the Vancouver Nanaimo Coal Mining Co. comprise the coal mining companies operating on Vancouver Island. Reports compiled by these mines show their complete output for year 1915 to be 1,020,942 long tons, and the amount exported to the United States to be 261,312 tons. The total output for each mine was as follows in long tons: Western Fuel Co., 415,723; Canadian Collieries Mines, 427,812; Pacific Coast Coal Mines, 129,431; and Vancouver Nanaimo Coal Mining Co., 47,976.

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### **Women to be Employed in British Bakehouses.**

The employment of women as tram conductors, mail carriers, and bank clerks in Great Britain since the outbreak of the war has already been commented on in Commerce Reports. Consul Homer M. Byington, of Leeds, now reports the opening of still another commercial field to them—that of baker. This will be the first time that female labor has been employed in this trade in England. Consul Byington states that only robust women will be hired, and that preference will be given to those who have already learned to bake at home.

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### **Export Prices of Italian Food Products.**

Under date of August 5 Vice Consul S. C. Leoni reported that prices for the tomato paste and cheese exported from the Florence, Italy, consular district were, per 100 pounds: Tomato paste, in tins—f. o. b. Florence \$19.70 to \$21.45, f. o. b. Bologna \$18.82 to \$20.13; Parmesan cheese, f. o. b. Parma—Stravecchione \$33.27 to \$34.14, Stravecchio \$29.76 to \$31.08, Vecchio \$26.26 to \$27.14; Reggian cheese, f. o. b. Reggio Emilia—Stravecchio \$30.64 to \$31.52, Vecchio \$28.45 to \$29.33.

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One \$1,000 shipment already made to India and orders on hand amounting to over \$3,000 are among the new business obtained by a Chicago shoe company from its use of "Trade Opportunities" appearing in recent issues of COMMERCE REPORTS.

## FOREIGN TRADE OPPORTUNITIES.

Reserved addresses may be obtained from the Bureau and its district offices. Request for each opportunity should be on a separate sheet and state opportunity number. The Bureau does not furnish credit ratings or assume responsibility as to the standing of foreign inquirers; the usual precautions should be taken in all cases.

*Alcohol*, No. 22326.—A prominent bank in the United States is in receipt of a letter from its correspondent in Greece stating that a firm in that country wishes to be placed in touch with manufacturers and producers of alcohol extracted from sugar substances. Samples should be sent. Quotations should be made f. o. b. New York per 100 kilos, contained in galvanized iron casks. Quotations should also be made on the containers.

*Tin bars*, No. 22327.—An American consular officer in Chile writes that a firm in his district wishes to sell tin bars. The firm states that it can supply about 12 tons per month. Full information as to marketing conditions is desired. Correspondence in Spanish.

*Hosiery, hats, etc.*, No. 22328.—The Bureau is informed that a company in Haiti desires to represent American manufacturers and producers of hosiery, linen, and knitted underwear, hats, garters, and suspenders.

*Fire boats*, No. 22329.—An American consular officer in Canada reports the possible opportunity for the sale of fire boats. Descriptive literature and full information should be sent at once.

*Machinery*, No. 22330.—A business man in Paraguay informs an American consular officer that he desires to receive catalogues and prices of machinery and supplies for a meat-packing and refrigerating plant. Machinery is also wanted for making round and square cans of all sizes; machinery for making fertilizers; two wood or oil fuel engines; boilers; gas plant; machinery for making boxes and barrels; and equipment for a machine shop. It is stated that the man may later be in the market for two lighters fitted with oil fuel engines, capable of transporting from 200 to 250 tons of meat, speed 10 miles per hour. Correspondence may be in English.

*Tapestries, leather, machinery, etc.*, No. 22331.—The Bureau is informed that a commercial representative in Spain wishes to correspond with American manufacturers and exporters of tapestries, leather of all kinds, pure gold leaf, machinery, etc. He states that he can guarantee all transactions. Correspondence should be in Spanish or French. References.

*Pickles, oils, and greases*, No. 22332.—A broker and commission merchant in Newfoundland writes an American consular officer that he wishes to be put in touch with American manufacturers and exporters of mixed pickles, oils, and greases. References.

*Sugar, rice, and coffee*, No. 22333.—A bank in New York City transmits the name and address of a firm in Greece which desires to form commercial relations with American exporters of sugar, rice, and coffee.

*Hosiery*, No. 22334.—An American consular officer in Canada transmits the name and address of an importing agent in his district who wishes to be placed in communication with American manufacturers and exporters of all kinds of hosiery for women and children. Reference.

*Jewelry*, No. 22335.—An American consular officer in England reports that there is a large demand in his district for cheap jewelry and imitation stones.

## OFFICES OF THE BUREAU OF FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC COMMERCE.

## DISTRICT OFFICES.

NEW YORK: Room 409, Customhouse.  
BOSTON: 18th floor, Customhouse.  
CHICAGO: 504 Federal Building.  
ST. LOUIS: 402 Third National Bank Building.  
ATLANTA: 521 Post Office Building.  
NEW ORLEANS: 1020 Hibernia Bank Building.  
SAN FRANCISCO: 307 Customhouse.  
SEATTLE: 848 Henry Building.

## COOPERATIVE OFFICES.

CLEVELAND: Chamber of Commerce.  
CINCINNATI: Chamber of Commerce.  
CINCINNATI: C., N. O. & T. P. Ry. Co.  
LOS ANGELES: Chamber of Commerce.  
PHILADELPHIA: Chamber of Commerce.  
CHATTANOOGA: South American Agent, Southern Ry. Co.

# COMMERCE REPORTS



DAILY CONSULAR AND TRADE REPORTS  
ISSUED DAILY BY THE BUREAU OF FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC COMMERCE  
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE



For sale by the Superintendent of Documents, Washington, D. C., at \$2.50 per year

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## SHIPMENT OF COPPER TO NORWAY.

[Announcement of the Department of State, Sept. 6.]

The Department of State is in receipt of information to the effect that an agreement has been entered into between the Governments of Great Britain and Norway, whereby the Government of Norway places an embargo on the exportation of raw copper and receives without interruption importations of copper from the United States, but releases an amount equivalent to such importations for shipment to England. It is understood that about 3,000 tons will be at once available.

## REGISTRATION OF OIL COMPANIES IN MEXICO.

The Department of State is informed that the Ministry of Finance of the de facto Government of Mexico has promulgated a decree under date of September 4, 1916, which requires that companies engaged in the production of crude oil in Mexico register in the tax bureau of that ministry before September 15, 1916, or within 15 days of the first production, in the case of companies which have not yet produced oil. It is required that such registration be effected by only authorized representatives of such companies, and failure to comply with the provisions of the decree renders delinquents liable to a fine of 1,000 pesos Mexican gold.

## Canal Traffic in July.

The official report of the operation of the Panama Canal for July places the number of ocean-going vessels making the transit of the canal in that month at 150—77 from the Atlantic to the Pacific and 73 from the Pacific to the Atlantic. By nationality these vessels were: United States, 28; British, 75; Japanese, 11; Peruvian, 9; Dutch, 2; Chilean, 7; Norwegian, 9; Swedish, 3; Mexican, 1; French, 1; Danish, 3; and Panaman, 1. The total net tonnage of vessels making the transit was 488,968.

**AUSTRALIAN ZINC FOR UNITED KINGDOM.**

(Commercial Attaché Pierce C. Williams, London, England, Aug. 12.)

Announcement has been made of a plan by which Australian zinc concentrates, heretofore smelted in Hamburg, will in the future be handled by Great Britain and its allies. According to the Financial News, the British Government has agreed to take a large tonnage of Australia's zinc ores during the war and 100,000 yearly for 10 years thereafter. This means that the British spelter capacity will have to be considerably enlarged, and this is already being done by a form of subsidy to manufacturers.

One hundred thousand tons of zinc concentrates would make roughly about 30,000 tons of spelter. In the past, Great Britain has consumed about 195,000 tons of zinc and has produced only 60,000 tons. By taking these Australian ores the output of Great Britain would be in the neighborhood of 100,000 tons, which means that it will still have to depend pretty largely upon other countries. However, the Government has also agreed to lend to Australia about \$2,500,000 for the erection of smelting plants in the Commonwealth, and to take yearly 45,000 tons of Australian spelter. This would leave about 55,000 tons to be gotten elsewhere.

It is reported that negotiations are proceeding with France and Belgium to take the remainder of the zinc concentrates produced in Australia. If these negotiations are successful it would seem that the United Kingdom can get all the zinc it needs from Australia and the British allies.

**GERMAN CATTLE CENSUS.**

(Vice Consul Harold B. Qarton, Berlin, Aug. 16.)

The Imperial Statistical Office, Berlin, published in the Imperial Gazette for August 15, 1916, the final results of the cattle census of December 1, 1915, and compared these results with the similar census of December 1, 1914. According to this comparison, the following numbers of cattle were available in the German Empire:

Live stock.	1914	1915	Live stock.	1914	1915
	<i>Number.</i>	<i>Number.</i>		<i>Number.</i>	<i>Number.</i>
Horses (with the exception of military horses)...	3,435,283	3,341,624	Cows .....	11,320,992	10,979,009
Calves less than 3 months old .....	2,069,802	1,396,767	All kinds of beef cattle...	21,828,783	20,316,943
Young cattle less than 2 years of age .....	6,858,139	6,457,093	Sheep .....	5,471,468	5,073,478
Bulls, steers, and oxen...	1,579,850	1,493,079	Swine .....	25,341,272	17,287,211
			Goats .....	3,538,414	3,438,296

According to the above table, the number of beef cattle has diminished by about 1,500,000 and the number of swine in the Empire is 8,000,000 less than that of the previous year (1914). The great decrease in the number of swine is attributable to the diminished number of young pigs recorded in the last census.

**Telegraph and Telephone Supplies for Guatemala.**

The President of Guatemala has authorized the expenditure of the sum of \$25,571.41 American gold for supplies which the National Telegraph and Telephone department will order. The National Treasury is authorized also to pay insurance and freight on this shipment to Puerto Barrios.



**NEW STOCK-DEPOSIT PLAN OF BRITISH TREASURY.**

[Extracts from London Statist for Aug. 19.]

In view of the large trade balance against the United Kingdom at the present time, it is a matter of vital necessity that the value of the sovereign in foreign monetary centers should not be allowed to depreciate, and with the object first of all of regulating the New York exchange upon London, an Anglo-French loan for £100,000,000 [\$486,650,000] was raised in New York in October last.

This was followed by an offer from the British Treasury to purchase outright for subsequent sale to the United States bonds and stocks of American railroad and industrial corporations. Holders of those securities had the option, however, of merely depositing them with the Treasury for two years, and were to receive during the deposit period interest or dividend at the rate of one-half of 1 per cent per annum in excess of that received upon the securities deposited. The Treasury reserved to itself the right to dispose of the deposited securities at any time, if it so desired, and, were this option exercised, agreed to pay to the depositor in sterling the value of his securities based upon the closing quotation in New York on the day of sending notification of sale, with an additional  $2\frac{1}{2}$  per cent on the value so calculated.

**Securities in New List Cover a Wide Field.**

The holdings of American securities by British investors amounted to a very large figure, but at the high rate at which we have been making and are continuing to make purchases from the United States it soon became evident that the mobilization of American securities under what is known as Scheme A would not provide us with the means of settling the trade balance against us. Hence in recent months the expectation has been that the plan of mobilization of securities for regulating the foreign exchanges would be enlarged so as to include our investments in countries other than the United States. The announcement published in the London Gazette on Saturday last of the extension of the scheme to other bonds and stocks was, therefore, no surprise, but it is none the less interesting from many points of view.

The securities included in the new list cover an exceedingly wide field, and consist of certain bonds of the Governments of Argentina, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Denmark, Egypt, Holland, Japan, Norway, and Sweden, of the Swiss Government Federal Railways, and of the municipalities of Copenhagen and Stockholm. Further, the list includes the prior-charge stocks, and in a few instances also preference stocks, of the Canadian Pacific, the Canadian Northern, the Grand Trunk, and the Grand Trunk Pacific Railways, as well as of the five most important Argentine lines—the Argentine Great Western, the Buenos Aires Great Southern, the Buenos Aires & Pacific, the Buenos Aires Western, and the Central Argentine.

**Details of Scheme B.**

The new plan is designated Scheme B, in contradistinction to the American Dollar Securities Plan, Scheme A. [Reference to the British Treasury's purchase of American dollar securities was made in **COMMERCE REPORTS** for Jan. 11 and May 26, 1916; to the levying of a special income tax thereon, in the issues for June 29 and Aug. 1,

1916.] Scheme B applies not only to those securities in the issued list and to others that may from time to time be added thereto, but may be taken advantage of by depositors under Scheme A provided they give notice of their desire to transfer from A to B not later than September 14 next.

In one respect the new terms are identical with the old ones—namely, that the Treasury will hand over to the lender all interest or dividends due on the deposited securities, and also, by way of consideration for the loan, payment of an extra rate of one-half of 1 per cent per annum upon the face value of the bonds or stocks. But there the similarity ends. Unlike Scheme A, the present proposal of the Treasury is not to purchase securities outright, but to accept them on deposit only; and whereas under the former arrangement the loan period was for two years from date of deposit, in the present instance the securities are to be loaned to the Treasury for a period to expire March 31, 1922. The Treasury, however, retains the power to return the securities to depositors at any time on or after March 31, 1919, upon giving three months' notice of its intention to do so.

Although it is not expected the Treasury will dispose of any of the securities for the deposit of which it is now asking, nevertheless it will hold the right to do so should the necessity arise, in which event the lender would continue to receive from the Treasury the same payments—his regular interest plus one-half of 1 per cent—as if the securities had been retained until the end of the loan period, when the Treasury either will return to him securities of the same description and nominal value as those originally deposited, or, at its option, will pay to him the deposit value of the securities with an addition of 5 per cent on that value.

#### **Deposit Value of Securities—Deposit Certificates.**

The deposit value of the securities included in the new list is the net mean quotation on the London Stock Exchange on Friday, August 11—that is to say, after allowing for accrued interest or dividend; while in the case of additional lists being issued the deposit value will be the net mean quotation on the day preceding their inclusion in the scheme.

In return for the securities loaned to it the Treasury will issue deposit certificates, and arrangements have been made for their quotation in the Stock Exchange Official List. Beyond being negotiable in an easy form the certificates, of course, will be available as collateral for bankers' loans, etc. Account has been taken of the likelihood of certain securities being repaid at a fixed date or by drawings, in which case the Treasury, when making repayment, will make a further addition of an amount equal to the enhancement in value due to the approach of the date of redemption while the securities have been upon deposit if the deposit value plus 5 per cent is less than the redemption value.

Scheme B is purely voluntary, the question of the imposition of an additional income tax of 2 shillings in the pound sterling [10 per cent] unless holders consent to the Treasury's proposal not arising, at any rate at the present time, although it will be recognized that if holders of the securities to whom the invitation to deposit is extended fail to respond in sufficiently large numbers it may

become necessary to adopt the same course as that followed with the American Dollar Securities Scheme.

**Extent of Holdings in Countries Concerned.**

On several occasions in the past we have published data, based upon the best information available, showing the approximate investments of Great Britain in other lands. The most recent figures (given in our issue of Jan. 8) show that British investments in Canada at the end of 1915 amounted to about £570,000,000 [\$2,773,900,000]; in Argentina, £343,000,000 [\$1,669,210,000]; in Brazil, £153,000,000 [\$754,308,000]; in Chile, £64,000,000 [\$311,456,000]; in Japan, £63,000,000 [\$306,590,000]; and in Egypt, £45,000,000 [\$218,993,000]. We give these figures because they relate to our investments in those countries, some of whose securities are now required by the Treasury. Beyond these, account has also to be taken of investments in Continental countries, which would bring the total investments in those countries whose securities are embraced in Scheme B to well over £1,250,000,000 [\$6,083,125,000].

The securities in the Treasury's new list represent, of course, only a portion of our investments in those countries, and their present market value is estimated at about £600,000,000 [\$2,919,900,000].

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**GOVERNMENT TESTS OF TOMATO PRODUCTS.**

The United States Department of Agriculture has been requested to inform manufacturers and dealers in tomato products of the tests which it applies in arriving at its decision whether to recommend proceedings under the Food and Drugs Act against tomato products.

Under section 7 of the act, articles of food are adulterated if they are found to consist in whole or in part of filthy, decomposed or putrid animal or vegetable substances. In Circular 68 of the Bureau of Chemistry there were announced the numbers of yeasts and spores, bacteria and molds which, in the opinion of the department, may ordinarily be found in tomato products handled with reasonable cleanliness in the process of manufacture. The department states that examination of a large number of tomato products and tomato canneries convinces it that it is entirely practicable for manufacturers to keep the yeasts and spores, bacteria and molds within the limits stated in Circular 68. The department has not recommended proceedings under the Food and Drugs Act unless the product, upon examination under the conditions prescribed in Circular 68, was found to contain yeast and spores or bacteria or mold filaments in excess of the following numbers: Yeast and spores per  $\frac{1}{16}$  cubic millimeter, 125; bacteria per cubic centimeter, 100,000,000, mold filaments in 66 per cent of the microscopic fields. It is considering, however, the adoption of figures approaching those given in Circular 68. When such a scale has been adopted, public announcement will be made.

Since Circular 68 was issued, there are being produced in increasing quantities tomato products of varying degrees of concentration. The department is considering the adoption of a scale for testing tomato products, varying with the degree of concentration. If it is decided to adopt such a scale, public announcement will be made.

**GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS FOR SALE.**

The following were among the publications received in stock for sale by the Superintendent of Documents at Washington during the week ended September 2:

*Canned Salmon Cheaper than Meats and Why* (Fisheries Bureau Economic Circular 11).—Brief history of the Pacific salmon industry, including 50 tested recipes. Price, 5 cents.

*Influence of Frequency of Alternating or Infrequently Reversed Current on Electrolytic Corrosion* (Standards Technologic Paper 72).—Describes experimental work to determine the coefficient of corrosion of iron and steel in varying frequencies of alternating or reversed current. Price, 10 cents.

*Data on Electric Railway Track Leakage* (Standards Technologic Paper 75).—Presents data obtained as results of experiments on various trolley lines, giving general conditions on line and test, current leakage and calculation of track and road bed resistance. Price, 10 cents.

*Report on Trade and Tariffs in Brazil, Uruguay, Argentina, Chile, Bolivia, and Peru* (Federal Trade Commission, 1916).—Information of practical value to those interested in trade conditions, customs laws, and practices in affairs in Latin American countries, and how obstacles encountered in commercial relations may be avoided. Price, 30 cents.

*Financial Statistics of Cities having Population of Over 30,000, 1915* (Census Bureau).—Contains in detail the financial transactions of 204 cities, the assessed valuation of taxable property, taxes levied thereon, indebtedness and assets, at close of fiscal year, with proposed method of harmonizing accounting systems in various American cities. Price, cloth, 75 cents.

*Wholesale Prices of Leading Articles in the United States Markets* (Foreign and Domestic Commerce Bureau, Miscellaneous Series 30).—Report containing quotation of prices of articles representative of the most important staple lines of merchandise for the years 1913-1915. Price, 5 cents.

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**SUSPENSION OF PROVISIONS OF SHIP REGISTRY ACT.**

The President of the United States, in pursuance of the authority conferred upon him by Section 2 of the act approved August 18, 1914, entitled "An Act to provide for the admission of foreign-built ships to American registry for the foreign trade, and for other purposes," and in order to extend the privileges of said act with respect to the licensing of officers and noninspection of such vessels admitted to American registry, under date of September 1, 1916, ordered as follows:

1. That the provisions of the law prescribing that the watch officers of vessels of the United States registered for foreign trade shall be citizens of the United States, are hereby suspended so far and for such length of time as is herein provided, namely: All watch officers now employed on foreign-built ships which have been admitted to United States registry under said act who, heretofore, have declared their intention to become citizens of the United States and watch officers on such ships who, within six months from this date, shall declare their intention to become such citizens shall be entitled to serve on foreign-built ships so registered until the time shall have expired within which they may become such citizens under their declarations, and shall be eligible for promotion upon any foreign-built ship so registered.

2. That the provisions of law requiring survey, inspection, and measurement, by officers of the United States, of foreign-built ships admitted to United States registry under said act are hereby suspended so far and for such length of time as is herein provided, namely: The said provisions shall not apply to any such foreign-built ship during the period of one year from this date, provided the Secretary of Commerce is satisfied in the case of any such ship that the ship is safe and seaworthy and that proper effort is being made to comply with the said provisions.

## INVESTIGATION OF GRAIN MARKETS IN ARGENTINA.

The Argentine Government recently appointed a commission to make an investigation of grain markets, with a view to protecting the interests of domestic growers and shippers. The report of the commission, as quoted in a recent number of the *Revista Financiera y Comercial*, showed that the present low price of wheat in Argentina is due chiefly to the extraordinarily large world production of wheat in the 1915-16 crop year. North America alone is able to supply nearly all the wheat needed in Europe, and the difference in freight does not permit Argentina to compete advantageously in this trade. The present wheat supply in Argentina is estimated at 1,500,000 tons, which is gradually being marketed.

### Proposed Corn Commission.

The condition of the corn market is regarded as serious. The stock on hand is not large, and the quality is good, but the price is low. This depreciation is attributed not only to high freights and limited demands from consuming countries, but to the fact that individual producers are not well informed regarding world markets, and are unable to withstand the concerted action of a few buyers. It is recommended that the Government establish, through the Minister of Agriculture, a fortnightly service of official information on world markets. It is also recommended that the President appoint a special commission to accept consignments of corn from farmers and merchants, for sale and shipment. This commission would obtain credit from national banking institutions, with the corn as security, and it would advance 4 pesos (\$1.70) per 100 kilos as a maximum on the corn received for sale. Upon receipt of proceeds from the sale of the corn, all accounts would be liquidated. This measure is recommended for immediate adoption.

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## FOOCHOW'S TRADE IN SILK PIECE GOODS.

[Consul Albert W. Pontius, Foochow, China, July 29.]

Practically all of the silk piece goods sold in this district is of native manufacture, such goods being purchased in Canton, Hangchow, and Soochow. No American cloth has appeared on the local market and shipments from Europe have been practically nil since the war. Clothing manufactured from the silk cloth is worn chiefly by the better class of native. During the past year importations of native silk piece goods were estimated at \$150,000. Very little of the silk imported finds its way to interior points, the native there being content to use cotton cloth. There are many different shades and designs in the silk sold in the local market, the favorite colors being black and white, and blue and green in the dark shades.

There are several varieties of each kind of cloth, the prices quoted being according to quality. Silk crêpe in bolts of 20 inches by 15-18 yards is sold at \$4.75 to \$9; flowered satin, 31 inches by 21 yards, costs \$21 to \$23.50; reeled pongee, 22 inches by 15½ yards, sells for \$4.50; reeled striped pongee, 22 inches by 15½ yards, costs \$6.55 to \$7.25; superior glossy crêpe, 31 inches by 20 yards, sells for \$11.75 to \$14; and lustring, 24 inches by 20 yards, costs \$9.40 to \$14 per bolt. The last two varieties of cloth are used in making summer clothing.

## WAR INCREASES SWISS GRAIN AND POTATO ACREAGE.

[Consul General Francis B. Keene, Zurich, July 28.]

The Swiss Agricultural Association (Bauernverband) has recently published a report containing interesting comparative statistics of the increased grain and potato acreages since the beginning of the war. Previous to that time, as a result of the low prices, the cultivation of grains had, since about 1875, steadily declined in Switzerland. This is especially true of grains for breadstuffs. On the other hand, more stress had been laid in recent years upon the production of stock food and straw, principally because of their value in connection with the important Swiss dairying and cheese industries. According to the official census of 1905 the total grain acreage was 134,220 hectares (1 hectare=2.47 acres) or only 6.43 per cent of the total industrial area. The secretary of the Swiss Agricultural Association, on the basis of this acreage, has estimated the average annual crop at 284,800 metric tons of grain (1 metric ton=2,204.6 pounds) and 641,100 metric tons of straw, representing a combined total value of more than 100,000,000 francs (\$19,300,000).

### Large Proportion Obtained by Importation.

This grain was consumed principally by the agricultural classes themselves, only about 100,000 metric tons, representing approximately 16 per cent of the total Swiss requirements, having been sold to the millers. More than four-fifths, therefore, of the total Swiss requirements had to be procured by importation. This fact, since the outbreak of the war, has repeatedly resulted in the demand that the Swiss acreage of grain should be increased.

In the absence of official statistics the secretary of the Swiss Agricultural Association has instituted inquiries. The increased Swiss acreages, in hectares of 2.47 acres, for the various grains were:

Grains.	1914	1915	1916	Percentage of increase 1914-1916.
	<i>Hectares.</i>	<i>Hectares.</i>	<i>Hectares.</i>	
Winter wheat.....	28,500	42,553	46,478	30.7
Summer wheat.....	3,140	3,362	3,582	14.1
Spelt dinkie, etc.....	22,620	25,377	27,840	23.1
Winter rye.....	20,930	22,710	24,534	17.2
Spring rye.....	3,850	4,168	4,404	14.3
Wheat and rye mixed (mischel).....	4,190	4,404	4,788	14.3
Winter barley.....	1,570	1,655	1,775	13.1
Spring barley.....	4,640	4,897	5,370	15.2
Oats.....	33,740	37,231	41,758	23.7
Corn.....	1,140	1,361	1,579	36.8
Total.....	134,220	147,805	162,108	20.8

### Agricultural Growth Achieved Under Difficulties.

These statistics indicate that in spite of the difficulties in obtaining a sufficient number of agricultural laborers, the military requisition of horses, the scarcity of seed, etc., the Swiss agricultural interests have been able, since the outbreak of the war, to increase the grain acreage by about 27,890 hectares. In addition, provisional figures of the live-stock census taken April 19, 1916, indicate that during the years 1911 to 1916 the total number of cattle in Switzerland increased from 1,443,483 to 1,615,645, a growth of 11.9 per cent, while the total

number of live-stock units increased from 1,743,496 to 1,881,758, a growth of 7.9 per cent.

The estimates of the Agricultural Association indicate that the acreage of potatoes and that of other vegetables have greatly increased, the former from about 55,400 hectares in 1914 to approximately 64,500 in 1915, and 73,300 hectares in 1916, an increase since the war of 32.2 per cent. The largest percentages of increase in the potato acreage have been in the Cantons of Uri, Zug, Lucerne, Appenzell, and St. Gall, where the production of grass and hay in recent years has supplanted grains and vegetables. The largest actual increases during the three years, however, have been from 20,700 to 26,662 hectares in the Canton of Berne, and from 7,900 to 10,447 hectares in the Canton of Vaud. These two Cantons contain more than half of the potato acreage in Switzerland.

**Potato Surplus Would be Expected with Good Yield.**

If this year's potato crop gave promise of being a good yield, the estimated production based upon the acreage mentioned would be 1,190,000 tons, and since the annual requirements of the farmers for seed and for stock food are estimated at 463,000 tons, and the total food requirements of the Swiss population at 485,000 tons, there should be a substantial surplus under favorable circumstances. Owing to the continued rains during the late spring and summer, however, the prospective yield is estimated at only 80 to 90 per cent of an average crop, but even that would be just about sufficient to supply the normal requirements of the country.

According to the official foreign-commerce statistics, which have just been made public, the value of the total importation of potatoes decreased from 13,968,906 francs (\$2,695,999) in 1914 to 3,596,622 francs (\$694,148) in 1915. This decrease is at least partly explained by the fact that the 1914 crop was relatively very good, compared with that of 1913.

[A discussion of the effect of the present war on live-stock conditions in Switzerland was published in *COMMERCE REPORTS* for Aug. 16, 1916. An article on Swiss regulation of the potato trade appeared in the issue of Aug. 18, 1916.]

### COTTON EXPORTS.

According to reports received by the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce of the Department of Commerce, the exports of cotton during the week ending September 2, 1916, at the 12 principal customs districts of the United States were as follows:

Districts.	Bales.	Districts.	Bales.	Districts.	Bales.
Georgia.....	9,437	Philadelphia.....	.....	San Francisco.....	1,699
Massachusetts.....	9,332	South Carolina.....	.....	Washington.....	4,368
Maryland.....	145	Virginia.....	.....	Total.....	90,000
New York.....	17,775	Galveston.....	31,505		
North Carolina.....	15,168	New Orleans.....	521		

The exports of 90,000 bales of cotton during the past week make the total since August 1, 1916, approximately 424,987 bales. Exports of cotton for the corresponding periods of the preceding year were, respectively, 29,246 bales for the week, and 170,258 bales in the cotton year.

**BRADFORD CONSOLIDATION OF LOCAL HOLIDAYS.**

[Consul Augustus E. Ingram, Bradford, England, Aug. 16.]

The present week is being observed by the textile workers in Bradford and district as a holiday week in a more general sense, probably, than ever before, and as a consequence business locally is quiet. For some time past efforts have been made to consolidate the local holidays, which in the past have been dictated largely by the varying dates of the district fairs (or "feasts" or "tides" as they are locally called) and which have therefore caused disturbance of business over an unnecessarily long period. Government intervention, dictated by a desire to secure an uninterrupted output of the ammunition factories, has this year done what it has been impossible to do by private effort in the past, and the vacation is a general one during the current week, with the exception of factories engaged on munition work.

**Funds for Distribution.**

In the opinion of trade-union officials, more funds were available for distribution among the Bradford holiday makers than has ever been the case before. It is officially estimated that over \$100,000 of holiday savings have been distributed by the various firms, one firm of dyers having as much as \$10,000 in hand from weekly contributions, while at one wool-combing establishment over \$5,000 was paid out. These sums do not include private savings nor the back pay to which the men engaged in the dyeing industry are entitled. Recently all employees in dye works over 18 years of age were granted 4s. (97 cents) per week advance, to date from June 2, and it was agreed that the money should be paid in a lump at the holiday time. Piece workers were granted a 10 per cent advance, and the holiday funds would be swollen from these two sources by some thousands of pounds.

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**PRICE REDUCTIONS FOR RAWHIDES IN GERMANY.**

[Vice Consul H. E. Carlson, Frankfort on Main, Aug. 4.]

The Frankfurter Zeitung reports that the German Rawhide Co. (Ltd.) (Deutsche Rohhaut, A.-G.), which has been formed since the outbreak of the war, to regulate the supply, consumption, distribution, and prices of rawhides, has recently published a price list, in which the prices for the several kinds of rawhides now obtainable in Germany have been considerably reduced from those current during the past 6 to 9 months.

The new prices went into effect on August 1, 1916, and goods sent to the company for use by the Government must be delivered before August 24, 1916. The prices of cattle hides are reduced about 20 per cent, while for calfskins weighing more than 20 pounds the prices are about 10 per cent lower. Prices of other weights of calfskins are not affected.

**Figures Based Upon Division into Three Classes.**

The new arrangement has been made by dividing the hides into three classes, according to condition and quality, as a means of adjusting the prices. The kinds of hides that have been included in the new table of prices are oxhides, cowhides, kipskins, horsehides, pony hides, and colt skins. It is said that the new prices for



horsehides are about 50 per cent lower than those charged in the open market.

According to recent reports concerning the leather market in this section of Germany, conditions may be described as below normal. A strong tendency among manufacturers toward holding back goods is apparent. Buyers do not seem to care to take such goods as are offered, even in cases where, before the publication of the maximum prices, there was a decided demand. A few tanneries now have some small stocks of leather on hand.

The fluctuation in prices is not the only cause for the present lack of enterprise in the rawhide market. Reports have been spread that the Government will, before long, pass regulations governing the entire leather situation.

#### Leather Market Supplied by Regulation.

It is assumed that many of these goods are being exported, especially in the case of some of the finer leather goods, principally patent leathers. The supply of leather to be offered for sale in the next few months, it is thought, will be somewhat less, owing to the fact that fewer cattle are to be slaughtered during that period. Even if the supply is reduced, it will have no influence on the amount offered for sale, since the leather market is supplied by regulation, and this supply will be obtained from stocks which have long been on hand.

The prices that have been fixed for various kinds and grades of hides, per kilo of 2.2 pounds, green weight, together with the charges per piece for horsehides, pony hides, and colt hides, are:

Kind of hides.	First quality.	Second quality.	Third quality.
Bull, ox, cow, kipskins, and grassers, with minimum weight of 10 kilos (22.5 pounds) and maximum weight of 15 kilos (33.7 pounds).....	\$0.44	\$0.40	\$0.37
Bull hides:			
1. Minimum weight of 15 kilos (33.7 pounds) and maximum weight of 25 kilos (55.1 pounds).....	.43	.39	.37
2. Minimum weight of 25 kilos (55.1 pounds) and maximum weight of 35 kilos (77.1 pounds).....	.37	.33	.31
3. Weighing more than 35 kilos.....	.37	.33	.29
Oxhides:			
1. Minimum weight of 15 kilos (33.7 pounds) and maximum weight of 25 kilos (55.1 pounds).....	.45	.42	.39
2. Minimum weight 25 kilos (55.1 pounds), maximum weight 35 kilos (77.1 pounds).....	.40	.37	.35
3. Minimum weight, 35 kilos.....	.40	.37	.35
Cowhides:			
1. Minimum weight of 15 kilos (33.7 pounds) and maximum weight of 25 kilos (55.1 pounds).....	.45	.40	.38
2. Minimum weight of 25 kilos (55.1 pounds) and maximum weight of 35 kilos (77.1 pounds).....	.40	.37	.35
3. Minimum weight of 35 kilos.....	.40	.37	.35
Kipskins:			
1. Minimum weight of 15 kilos (33.7 pounds) and maximum weight of 25 kilos (55.1 pounds).....	.49	.45	.43
2. Minimum weight of 25 kilos (55.1 pounds) and maximum weight of 35 kilos (77.1 pounds).....	.43	.40	.37
3. Minimum weight of 35 kilos.....	.42	.38	.36
Calfskins weighing more than 20 pounds.....	.55	.52	.48
Horsehide (pony hide): Up to 179 centimeters (70.47 inches)..... per piece..	3.32		
Horsehide:			
180 to 199 centimeters (70.9 to 78.3 inches).....do.....	4.28		
200 to 219 centimeters (78.7 to 86.2 inches).....do.....	5.71		
220 to 249 centimeters (86.6 to 98 inches).....do.....	7.14		
More than 98.4 inches (250 centimeters).....do.....	8.57		
Colt hides:			
100 to 149 centimeters (34.9 to 58.7 inches).....do.....	1.19		
More than 150 centimeters (59 inches).....do.....	2.14		

[A statement of the fixing of maximum prices for hides in Germany was published in COMMERCE REPORTS for Jan. 29, 1915.]

**CROP CONDITIONS IN THE NETHERLANDS.**

[Consul General S. Listoe, Rotterdam, July 31.]

Data furnished by the correspondents of the Netherlands Department of Agriculture and covering the year 1916 show a falling off of 54,892 acres in the area under the leading crops when contrasted with the planting in 1915 and one of 61,315 acres when compared with 1914. In each case, however, the loss is but 3 per cent. The areas under the different crops in each of the past three seasons is given as:

Products.	1914	1915	1916
	<i>Acres.</i>	<i>Acres.</i>	<i>Acres.</i>
Barley:			
Summer.....	13,793	13,509	12,536
Winter.....	52,868	49,750	47,357
Beans:			
Brown.....	19,385	19,524	21,928
Other.....	39,912	38,704	36,790
Beets, sugar.....	156,254	139,646	157,265
Buckwheat.....	24,100	19,761	20,342
Chicory.....	1,648	2,431	3,074
Clover, red.....	72,402	67,870	73,373
Flax.....	19,084	22,111	36,176
Oats.....	348,212	358,383	342,030
Onions.....	6,907	7,991	9,707
Peas.....	64,815	61,237	61,015
Potatoes:			
For consumption.....	346,648	355,213	324,902
For table use.....	77,168	82,345	88,103
Rye:			
Summer.....	4,285	3,758	3,111
Winter.....	558,308	542,550	496,412
Seed:			
Canary.....	8,187	9,212	14,750
Caraway.....	13,059	9,803	12,434
Mustard, brown.....	1,594	1,554	2,679
Mustard, yellow.....	2,334	4,831	12,217
Onion.....	240	217	277
Poppy, blue.....	1,226	2,034	5,130
Radish.....	744	584	259
Rape.....	4,067	3,793	6,482
Spinach.....	2,234	1,816	2,478
Sugar-beet.....	432	447	454
Tobacco.....	966	860	877
Wheat:			
Summer.....	8,728	9,291	4,230
Winter.....	139,614	153,556	131,305
Total.....	1,969,154	1,982,731	1,927,839

**Crops Affected by Unfavorable Weather.**

Various circumstances may have caused this decline. It must be considered, however, that the figures given for 1916 are only preliminary. As a rule, the definite figures are from 1 to 2 per cent higher; but even taking this into consideration, the conclusion must be made that the crop of grain and potatoes for consumption is considerably smaller than usual, while the crop of various trade products and of sugar beets is larger.

As a result of the cold and rainy weather the crops in general are backward. With some of them a sudden change for the better in the weather might do considerable good. For the most part, however, that probability is gone, and the crops will be below the average. In the Geldersche Valley, for instance, a cloudburst and flood caused much damage. In the northwestern part of Overijssel and the adjoining parts of Drenthe and Friesland the grass could either not be mown at all, or the mown grass had to be fished out of the water.

**Wheat, Rye, Barley, and Oats.**

*Wheat.*—Generally speaking, the condition of wheat is a little better than “fairly good;” it is “good” in Utrecht, Friesland, and North Holland; between “fairly good” and “good” in Groningen, Gelderland, and Limburg; “fairly good” in South Holland and Zealand; and about “fairly good” in North Brabant.

*Rye.*—The condition of rye is also a little above “fairly good.” It is the best on the moors, but the growth will not be abundant and the amount of straw will perhaps be below the average; the ears, however, seem well filled, and a good grain crop is expected. In Overijssel the rye is very badly filled and the crop will be disappointing. In several districts the result of insufficient nitrogenous fertilizing is very evident.

*Winter barley.*—The condition of winter barley is not at all satisfactory and is on the average below “fairly good.” In Groningen there are many complaints about rust.

*Summer barley.*—Summer barley looks “good” in North Holland and “fairly good” in Zealand. In the other Provinces, where the growth of this product is not of importance, the condition varies between “fairly good” and “good.”

*Oats.*—The average condition of oats is “good.” On the moors the crop is even “very good.” In South Holland and Zealand it is “fairly good,” while in some parts of the Betuwe and South Limburg it is not so good. In Zealand many tracts have suffered from rust.

**Seed Crops—Flax, Beans, and Peas.**

*Canary seed.*—The condition of the canary-seed crop is “fairly good” in Groningen and “good” in Friesland and South Holland. In the other Provinces it is of no importance.

*Poppy seed.*—The condition of poppy seed is “fairly good,” although it varies very much in different tracts on account of cold weather and insufficient nitrogenous fertilizing.

*Caraway seed.*—The condition of caraway seed is “good” in Groningen and North Holland. In South Holland it is between “fairly good” and “good,” and in Zealand and North Brabant “fairly good.”

*Mustard seed.*—Generally speaking, the condition of mustard seed is good. In Groningen, however, it varies considerably where some of the tracts are really “bad” and others “very good.” In Zealand much damage is being done by some kind of beetle.

*Rapeseed.*—The condition of rapeseed, which is not extensively grown in the Netherlands, is “good” and in some districts even “very good.”

*Flax.*—The condition of flax is “good” in Groningen, South Holland, Zealand, and North Brabant, and “fairly good” in Friesland. The rain has done much damage, and the quality of the straw will not be so good.

*Brown and white beans.*—The crop of brown and white beans will be insufficient. On account of the cold and wet weather they did not grow very well, and their condition can hardly be called “fair.”

*Peas.*—The condition of peas varies between “fair” and “fairly good” in Zealand, “fairly good” in Groningen, and “good” in

the other provinces. In Groningen, as well as in Zealand, the condition varies considerable. In Zealand the reason is presumably that one kind of soil can stand more rain than another, while in Groningen the bud-maggot is doing much harm.

#### Potatoes and Beets.

*Potatoes for consumption.*—The prospects for the potato crop are hardly above “fairly good.” In Friesland the condition is “good”; in South Holland, Gelderland, and North Brabant, “fairly good”; in other provinces, from “fairly good” to “good.” A general complaint prevails about irregular conditions. From Zealand, as well as from Friesland, potato disease is already reported as a result of the wet weather. This disease will be worse than ever this year on account of the difficulties in importing sprinkling remedies.

*Potatoes for factory use.*—The condition of industrial potatoes is even worse than of the potatoes for table use. Generally speaking, it is below “fairly good.” On the moors in Groningen the condition is worse than anywhere else. In Drenthe the soil suffered so much from rain after the planting of potatoes that many of the seedlings are rotting away.

*Sugar beets.*—A general complaint prevails about the tardiness of the sugar beets as a result of the unfavorable weather. Fine weather, however, will improve the conditions a great deal. On the average the condition is a little below “fairly good.” It is “good” in Friesland and North Holland and “fairly good” in Groningen, South Holland, Zealand, and Limburg. In North Brabant and Gelderland it is between “fair” and “fairly good.” In Gelderland the tracts on which the beets grow show many weeds, while in North Brabant the condition is very unfavorable in many places, and it is feared that the harvest will be small this year.

*Beets for cattle.*—The condition of fodder beets is the same as of sugar beets. They are backward, full of weeds, and the harvest will probably be smaller than other years in many districts.

#### Clover and Hay.

*Clover.*—The condition of red clover is, in general, “good.” In Groningen it is much affected by stem-burn, which will cause the second cut to be very small. The same disease is reported from Utrecht. White clover and lucerne look “good.”

*Clover for seed purposes.*—Seed clover is in good condition in North Brabant and Friesland, from “fair” to “good” in Groningen, and “not very good” to “fairly good” on the clay soil and “good” to “very good” on the sandy soil of Limburg Province.

*Grass and clover hay.*—Both grass and clover hay yielded very good harvest. The quality, however, is not quite so good on account of the wet weather. In Friesland it was very difficult to make the abundance of grass into good hay, and much of the grass was ensilaged. In the lower part of Overijssel a great deal of hay is already lying in the water, and the renting of grassland in the lower pastures did not pay very well. No doubt it was of advantage to the quality of the hay that the heavy rainfalls were accompanied by a low temperature.

**AMERICAN CONSULAR OFFICERS ON LEAVE OF ABSENCE.**

The following American consular officers are on leave of absence in the United States, and will be glad to confer with business men and commercial organizations relative to conditions in their respective jurisdictions. The consul's time is available primarily for personal interviews. He has limited facilities for correspondence, and except in urgent cases letters should be directed to the consulate.

Name.	Post.	Expiration of venue.	Address.
Jewell, John F. ....	Chefoo, China .....	Oct. 1	Galena, Ill.
Kemper, Graham H. ....	Erfurt, Germany .....	Sept. 10	Department of State, Washington, D. C.
Hazeltine, Ross .....	Port Antonio, Jamaica .....	Oct. 1	Ido.
Lalng, James Oliver .....	Karachi, India .....	Sept. 30	C/o University Club, Kansas City, Mo.
Leonard, Walter A. ....	Colombo, Ceylon .....	Oct. 14	Essex, Iowa.
Osborne, John Ball .....	Havre, France .....	Oct. 21	Department of State, Washington, D. C.
Mansfield, Robert E. ....	Vancouver, Canada .....	Sept. 15	Rushville, Ind.
Pike, William J. ....	St. Gall, Switzerland .....	Nov. 1	Department of State, Washington, D. C.
Armstrong, John S. ....	Bristol, England .....		1200 Eutaw Place, Baltimore, Md.
Henry, Frank Anderson .....	Puerto Plata, Dominican Republic.	Oct. 1	C/o Hallowell & Henry, 27 Pine Street, New York City.

**AUCKLAND'S MUNICIPAL ELECTRIC-SUPPLY PLANT.**

[Consul General Alfred A. Winslow, Auckland, July 18.]

The city of Auckland owns and controls an electric-light and power plant which was installed in 1908 at a total cost of \$1,432,371, including \$458,745 for machinery and transformers, and \$492,173 for new mains and services, and \$57,254 for meters.

A report just made public by the electrical engineer in charge to the city council states that 6,203,478 units were sold during the year ended March 31, 1916, against 5,457,372 units for the year ended March 31, 1915. The income for the year ended March 31, 1916, was \$270,490, against \$248,775 for the year ended March 31, 1915, with a gross profit of \$164,833 for the year ended March 31, 1916, against \$140,175 for the year ended March 31, 1915. At the end of March, 1916, there were 2,123 customers, against 1,818 at the end of March, 1915.

**VESSELS ADMITTED TO AMERICAN REGISTRY.**

During the five weeks ended August 26, 1916, one vessel, the steamer *Mariana Quezada*, was admitted to American registry under the ship-registry act of August 18, 1914. Two vessels, the bark *Callao* and the schooner-barge *Simla*, were admitted recently under the repaired-wreck act of February 24, 1915.

Up to the first of September, 188 vessels, aggregating 628,644 gross tons, have been admitted to American registry under the act of August 18, 1914. Seven vessels of 11,630 gross tons have been admitted under the act of February 24, 1915.

The *Marina Quezada* was formerly of Costa Rica, the *Callao* of Peru, and the *Simla* was of British registry. The *Marina Quezada* is of 4,927 gross tons, was built in 1909, is owned by Edwin C. Gregory, and its home port is Wilmington, N. C.

Information in regard to the fish bags referred to in Foreign Trade Opportunity No. 22318 was published in **COMMERCE REPORTS** August 31, 1916, page 826.

## FOREIGN TRADE OPPORTUNITIES.

Reserved addresses may be obtained from the Bureau and its district offices. Request for each opportunity should be on a separate sheet and state opportunity number. The Bureau does not furnish credit ratings or assume responsibility as to the standing of foreign inquirers; the usual precautions should be taken in all cases.

*Electrical machinery and supplies*, No. 22336.—The Bureau is in receipt of a letter from a firm in Mexico stating that it is engaged in the importation of electrical machinery and appliances, maintaining show rooms and a retail store. It is stated that the manager of the machinery department is a graduate of an American technical college. The firm is especially interested in switchboards, insulators, transformers, heating devices, lamps, fixtures of all kinds, glassware, etc. References. Photographs illustrating the firm's display windows may be examined at the Bureau or its district offices. Refer to Miscellaneous No. 146.

*Brooms*, No. 22337.—An American consular officer in Panama has been requested to put a wholesale firm in touch with American manufacturers and exporters of brooms. Correspondence in English.

*Cotton fabrics*, No. 22338.—A firm of commission agents in Great Britain informs an American consular officer that it is desirous of purchasing a quantity of cotton fabric 42 inches wide, to be cut into typewriter ribbons, also cotton ribbons suitable for the same purpose for direct shipment to Scandinavia. Samples and full information should be sent at once. Reference.

*Matches, machinery, etc.*, No. 22339.—A chamber of commerce in the United States informs the Bureau that a Russian merchant wishes to receive offers from American manufacturers and exporters of matches, machinery, etc.

*General agency*, No. 22340.—An American consular officer in Argentina writes that an agent in his district wishes to represent a New York City commission house. Correspondence in English. References.

*Paper*, No. 22341.—A merchant in England informs an American consular officer that he wishes to purchase, on a commission basis, for export to the Far East, several hundred tons of medium weight wrapping paper, preferably of a reddish brown or Indian red color. Samples and full information regarding shipping facilities, etc., should be sent at once. The paper should weigh from 100 to 300 grams per square meter. References.

*Cottonseed oil, rice, canned goods, barrels, etc.*, No. 22342.—The purchasing agent for an Argentine firm, who is now in the United States, desires to make direct purchases of cottonseed oil; rice; canned lobster, shrimp, oysters, and salmon; crushed oats; California evaporated fruits; groceries, etc. He also wishes to communicate with manufacturers of wine barrels. Reference.

*Quartz*, No. 22343.—An American consular officer in Brazil has transmitted 21 samples of Brazilian quartz, for which a firm in his district wishes to find a market in the United States. The crystals vary in weight from 150 to 500 grams each. The price in Brazilian warehouse, with all local duties prepaid, would be \$1.35 per kilo. The samples may be inspected at the Bureau or its district offices. (Refer to file No. 79173.)

*Dry kiln*, No. 22344.—A business man in Australia informs an American consular officer that he wishes to receive full information relative to plant and system used in the dry-kiln process of seasoning lumber.

## OFFICES OF THE BUREAU OF FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC COMMERCE.

## DISTRICT OFFICES.

NEW YORK: Room 409, Customhouse.  
BOSTON: 18th floor, Customhouse.  
CHICAGO: 504 Federal Building.  
ST. LOUIS: 402 Third National Bank Building.  
ATLANTA: 521 Post Office Building.  
NEW ORLEANS: 1020 Hibernia Bank Building.  
SAN FRANCISCO: 807 Customhouse.  
SEATTLE: 848 Henry Building.

## COOPERATIVE OFFICES.

CLEVELAND: Chamber of Commerce.  
CINCINNATI: Chamber of Commerce.  
CINCINNATI: C. N. O. & T. P. Ry. Co.  
LOS ANGELES: Chamber of Commerce.  
PHILADELPHIA: Chamber of Commerce.  
CHATTANOOGA: South American Agent, Southern Ry. Co.

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## ADDITIONS TO DANISH EMBARGO LIST.

[Cablegram from the American consul general, Copenhagen, Sept. 6]

The Danish Government has prohibited the exportation of linen thread and fabrics, and of fruits (fresh, dried, and preserved).

## PARCEL-POST TRADE WITH PERSIA.

[Commercial Attaché Henry D. Baker, Aug. 30.]

In connection with the possibilities of parcel-post trade with Persia, a report on which was published in *COMMERCE REPORTS* for July 25, 1916, the American consul at Bergen, Norway, states that, according to an official announcement of the Norway post office, Russia has refused to accept, after May 15, 1916, parcels for Persia from neutral countries for transit through Russia.

## TOBACCO CROP OF DOMINICAN REPUBLIC.

[Consul Frank Anderson Henry, Puerto Plata, Aug. 12.]

Practically all the 1916 tobacco crop has now been gathered, and the greater part of it has been brought to the towns for sale. While there are no exact figures available, it is evident that this year's yield will be over 200,000 seroons (1 seroon=115 pounds) or about three times that of last year. Due to lack of shipping facilities, not more than 30,000 seroons have been exported up to the present, nearly all of which have been shipped to the Netherlands in chartered vessels at a freight rate of about \$5 per seroon. Fortunately for the growers and merchants this large crop has been coincident with the highest prices known for years. Conditions in Europe, and competition among buyers, have been responsible for this. The country people have received in some cases \$9 per seroon. Although prices now show a tendency to ease off from the above figures, they are still highly satisfactory in comparison with former years when growers have often had to sell for \$2 and \$3 per seroon.

The results being obtained from this year's tobacco crop can not fail to bring prosperity to a large part of this district, especially the regions commercially dependent upon the towns of Santiago, Moca, and La Vega.

**EXPORTS OF RUBBER FROM THE AMAZON DISTRICT.**

[Consul George H. Pickereil, Para, Brazil, Aug. 7.]

The exports of crude rubber from the Amazon district to the United States for July, 1916, amounted to 2,910,315 pounds as compared with 3,446,948 pounds during the same month last year. The exports to Europe increased from 806,851 in July, 1915, to 1,667,760 pounds during the corresponding period this year.

The quantities of crude rubber of different grades shipped from Para, Manaoas, and Itacoatiara, Brazil, and Iquitos, Peru, to the United States and Europe for the month of July, 1916, are shown in the following table:

Item.	To United States.	To Europe.	Item.	To United States.	To Europe.
<b>From Para, Brazil:</b>			<b>From Itacoatiara, Brazil:</b>		
Fine.....	<i>Pounds.</i> 616,301	<i>Pounds.</i> 473,122	Fine.....	<i>Pounds.</i>	<i>Pounds.</i> 13,885
Medium.....	90,218	9,179	Medium.....		440
Coarse.....	483,962	31,741	Coarse.....		6,859
Caucho.....	382,964	248,536	Caucho.....		657
Total.....	1,573,345	762,588	Total.....		21,882
<b>From Manaoas, Brazil:</b>			<b>From Iquitos, Peru:</b>		
Fine.....	571,713	134,195	Fine.....	9,494	5,895
Medium.....	51,120	96,125	Medium.....	1,428	727
Coarse.....	120,396	38,604	Coarse.....	5,059	3,092
Caucho.....	226,321	294,940	Caucho.....	351,529	309,219
Total.....	969,550	563,864	Total.....	367,420	319,136
			Total shipments.....	2,910,315	1,667,760

**SIAM'S FOREIGN TRADE FOR FISCAL YEAR.**

[Vice Consul Carl C. Hansen, Bangkok, July 18.]

The total value of Siam's foreign trade for the fiscal year ended March 31, 1916, amounted to \$67,127,346 as compared with \$66,644,613 for 1914-15 and \$76,334,393 for 1913-14. The imports and exports by principal classes for the three years were as follows:

Classes.	1913-14	1914-15	1915-16
<b>IMPORTS.</b>			
General merchandise.....	\$29,399,272	\$24,579,294	\$24,737,299
Alcoholic liquors.....	714,234	622,736	600,731
Opium.....	837,530	1,069,694	1,118,849
Gold leaf.....	1,538,368	1,136,595	773,095
Treasure.....	1,122,482	1,358,244	596,032
Total.....	33,591,876	29,036,563	27,916,516
<b>EXPORTS.</b>			
Rice.....	36,518,667	31,573,232	32,448,947
Teak.....	1,925,216	1,896,459	1,817,594
Other goods.....	3,911,629	3,893,664	3,965,163
Re-exports.....	355,357	823,190	798,239
Treasure.....	32,394	261,504	252,227
Total.....	42,742,823	37,608,099	39,284,033

The value of the imports from the United States into Siam increased from \$1,041,893 in 1914-15 to \$1,135,888 in 1915-16, and the exports from Siam to the United States during the respective years were valued at \$292,703 and \$310,239.



**AMERICAN TIMBER EXPERTS TO STUDY EUROPEAN FIELD.**

The Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce and the Lumber Manufacturers' Association have completed arrangements for a joint study of the markets in Europe for the sale of American lumber. Four or five men are to be employed on this work, and they are to be selected from among the persons who successfully pass an examination to be given in the principal cities of the country on September 22.

Applicants for positions must be citizens of the United States and must be available for two years' service. The first subject of the examination will be practical questions, covering forestry, or timber production; manufacture of forest products, and marketing of forest products. For the second subject a thesis on investigation methods will be required. Foreign languages will be the third subject and the competitors will be required to translate a passage from one at least of the following languages: French, German, Italian, Dano-Norwegian, Swedish, Spanish, or Russian. Education and experience will be considered in making the selection.

Ability to write good English is an essential qualification and will be judged on the basis of the written examination papers. Good address and appearance will also be considered, as will ability to address public gatherings. Candidates who successfully pass the written examination may be required to appear before an oral examining board at Washington.

Applications to take this examination should be made at once direct to the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce at Washington, and should contain a complete statement of the applicant's education and particularly his experience in the fundamental subjects of the examination.

The experts chosen are to be employed by the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, although the larger part of the fund required will be furnished by the lumber association. Salaries not to exceed \$10 a day will be offered, and in addition all transportation expenses will be paid, and \$4 a day will be allowed for subsistence expenses.

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**ADDRESSING COMMUNICATIONS TO COMMERCIAL ATTACHÉS.**

Publishers of trade journals, as well as manufacturers desiring to send their catalogues to the offices of the American commercial attachés, are requested to address them as follows:

Commercial Attaché, American Embassy, Buenos Aires, Argentina; Commercial Attaché, American Legation, The Hague, Netherlands; American Commercial Attaché, Apartado 969, Lima, Peru; American Commercial Attaché, 403 Imperial House, Kingsway, W. C., London, England; Commercial Attaché, American Consulate, Melbourne, Australia; American Commercial Attaché, 36 Avenue de l'Opera, Paris, France; Commercial Attaché, American Legation, Peking, China; Commercial Attaché, American Embassy, Petrograd, Russia; American Commercial Attaché, Guinle Building, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil; Commercial Attaché, American Embassy, Santiago, Chile.

To the above addresses should be added the words "Through State Department Pouch," and full foreign postage should be prepaid in each instance.

**FARM-IMPLEMENT MARKET IN SOUTH INDIA.**

[Consul Lucien Memminger, Madras, July 18.]

The Director of Agriculture of the Madras Presidency states that, although very little progress has been made in extending the use of modern agricultural implements among the people of peninsular India, the outlook is promising, and he believes that simple, light, and cheap implements of a character described in a bulletin recently issued by the Madras Department of Agriculture will be widely used in the future. The plows described in the leaflet are not in ordinary use in the Presidency, but are recommended for use after trial by the agricultural authorities.

**Local Agencies and Study of Conditions Recommended.**

If modern implements are to be more largely introduced in this country, the Director of Agriculture states, much missionary work will be required. It is essential that any firm wishing to push its wares should establish local agencies here and study local conditions. The American consulate is informed that the Department of Agriculture is always willing to give trials on Government farms for any implements which appear suitable, and also to give advice. Power plowing is in the experimental stage in South India, but some trials have been made by the Director of Industries. There is an opening for economical power-plowing implements on the black cotton-soil areas for the eradication of hariali grass. The plow should go one foot deep, and the operation should not cost more than 5 rupees (\$1.62) to 6 rupees (\$1.95) an acre, if it is to compete successfully with hand labor.

At present the vast bulk of plows in South India consists of wooden plows which cost about 1 rupee (\$0.32) each. Official statistics give the number of plows in the Madras Presidency in July, 1915, as 4,288,884, but practically all of these are the wooden implements manufactured in the country. Undoubtedly, however, there has been a tendency toward increased use of modern implements, largely through the efforts of the Department of Agriculture, which for years has been conducting a campaign of education. Freight difficulties and uncertainty of supply alone caused a decrease in imports during the past year.

**Imports of Implements from Foreign Countries.**

According to customhouse statistics the value of agricultural implements imported into the Madras Presidency by sea from foreign countries in the fiscal year ended March 31, 1911-12 was \$49,159; in 1912-13, \$85,907; in 1913-14, \$97,019; in 1914-15, \$60,345; in 1915-16, \$58,398. Many of these agricultural implements were hoes, rakes, etc. The proportion of plows is not stated in the statistics.

One or two local machine shops have undertaken recently to manufacture some plows for the local trade but the industry has not yet acquired a place of importance. The establishments are small and would have difficulty, it is believed, in obtaining sufficient materials and in selling cheaply enough to compete with plows introduced on a large scale by large foreign firms.

In the customs statistics for 1913-14 the value of imports of agricultural machinery (as distinguished from agricultural implements) is stated as \$38,717; in 1914-15 it was \$1,947; and in 1915-16 \$649. American manufacturers of agricultural implements who desire to

obtain detailed information concerning the character of the soil in the Madras Presidency, and an extensive review of the crops and methods of cultivation should write to the superintendent of the Government Press, Madras, India, requesting a copy of the annual report entitled "Operations of the Department of Agriculture, Madras Presidency, for the Official Year 1915-16." As the agricultural year ends on June 30, this report will probably be issued at an early date. The edition for 1914-15 is now exhausted. The price of the report is 3 annas (\$0.06), in addition to which \$0.08 should be sent for postage.

#### Information Concerning Crops and Soils.

Information concerning the crops and soils in the Native States in South India may be obtained by addressing the Director of Agriculture, Bangalore, Mysore, India; the Director of Agriculture, Trivandrum, Travancore, India; and the Director of Agriculture, Hyderabad, Deccan, India. The area of the Madras Presidency is 139,698 square miles. The total crop area in 1914-15 was 39,000,000 acres. The principal crops in that year were: Paddy, 10,875,754 acres; cholam, 5,101,660 acres; ragi, 2,432,370 acres; cotton, 2,087,442 acres; sesame seed, 861,062 acres; peanuts, 1,866,360 acres; tobacco, 227,182 acres; and sugar cane, 74,463 acres.

[A copy of the bulletin on agricultural implements issued by the Madras Department of Agriculture may be inspected at the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, its district or cooperative offices. A list of firms in South India likely to be interested in the agency for such implements, including addresses of several New York or London offices, may be obtained from the same offices. Refer in each case to file No. 79696. Articles on the use of agricultural implements in India were published in COMMERCE REPORTS for Aug. 5, 1915, and Apr. 7, 1916.]

### INCREASED DEMAND CAUSES CANADIAN ICE SHORTAGE.

[Consul G. R. Taggart, Cornwall, Ontario, Aug. 25.]

The prolonged hot spell in this part of Canada is reported to have caused a serious shortage of ice.

There are no ice plants here, because there is usually a large amount of the finest quality of ice available every winter from the Cornwall Canal. This normal supply was put away for use this summer, but the unusual demand has drawn so heavily upon it that there is now danger of its being exhausted before the end of the season. It is said that this shortage is general all over Canada.

The manager of one company states that he has had repeated offers recently, particularly from steamboat traffic men, for tons of ice at 25 cents a hundred, but that he doesn't intend to raise his prices to the local trade.

Before the war ice was admitted to Canada free, but there is now a war tax of  $7\frac{1}{2}$  per cent ad valorem. The usual summer prices of ice, delivered hereabouts by a Cornwall company, are: Per season of five months to consumers, \$7 for daily pieces weighing between 17 and 20 pounds; \$9 for daily pieces weighing between 25 and 30 pounds; or \$1.50 a month for daily deliveries of 15 to 20 pounds.

Prices per hundred are: For irregular purchases, 40 cents; 20 cents for regular deliveries below 500 pounds; 15 cents for regular deliveries above 500 pounds up to 1,000 pounds; and  $12\frac{1}{2}$  cents for regular deliveries of 1,000 pounds or more.

**PROSPERITY IN NORWAY.**

[Consul General E. Haldeman Dennison, Christiania, Aug. 4.]

A new chemical industry is to be established in Fredrikstad, Norway, where the municipal authorities have agreed to sell a considerable area of land to a Norwegian company with a capital of 3,000,000 crowns (\$804,000). The purchasing company, which intends to erect big chemical works and construct a quay, has also secured an option on some adjoining land in case it should be required by the development of the business. The works will derive its electric power from the Hafslund, and the mechanical equipment it is said will insure a great economy in labor.

A newly formed company, named A/S Norsk Staaltaugfabrik, with a capital of 350,000 crowns (\$93,800), will build a steel wire-rope factory at Trondhjem. It will be the first of its kind in Norway.

**Shipping Boom—Shortage of Raw Materials.**

The shipping business in Norway is still increasing with great rapidity, and new shipping companies are being formed daily. Through the rise in shipping freights and ship values, the country has gained a sum said to be equal to one-sixth of its national wealth. For the month of June Christiania's contribution to the Norwegian tonnage tax amounted to 555,000 crowns (\$148,000), and for the first six months of the current year to 2,250,000 crowns (\$603,000). While Christiania is the chief port of Norway, Bergen is a strong competitor, for its contribution to the tonnage tax for the first half of 1916 amounted to no less than 2,239,942 crowns (\$600,304).

The scarcity of raw materials, owing to the blockade of the North Sea, is the one drawback to the rapid expansion of Norwegian industries. Shipbuilding yards in particular have been handicapped at a time when there is imperative need of new tonnage, although for every 100 head of population Norway owns 104 net tons of commercial shipping, against 42 tons per 100 in Great Britain. Perhaps no neutral country has derived so much advantage from the abnormal situation brought about in the shipping world by reason of its large mercantile marine. During the last months of 1914 Norwegian ship-owners had made large profits, but the swift upward trend of freight rates in 1915 brought such a harvest to them as they had never known before. Only a few voyages sufficed to bring in net profits which largely exceeded the whole capital of the company concerned.

**Use of Wood for Fuel Prohibited—The Timber Trade.**

Only steamers plying on the lakes and inland waterways of Norway are now allowed to use wood for fuel. The use of wood had been largely resorted to owing to the difficulties connected with coal importation; but, as the destruction of timber threatened to be serious, a law has been passed prohibiting the burning of wood by seagoing vessels.

There is a considerable lull at present in the Norwegian timber trade, but shippers during last winter had one of the most prosperous seasons in the history of the industry. There was a large demand for their products and they were able to dispose of everything, no matter how inferior in quality, at high prices. Since the Baltic has

opened, however, enabling British importers to secure as much as they require of good square wood, and also supplies of flooring, the Norwegian sellers, although reducing their prices considerably, have been unable to compete with the Swedish exporters. There has been a drop in Baltic freights to something approaching the Norwegian figures and the two countries are now more on a par; but so long as the Baltic remains open Sweden will be able to take most of the foreign business.

#### **Importations and Customs Duties.**

Reports from all parts of Norway show that the customs duties for July, 1916, amounted to \$2,350,000, compared with \$1,701,000 for July, 1915, and \$2,028,000 for 1914. This good showing of customs revenue may be taken as proof that, notwithstanding all difficulties, the imports may be supposed to cover the requirements of the country. In the first 7 months of 1916 the customs revenue amounted to \$10,900,000, against \$9,800,000 for the same period in 1915. Although there have been difficulties connected with imports in some lines, the situation in most lines is relatively good. The increase in import duties is caused mainly by the building up of reserves of stock in all branches where it is possible to do so; but it is also to some extent caused by an increased demand for luxuries. Especially noticeable is the increase in imports of champagne and wines, where the gain in duties at Christiania alone for the seven months amounted to \$80,000. The receipts of automobiles also increased, the imports at Christiania for April to June, 1916, amounting to \$350,000, against \$115,000 for the same period last year. Practically all cars are now imported from the United States. Imports of cotton and woolen goods for May and June, 1916, amounted to 130,000 kilos, while last year for the same period the quantity was 40,000 kilos; these goods, which formerly came from the Continent, come now from British ports.

The difficulty of getting supplies from abroad are not confined to any particular line of goods; conditions seem to change from one line to another, but taken all in all importers as a rule have been able to get the goods required for domestic consumption as well as sufficient food supplies for the population.

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#### **WORK ON HIGHWAYS IN COLOMBIA.**

The Colombian Government has decreed that work on the new northern highway from Bogota to Cucuta is to be under the direction of the Minister of Public Works, with the cooperation of the Departmental Governments of Cundinamarca, Boyaca, and Santander. A commission of engineers appointed by the National Government will complete surveys for the highway, and will give instructions to the local engineers in charge of the work in each department. On completion of the principal road from Bogota to Cucuta, a branch road will be built to Bucaramanga, according to the decree in the *Diario Oficial*. Another decree provides that prisoners in the State penitentiaries shall work on the construction of a highway from Alban to the river Magdalena. The scarcity of railways in Colombia makes these highways of great value in transportation.

## SOUTH AMERICAN SHARES AS INVESTMENTS.

[Special Agent Frederic M. Halsey, London, England, Aug. 9.]

The securities described in this report are practically unknown in the United States, but in England—where they are listed on the London Exchange—under ordinary circumstances they enjoy good markets.

*The Central Uruguay Railway of Montevideo—ordinary stock.*—The railway under discussion is about 1,000 miles in length, including several so-called extensions, and is the principal commercial highway in the Republic of Uruguay. In normal times, this system earns about \$6,000,000 gross per annum (\$6,050,000 in 1912-13; \$5,400,000 in 1913-14). In 1914-15, owing to the war, gross receipts dropped to approximately \$4,600,000, and in 1915-16 the total was only \$4,700,000. The smallness of the increase was due to the scarcity of steamers to handle exports. There has been much talk of opposition lines being built by the Uruguayan Government, and this has at times had a slightly depressing effect on the stock. Another view is that projected Government lines will not be built, except in local territories, for some years.

There is £2,000,000 (\$9,733,000) worth of "Central" ordinary stock outstanding at the present time. In former years very substantial dividends were paid—6½ per cent in 1913. Since the war began dividends on this class of stock have been suspended. This stock sold at 114 during 1912 and at 106½ during 1913. At the closing of the London Stock Exchange on July 27, 1914, the price was 80 and the present price is 52, which is almost the low record for the year.

**Railways Form Part of Peruvian Corporation's Assets.**

*Peruvian Corporation preference shares.*—These shares are more or less speculative. The Peruvian Corporation was formed in 1890 in the interest of the holders of the £51,423,190 (\$250,250,950) bonds of the Republic of Peru, the Republic having defaulted on these obligations principally on account of the war with Chile, which war cost Peru its vast nitrate deposits. The Peruvian Corporation took over, among other assets, and agreed to complete the construction of a number of railway lines and was granted the right of free navigation on Lake Titicaca. The Government also turned over to the corporation 3,000,000 tons of guano and agreed to pay the sum of £80,000 (\$389,320) per annum to the corporation until the year 1923. The annuities are secured by the custom receipts of the port of Callao. Since the war payments of portions of this annuity have been deferred.

Among the railway lines under the corporation's control are the Oroya, or Peruvian Central Railway, the highest line in the world. This line reaches the altitude of 15,865 feet and handles most of the output of the Cerro de Pasco and other mining properties located on the Andean Plateau. The Peruvian Southern Railway, also owned, is an important line extending from the Pacific port of Mollendo, via Arequipa to Cuzco and Lake Titicaca. This railway reaches an altitude of about 14,800 feet and handles a considerable international freight and passenger traffic with Bolivia. Other smaller lines are owned, some of which are capable of further development.

**Capitalization and Dividends of Peruvian Corporation.**

The present capitalization of the Peruvian Corporation consists of approximately £4,900,000 (\$23,845,850) of an original issue of £6,000,000 (\$29,199,000) mortgage sinking-fund bonds, on which interest is paid at the rate of 4 to 6 per cent in accordance with yearly profits; £7,500,000 (\$36,498,750), 4 per cent cumulative preference shares, and £9,000,000 (\$43,798,500) ordinary shares.

Dividends at the rate of  $2\frac{1}{2}$  per cent per annum were paid on the preference shares during the years 1911 to 1914, inclusive. In 1915 the corporation's earnings were so greatly reduced that only one-fourth of 1 per cent was paid. The gross revenues from the operation of railways and steamers for the year 1914-15 was only 8,304,769 Peruvian soles (\$4,041,515), as compared with 12,336,249 soles (\$6,003,435) in 1913-14. Likewise net receipts declined from 4,516,111 soles (\$2,197,765) to 2,634,816 soles (\$1,282,230). Gross receipts for 1915-16 were 9,763,497 soles (\$4,751,400). There was probably a corresponding recovery in net receipts.

To the present date there is approximately 80 per cent in back dividends due and unpaid on the preference shares. These preference shares, which have been fairly active of late, owing to rumored American buying, are quoted at 24, as compared with  $32\frac{1}{2}$  at the closing of the London markets (July 27, 1914), and with  $54\frac{1}{4}$  during the year 1913. The ordinary shares are not likely to obtain any dividends for many years to come. They sell at about  $4\frac{1}{2}$ , and are of value only because they carry the controlling interest in the corporation.

**Lack of Ships Affects Earnings of Brazilian Railway.**

*Great Western of Brazil Railway—Ordinary shares.*—Prior to the war this railway enjoyed considerable prosperity. The line, with its numerous branches, consists of about 1,010 miles of main track, the City of Pernambuco being the principal operating base. Gross receipts for the year 1913 reached the total of £749,000 (\$3,645,000); in 1914 the total fell off to £641,000 (\$3,119,425), and in 1915 there was a further decline to £515,000 (\$2,506,250). The scarcity of ships and the continued low rate of exchange have prevented any increase over the 1915 figures, and it will likely be several months before any real improvement in conditions is to be looked for.

Dividends at the rate of 6 per cent were paid on the preference and ordinary shares for many years prior to 1914. The ordinary dividend was passed in 1914, and in 1915 the preference dividend was likewise passed. There is outstanding at the present time £306,250 (\$1,490,365) permanent 6 per cent debenture stock; £1,631,400 (\$7,939,200) 4 per cent debentures, £1,000,000 (\$4,866,500) preference shares, and £1,250,000 (\$6,083,125) ordinary shares. The 4 per cent debentures sold at  $88\frac{1}{4}$  during 1913. As of July 27, 1914, the price was 82, and the present price is  $69\frac{1}{4}$ . The 6 per cent debenture stock has declined in price from 133 to  $101\frac{1}{2}$ ; the preference shares, from £12 par £10 share in 1913, and £10½ July 17, 1914, to £7½. The ordinary shares, par £10, which sold at £11 in 1913, and £8½ on July 27, 1914, have sold down to the present low figure of £5½.

**Leopoldina Railway Owned by British Capital.**

*Leopoldina Railway, Brazil—Ordinary shares.*—The Leopoldina Railway operates approximately 1,830 miles of railway wholly located

in the Republic of Brazil. Its terminus is at Rio de Janeiro, from which point it extends northward and northwestward into the higher country. The railway was originally built by Brazilians, but in later years was purchased by a British company and reorganized.

The company has regularly paid dividends on its ordinary shares since 1899, and in only one of the years between 1901 and 1914 was the rate less than 3 per cent per annum. The maximum rate was 4½ per cent, paid in 1907, and during 1913 and 1914 4½ per cent was paid. In 1915, owing to the general demoralization brought about by the war in Europe, the rate paid was only 1 per cent, and it will probably be some time, according to current opinion, before business will show a sufficient substantial increase to warrant any increase in the rate.

The present capitalization consists of £1,000,000 (\$4,866,500) 5 per cent debentures, approximately £4,500,000 (\$21,899,250) 4 per cent debenture stock, £2,850,000 (\$13,869,525) 5½ per cent preference shares, and £5,690,650 (\$27,693,550) ordinary shares. The company's gross earnings for 1913 exceeded \$9,000,000; during 1914 the total dropped to approximately \$7,500,000, and during 1915 there was a further decrease to \$7,300,000. No increase has as yet been recorded.

The 5 per cent debentures closed at par (100) on July 27, 1914, which as previously stated was the date of the closing of the London Stock Exchange. The present price is 90½. The 4 per cent debentures sold at 93½ during 1913, closed at 86 July 27, 1914, and are now selling at 72½. The preference shares, par £10, have declined from 11 to 8½, while the ordinary shares, which sold at 77½ during 1913 and at 49 at the closing of the Exchange, are now at 38.

#### London Willing to Sell Latin American Securities.

Substantial blocks of the stocks discussed above could readily be purchased without greatly disturbing market conditions. London is a seller's market just now, and there are numerous large interests, such as insurance companies and banks, that would dispose of their holdings of Latin American securities.

#### AMERICAN CONSULAR OFFICERS ON LEAVE OF ABSENCE.

The following American consular officers are on leave of absence in the United States, and will be glad to confer with business men and commercial organizations relative to conditions in their respective jurisdictions. The consul's time is available primarily for personal interviews. He has limited facilities for correspondence, and except in urgent cases letters should be directed to the consulate.

Name.	Post.	Expiration of leave.	Address.
Jewell, John F.....	Chefoo, China.....	Oct. 1	Galena, Ill.
Kemper, Graham H.....	Erfurt, Germany.....	Sept. 10	Department of State, Washington, D. C.
Hazeltine, Ross.....	Port Antonio, Jamaica	Oct. 1	Do.
Laing, James Oliver.....	Karachi, India.....	Sept. 30	C/o University Club, Kansas City, Mo.
Leonard, Walter A.....	Colombo, Ceylon.....	Oct. 14	Essex, Iowa.
Osborne, John Ball.....	Havre, France.....	Oct. 21	Department of State, Washington, D. C.
Mansfield, Robert E.....	Vancouver, Canada.....	Sept. 15	Rushville, Ind.
Pike, William J.....	St. Gall, Switzerland.....	Nov. 1	Department of State, Washington, D. C.
Armstrong, John S.....	Bristol, England.....	.....	1200 Eutaw Place, Baltimore, Md.
Henry, Frank Anderson.....	Puerto Plata, Dominican Republic.	Oct. 1	C/o Hallowell & Henry, 27 Pine Street, New York City.



**ACTIVITIES OF PROSPEROUS JAPAN.**

[Consul General George H. Scidmore, Yokohama, Aug. 5.]

The Japan Advertiser summarizes the promising commercial and industrial conditions here. It declares that Japan is probably the most prosperous country in the world at present. "Its munitions trade," says the newspaper, "compared with that of the United States, is small in total volume, but Japan is making new records in almost every branch of trade. Financially, Japan was never such a power in the world before. It has redeemed large quantities of the bonds which it floated in the London and Paris markets during the Russian war, and is preparing to invest ten millions sterling in British exchequer bills in the United States, in order to assist its ally in the matter of the American exchange, and incidentally to obtain the 5 or perhaps 6 per cent which England will pay in place of the 1½ per cent interest allowed by the Federal banks." Continuing, the newspaper says:

Money has not been so cheap and abundant in Tokyo during its history, and the effect is seen in the persistent activity and high prices prevailing on the Tokyo Stock Exchange. Negotiations are in progress for a considerable loan to Russia. The newspapers are talking of a loan to China. Barely two years ago the question of the hour was whether or not the Government should go to the foreign money lenders for advances to equalize the budget. Japan, from being a borrowing, has become a lending country, and though the condition is temporary it furnishes a striking illustration of the booming prosperity which the war has brought to the Japanese Empire.

**Great Prosperity in Shipping and Cotton Spinning.**

The principal shipping companies are piling up reserves, increasing their fleets, and bringing into being a shipbuilding industry. A great part of their profits is going into capital, while the Government subsidies stabilize their dividends as before. Cotton spinning, the chief of Japan's industries, is in a similar condition. Business is on record levels and prices have gone rocketing up, while the wages of the operatives are stationary at almost the lowest mark in the world, and their efficiency is increasing. The increase of spindles is greater relatively than the increase of employees.

Another feature of the present industrial conditions is the number of new industries which have come into existence through the cessation of some European imports. A recent investigation by the Department of Commerce and Agriculture shows nine industries that are either entirely new or have had their prospects assured as a result of the war. These include: Dyestuffs—aniline, aniline salt, and black dyes, especially sulphur black; chemicals—subnitrate of bismuth, salicylic acid, antipyrin, calcium acetate, and formalin; glassware, celluloid, paper, pulp, yellow phosphorous, and potassium chloride.

The cotton trade is forging ahead. Not only are the sales to China increasing, but Japanese goods have found their way to Indian and Pacific markets where British and German goods formerly held the field. Great improvements are being effected in quality. A Dutch official from Java recently stated that he had been shown goods in Osaka which were not to be distinguished from the finest products of Manchester. In 10 years the exports to China have more than doubled, those to Hongkong have quintupled, and those to India have multiplied by 20. Compared with the gigantic figures of Lancashire, Japan's cotton industry is still small, but the tendency is worth noticing.

**PROPOSED NEW ROTTERDAM-NEW YORK LINE.**

[Commercial Attaché Erwin Thompson, The Hague, Netherlands, Aug. 9.]

It is reported that a new steamship line is to be operated between Rotterdam and New York. It is said that the Greek ship *Macedonie* has been purchased for this service and that all formalities of the Netherlands Overseas Trust will be complied with.

**IMPORTS INTO SWANSEA FOR SEVEN MONTHS.**

[Consul M. K. Moorhead, Swansea, Wales, Aug. 14.]

The imports, coastwise and foreign, through the port of Swansea, during the first seven months of 1916, amounted to 436,412 tons, showing a decrease of 184,657 tons, as compared with the corresponding period of 1914, and of 58,309 tons, compared with a like period of 1915.

These imports in detail, according to figures supplied by the manager of the Swansea harbor offices, are given in the following table:

Articles.	Seven months ended July 31—		
	1914	1915	1916
	<i>Tons.</i>	<i>Tons.</i>	<i>Tons.</i>
Tar and pitch.....	40,299	20,735	17,061
Gas coal.....	1,276	377	433
Copper, silver, lead, tin, with their ores and alloys.....	33,190	28,756	21,690
Zinc ore and alloys.....	33,747	27,809	33,417
Iron ore.....	49,481	65,025	39,734
Iron, steel, pig iron, and castings.....	81,151	55,430	24,400
Steel bars and billets.....	19,262	1,008	537
Deals, battens, and boards.....	30,995	12,500	6,413
Pit wood.....	60,010	59,505	57,659
Bricks, slates, cement, etc.....	26,202	17,379	10,037
Sulphur ore, pyrites, salt, and chemicals.....	36,402	45,431	81,627
Flour, potatoes, etc.....	15,381	13,530	12,550
Grain.....	52,627	45,603	59,994
Sugar.....	9,717	1,050	1,050
Fish.....	5,329	3,260	2,061
General merchandise (average).....	126,000	87,323	76,430
Total.....	621,069	494,721	436,412

a Estimate.

The figures in the above table include only imports through Swansea harbor and do not represent fully the consumption of foreign goods in Swansea, for the reason that considerable quantities are imported through the large distributing centers of London, Liverpool, and Birmingham and are recorded in the imports of these cities.

**RAILWAY CONSTRUCTION BY BOLIVIAN GOVERNMENT.**

The call of the Bolivian Government for bids on the construction of the Potosi-Sucre Railway [see *COMMERCE REPORTS* for Apr. 10, 1916] has been annulled by a decree of August 1, 1916. No bids having been received, according to the West Coast Leader, the Government has decided to proceed with the construction of the railway through the Department of Public Works, using the final surveys made by Mr. W. L. Milner. It is stated that funds are available to begin the work of construction, and a loan may be negotiated later, with the constructed portions of the road as security. The Potosi-Sucre Railway is an extension of the Rio Mulato branch of the Antofagasta & Bolivia Railway.

**COOPERATIVE OFFICE ESTABLISHED IN PORTLAND.**

A cooperative office of the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce has been established with the Foreign Trade Department of the Portland Chamber of Commerce, Portland, Oreg., with Mr. Ansel R. Clark in charge of the office. Mr. Clark is foreign trade secretary of the organization.

**PROPOSED NEW SOUTH WALES LEGISLATION.**

[Commercial Attaché Philip B. Kennedy, Melbourne, Australia, Aug. 1.]

In his opening address upon the convening of the 23d parliament of New South Wales the governor of the State thus summarized the legislative proposals that will be submitted for consideration during the present session:

You will be asked to consider bills dealing with the local-government franchise, to confer constitutional rights upon women to sit in Parliament, and also to amend the electoral law.

There will also be presented bills relating to the construction of grain elevators and to forestry matters.

Important proposals providing for public works will also be submitted, including measures relating to the Sydney Harbor bridge and the construction of railways connected with the development of the State.

The following measures relating to industrial matters will be presented for your consideration: Bills to amend the early-closing law and the Sunday-trading law, the trades-union law, the coal-mines-regulation law, and the acts relating to workmen's compensation and industrial arbitration.

In view of the expected return of large numbers of our citizens now engaged in military operations for the defense of the Empire, my advisers consider that the time has arrived for the enactment of a right-to-work bill.

You will be asked to authorize measures having for their object the further control of the dental profession and land agents.

Your consideration will be asked for legislative proposals dealing with the maintenance of the families of testators and the amendment of the liquor act.

Other legislative proposals deal with the amendment of the Government railways act and the provision of more effectual machinery for dealing with appeals in the Government railways and tramways service and the police service, in addition to a measure relating to the control of industrial undertakings.

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**CULTIVATION OF MEDICINAL PLANTS IN URUGUAY.**

The Government of Uruguay has announced its intention of increasing the manufacture of chemical products in the Institute of Industrial Chemistry. In connection with this project measures are being taken to extend the cultivation of medicinal plants that are needed in the preparation of chemical manufactures. A presidential decree in a recent number of the *Diario Oficial* directs the national inspection bureau of live stock and agriculture to prepare a program of study and experiments on the cultivation and acclimatization of foreign medicinal plants, and also on the medicinal properties of native plants. In the preparation of this program the national inspection bureau will have the cooperation of the president of the commission on agricultural experiment stations, the chemical director of the faculty of medicine, and of other officials.

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**Spanish National Treasury Receipts.**

Consular Assistant Bartley F. Yost, at Barcelona, reports that according to provisional figures published by the Ministry of Finance of Spain, the treasury receipts from all sources during the month of July were \$15,573,227, as against \$14,218,830 for the corresponding month of 1915 and \$17,081,442 for July, 1914. For the first seven months of the present year the treasury receipts, not including obligations issued, totaled \$119,547,798, as compared with \$113,148,695 in 1915 and \$127,583,483 in 1914.

## TRADE COMBINATIONS IN RUSSIA.

[Commercial Attaché Henry D. Baker, Petrograd, June 14.]

There has been legislation in Russia against combinations in restraint of trade, similar to antitrust legislation in the United States. For instance, in Russia it is not possible for one company to hold stock of another company. The Russian Government, however, has not restricted the formation of community-of-interest organizations, which are not incorporated companies, but are associations of individuals with common meeting places. The Government does not interfere with the holding of such meetings and requires no official scrutiny of the records. At the meetings of such societies prospective orders from the Government and from private railways and other interests are discussed, and schedules are drawn up showing the capacities of the various works. Prospective orders are then apportioned to suit conditions, at prices common to all. In consideration of this apportionment of orders the fitness of certain works to manufacture special classes of articles, such as cars or locomotives, or to furnish certain sections of rails, or structural material, or certain qualities of steel, is given careful attention at the meetings.

Prominent among the community-of-interest organizations are the Prodamet, a combination of more than 30 big steel concerns; the Prodoparovoz, a combination of seven locomotive makers, and the Prodovagon, a combination of 12 car builders. The central committees of these organizations act as both selling and purchasing agents. They are opposed to purchasing in foreign countries any goods that can be produced in Russia. There is no record that any member of these organizations has contravened the letter or the spirit of the agreements.

## EFFECTS OF HURRICANE IN JAMAICA.

[Vice Consul Edward B. Cipriani, Port Antonio, Aug. 18.]

The agricultural districts report extensive damage to all cultivations and devastation to the banana plantations. It is said that there is not a banana plant left standing and that there will be no fruit for shipment for the next 12 months at least.

It was hoped that the first few banana ships to make this port after the hurricane would find sufficient cargo from the fallen fruit, but it appears that this will not be the case, as the *Vika*, the first ship to call, has had to leave to-day empty and proceed to Bocas del Toro to get a cargo there for New Orleans.

## OFFICES OF THE BUREAU OF FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC COMMERCE.

### DISTRICT OFFICES.

NEW YORK: Room 409, Customhouse.  
BOSTON: 18th floor, Customhouse.  
CHICAGO: 504 Federal Building.  
ST. LOUIS: 402 Third National Bank Building.  
ATLANTA: 521 Post Office Building.  
NEW ORLEANS: 1020 Hibernia Bank Building.  
SAN FRANCISCO: 307 Customhouse.  
SEATTLE: 848 Henry Building.

### COOPERATIVE OFFICES.

CLEVELAND: Chamber of Commerce.  
CINCINNATI: Chamber of Commerce.  
CINCINNATI: C., N. O. & T. P. Ry. Co.  
LOS ANGELES: Chamber of Commerce.  
PHILADELPHIA: Chamber of Commerce.  
CHATTANOOGA: South American Agent, Southern Ry. Co.  
PORTLAND, OREG.: Chamber of Commerce.

## PROPOSALS FOR GOVERNMENT SUPPLIES AND CONSTRUCTION.

[Correspondence should be direct with the offices named, and specifications can usually be obtained at the points where the goods are to be delivered or the work is to be performed. In cases where the time limit is too short to permit firms to submit tenders, they should ask to be placed on the mailing lists of such offices to receive notices calling for future supplies or work of a similar nature.]

**Navy Department supplies, No. 3548.**—Sealed proposals will be received by the Bureau of Supplies and Accounts, Navy Department, Washington, D. C., to which bureau firms desiring to submit proposals should apply, giving schedule numbers, for the supply of the following: Schedule 106, 30,000-pound capacity flat cars and metal filing cases (case and 5 drawers to the unit); schedule 107, cartridge cases and powder and cartridge tanks; schedule 108, 4-inch wide, acid-proof, rubber belting, 4-inch wide wood fiber, wall board, acid, white rubber gloves, terra cotta sewer pipe, galvanized steel pipe, 8 inches in diameter by 10 feet long, acid-proof, stone-ware pipe, interchangeable counter bores, and micrometer depth gauges; schedule 109, portable radial drills; schedule 110, 28-inch cotton canvas; schedule 111, black steel pipe, boiler plate steel, and common steel shapes; schedule 112, condenser (4 sheets) tube sheets and 6-inch wall radical drills; schedule 113, tinned bacon, flour in export bags, evaporated milk, granulated sugar, in sacks, and "solid pack" tomatoes; schedule 114, all-steel hopper cars; schedule 115, 36-inch tool grinders; schedule 116, furnishing and installing motor and control equipment; schedule 117, megaphones; schedule 118, double-dressed American hemp, holders for toilet accessories, and cold-rolled sheet copper; schedule 119, 1-pound cakes beeswax, lump borax, paint drier, and lump rosin; schedule 120, squillgee handles, independent oil masthead lights, worm-gear chain blocks, direct differential blocks, copper burrs, "O" clamps, files, spur brass grommets, snap and ring hooks, garnet paper, brass wood screws, 1-quart gasoline torches, and swivel-jaw bench vises; schedule 121, composition steam cocks, service cocks, foundry flour, steel boiler rivets, regulus of antimony, and bar-rolled monel metal; schedule 122, single conductor wire; schedule 123, letter carriers' satchels; schedule 124, Port Oxford cedar, cypress or cedar, and redwood; schedule 125, cypress for boat building; schedule 126, electric water heaters; schedule 127, 230 volts 3 horsepower motors; schedule 128, furnishing and installing indicators (oil level); schedule 129, fuel-oil meters; schedule 130, 30-inch plain radial drill, 16-inch high-speed sensitive drill, two-wheel emery grinder, surface and portable drill grinder, motor-driven screw cutting lathes, universal milling machines, and 24-inch extension base tool room shaper; schedule 131, 28½-inch slate color cotton canvas; schedule 132, cotton canvas; schedule 133, 72-inch cotton canvas; and schedule 134, 10 kw. radio transmitting sets.

**Sale of land, No. 3549.**—The Commissioner of Fisheries, Washington, D. C., announces that a tract of land, containing about 16 acres, at Clackamas, Oreg., about eight miles from Oregon City, Oreg., will be sold to the highest responsible bidder at public auction, in Oregon City, Oreg., on September 16, 1916. Further information may be obtained on application to the Commissioner of Fisheries.

**Repairing lighthouse tender, No. 3550.**—Sealed proposals will be received by the Lighthouse Inspector, Portland, Me., for docking and repairing the lighthouse tender *Hibiscus*. Further information may be obtained on application to the above office.

**Construction work, No. 3551.**—Sealed proposals will be received by the Supervising Architect, Treasury Department, Washington, D. C., until October 5, 1916, for the construction of the post office at Berlin, N. H. Drawings and specifications may be obtained from the Supervising Architect, Treasury Department, Washington, D. C.

**Rebuilding wharf, No. 3552.**—Sealed proposals will be received by the Lighthouse Inspector, Buffalo, N. Y., for rebuilding wharf, etc., at Sandusky Bay Lighthouse Depot (Center Point), Ohio.

**Battleship construction, No. 3553.**—Sealed proposals will be received by the Navy Department until October 25, 1916, for construction, by contract, four battleships (Nos. 45-48), four scout cruisers (Nos. 4-7), 20 torpedo-boat destroyers (Nos. 75-94), and 29 submarines (Nos. 78-106). Circulars for the information of bidders and plans and specifications relating to said vessels are ready for distribution.

## FOREIGN TRADE OPPORTUNITIES.

Reserved addresses may be obtained from the Bureau and its district offices. Request for each opportunity should be on a separate sheet and state opportunity number. The Bureau does not furnish credit ratings or assume responsibility as to the standing of foreign inquirers; the usual precautions should be taken in all cases.

*Machinery*, No. 22345.—An American consular officer in the United Kingdom reports that a firm in his district is desirous of obtaining a machine for stamping out discs from composition cork and pressing same into the small screw caps of collapsible tubes; the maximum diameter of the disc to be one-fourth of an inch.

*Machinery, etc.*, No. 22346.—An exporting and importing firm on the Pacific coast writes that it desires to communicate with American manufacturers of machinery for making and refining castor oil; also with dealers in bleaching and refining compounds. Quotations should be made f. o. b. Seattle or c. i. f. Kobe, Japan. Reference.

*Cotton goods*, No. 22347.—A firm in the United States writes the Bureau that it has an order from its Argentine agent for a large quantity of cotton stamped goods similar to a sample which may be examined at the Bureau or its district offices. (Refer to Miscellaneous No. 147.)

*Carpets, rugs, and furniture*, No. 22348.—The commercial attaché of the Department of Commerce in Peru transmits the name and address of a business man in his district who is in the market for carpets and rugs. Samples and illustrations and full information should be sent at once. The man would also like to receive catalogues, etc., on high grade office furniture, desks, filing cabinets, etc. The commercial attaché also desires catalogues and other publicity literature relative to steel furniture. Reference.

*Furniture*, No. 22349.—An American consular officer in Canada reports that a municipal council is contemplating the purchase of furniture for a new city hall. The final date for receipt of tenders has not been determined, but will probably be not later than October 1, 1916. The purchase will include desks, chairs, tables, couches, and 300 assembly hall chairs to cost not more than \$1.60 each, delivered.

*Agricultural machinery*, No. 22350.—One of the commercial agents of the Bureau in South Africa writes that a firm in that country contemplates establishing a new department for the sale of agricultural machinery. It is stated that the firm will send a competent man to the United States, if necessary, to confer with American manufacturers and exporters who may be interested in this proposition. References.

*Hardware, enameled ware, etc.*, No. 22351.—The commercial agent of the Bureau in Chicago writes that a Russian business man, who has had extensive business experience in the Russian Empire, desires to enter into commercial relations with American manufacturers and exporters who may be interested in the Russian markets. He is particularly interested in agricultural implements, hardware, enameled ware, and knitted goods. References.

*Dyeing and tanning materials*, No. 22352.—An American consular officer in Brazil transmits the name and address of a firm which is in a position to supply the following Brazilian hardwoods used for dyeing purposes: Araribá rosa, which gives a red dye; aroeira, which gives a red dye; páo Brazil, which gives a red dye; braúna, which gives a black dye; tatajuba, which gives a yellow dye; urucú, which gives a dye for macaroni; peroba rosa, which gives a red dye; and roxinho, which gives a purple dye. The following may be used for tanning purposes: Red mangrove bark and peroba rosa. References.

A New York manufacturer informs the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce that his use of the "Trade Opportunity" service of the Bureau has directly led to sales of his products to the extent of \$2,000 in China, \$4,000 in Egypt, \$255 in Italy, \$150 in Portugal, \$150 in Chile, \$580 in Argentina, and \$700 in Norway.

SEP 25 1916

PRINCETON, N. J.

# COMMERCE REPORTS



DAILY CONSULAR AND TRADE REPORTS  
ISSUED DAILY BY THE BUREAU OF FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC COMMERCE  
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

For sale by the Superintendent of Documents, Washington, D. C., at \$2.50 per year



No. 212 Washington, D. C., Saturday, September 9 1916

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## CONDITION OF THE EGYPTIAN COTTON CROP.

[Consul Arthur Garrels, Alexandria, Aug. 7; data taken from July Bulletin of Ministry of Agriculture.]

Weather conditions have been favorable, with the water supply sufficient except in a few districts, chiefly on tails of canals. Over-watering by small cultivators has been reported from certain districts, with the usual boll shedding as a result. The cotton-worm attack has been completely overcome, with no damage to the crop except in unimportant parts. Aphis has been comparatively rare. The ordinary boll worm (*Earias insulana*) is almost completely absent, while the pink seed worm (*Gelechia gossypiella*) has infested the bolls in a varying degree in every Province up to Assiut.

The crop has continued to make good progress, and bolls in the early-sown fields in Lower Egypt have begun to open. In Upper Egypt bolls are also ripening in early cultivation. The condition of the crop in all parts of the country fully bears out the forecast of an early picking.

## TRADE FIGURES FOR ST. JOHN, NEW BRUNSWICK.

[Consul Henry S. Culver, St. John, New Brunswick, Canada, Aug. 28.]

Government trade returns for the first two months of the fiscal year 1916-17 (April and May) show considerable expansion in the export trade of the port of St. John, the values for this period amounting to \$41,494,955. This is the largest export at any one port in Canada, Fort William being second with values of \$21,873,079. As compared with other Maritime Province ports, St. John leads by \$31,843,444.

Bank clearings at this place for the month of July were \$7,268,393, as compared with \$6,615,318 in the corresponding month last year. The clearings for the first two weeks in August were \$4,036,493, as against \$3,231,415 in the same period in 1915.

## MOVEMENT OF COAL AND COKE.

The movement of coal and coke over 12 leading eastern railroads during June and six months ending June, 1915 and 1916, follows:

## JUNE.

Classes and railroads.	Originating on line.		Received from connections.		Total.	
	1915	1916	1915	1916	1915	1916
<b>FOR REVENUE ONLY.</b>						
<b>Anthracite:</b>	<i>Short tons.</i>	<i>Short tons.</i>	<i>Short tons.</i>	<i>Short tons.</i>	<i>Short tons.</i>	<i>Short tons.</i>
Baltimore & Ohio.....			79,766	93,138	79,766	93,138
Buffalo, Rochester & Pittsburgh.....			11,317	13,222	11,317	13,222
Buffalo & Susquehanna.....			339	435	339	435
Chesapeake & Ohio.....	229	7	1,129	1,821	1,358	1,828
Erie.....	584,365	665,210	211,131	90,264	795,496	755,474
Huntingdon & Broad Top Mountain.....			43	143	43	143
Pennsylvania.....	460,788	430,188	382,265	468,704	843,053	907,892
Pittsburg, Shamut & Northern.....			1,103	944	1,103	944
Virginian.....			310	934	310	934
Western Maryland.....			29,486	30,536	29,486	30,536
<b>Total.....</b>	<b>1,045,382</b>	<b>1,104,406</b>	<b>716,889</b>	<b>700,131</b>	<b>1,763,271</b>	<b>1,804,536</b>
<b>Bituminous:</b>						
Baltimore & Ohio.....	2,517,199	2,601,398	534,106	463,356	3,051,305	3,064,754
Buffalo, Rochester & Pittsburgh.....	581,426	603,243	7,787	4,546	589,213	607,789
Buffalo & Susquehanna.....	65,367	131,142			65,367	131,142
Chesapeake & Ohio.....	1,839,239	2,159,452	185,400	221,353	2,024,639	2,380,805
Erie.....	16,503	11,695	484,349	460,655	500,852	472,350
Huntingdon & Broad Top Mountain.....	52,587	49,442	17,038	19,396	69,625	68,837
New York Central (Buffalo and east).....	474,549	541,947			474,549	541,947
Norfolk & Western.....	2,125,060	2,228,758	337,638	565,061	2,462,698	2,793,819
Pennsylvania.....	3,369,287	3,378,815	295,416	365,832	3,664,703	3,744,647
Pittsburg, Shamut & Northern.....	154,532	272,784	697	814	155,229	273,598
Virginian.....	251,948	352,316	33,004	51,670	284,952	403,986
Western Maryland.....	260,653	312,109	463,480	378,669	724,133	690,778
<b>Total.....</b>	<b>11,708,350</b>	<b>12,728,101</b>	<b>2,358,915</b>	<b>2,531,351</b>	<b>14,067,265</b>	<b>15,259,452</b>
<b>FOR COMPANY FUEL.</b>						
<b>Anthracite:</b>						
Baltimore & Ohio.....			27	36	27	36
Erie.....	27,362	23,687	536		27,898	23,687
Pennsylvania.....	10,677	7,290	12,963	10,916	23,639	18,195
<b>Total.....</b>	<b>38,039</b>	<b>30,976</b>	<b>13,516</b>	<b>10,952</b>	<b>61,535</b>	<b>41,868</b>
<b>Bituminous:</b>						
Baltimore & Ohio.....	323,297	477,261	5,173	15,521	328,470	492,782
Buffalo, Rochester & Pittsburgh.....	41,447	52,178			41,447	52,178
Buffalo & Susquehanna.....	7,280	7,066			7,280	7,066
Chesapeake & Ohio.....	153,064	154,323			153,064	154,323
Erie.....	134,635	119,370	176,966	122,367	311,601	241,737
Huntingdon & Broad Top Mountain.....	2,160	2,379			2,160	2,379
New York Central (Buffalo & East).....	209,128	196,439			209,128	196,439
Norfolk & Western.....	197,042	212,496	20,725	44,335	217,767	256,831
Pennsylvania.....	506,439	610,945	28	79	506,467	611,024
Pittsburg, Shamut & Northern.....	7,874	6,413			7,874	6,413
Virginian.....	17,429	16,980			17,429	16,980
Western Maryland.....	42,445	45,421	833	173	43,278	45,594
<b>Total.....</b>	<b>1,641,640</b>	<b>1,903,268</b>	<b>203,725</b>	<b>182,475</b>	<b>1,845,365</b>	<b>2,085,743</b>
<b>COKE FOR REVENUE AND FUEL.</b>						
Baltimore & Ohio.....	244,791	274,711	88,224	82,912	333,015	357,623
Buffalo, Rochester & Pittsburgh.....	34,264	35,408	7,920	12,194	42,184	47,602
Buffalo & Susquehanna.....	49,515	38,511			49,515	38,511
Chesapeake & Ohio.....	11,456	36,336	11,245	4,015	22,701	40,351
Erie.....			73,260	118,766	73,260	118,766
Huntingdon & Broad Top Mountain.....	8,847	6,181	75	189	8,922	6,370
Norfolk & Western.....	76,586	166,470	942	5,376	77,528	171,846
Pennsylvania.....	732,448	927,630	258,088	261,972	990,476	1,189,602
Virginian.....				30		30
Western Maryland.....	4,097	6,428	20,281	4,008	24,375	10,436
<b>Total.....</b>	<b>1,162,004</b>	<b>1,491,675</b>	<b>459,965</b>	<b>484,462</b>	<b>1,621,969</b>	<b>1,976,137</b>



SIX MONTHS ENDING JUNE.

Classes and railroads.	Originating on line.		Received from connections.		Total.	
	1915	1916	1915	1916	1915	1916
<b>FOR REVENUE ONLY.</b>						
<b>Anthracite:</b>	<i>Short tons.</i>	<i>Short tons.</i>	<i>Short tons.</i>	<i>Short tons.</i>	<i>Short tons.</i>	<i>Short tons.</i>
Baltimore & Ohio.....			608,594	771,467	608,594	771,467
Buffalo, Rochester & Pittsburgh.....			88,360	93,211	88,360	93,211
Buffalo & Susquehanna.....			3,388	3,348	3,388	3,348
Chesapeake & Ohio.....	945	413	5,473	6,005	6,418	6,418
Erie.....	3,562,693	4,026,945	765,967	814,184	4,328,660	4,841,129
Huntingdon & Broad Top Mountain.....			176	402	176	402
Pennsylvania.....	2,911,852	3,007,147	2,503,184	2,852,894	5,415,066	5,860,041
Pittsburg, Shamut & Northern.....			6,778	6,211	6,778	6,211
Virginian.....	342	144	487	1,943	829	2,087
Western Maryland.....			165,712	170,544	165,712	170,544
<b>Total.....</b>	<b>6,475,832</b>	<b>7,034,649</b>	<b>4,146,099</b>	<b>4,720,209</b>	<b>10,621,931</b>	<b>11,754,858</b>
<b>Bituminous:</b>						
Baltimore & Ohio.....	11,699,419	13,978,738	3,082,168	3,481,925	14,781,587	17,460,663
Buffalo, Rochester & Pittsburgh.....	3,374,945	4,562,204	24,350	20,889	3,399,304	4,583,093
Buffalo & Susquehanna.....	461,749	730,239	185	126	461,914	730,365
Chesapeake & Ohio.....	9,459,726	12,388,952	658,380	1,243,428	10,118,056	13,632,380
Erie.....	93,638	110,975	2,908,067	4,254,632	2,961,705	4,365,607
Huntingdon & Broad Top Mountain.....	324,706	381,666	128,954	180,551	453,660	562,217
New York Central (Buffalo and east).....	2,890,041	3,987,036			2,890,041	3,987,036
Norfolk & Western.....	9,954,522	12,653,331	1,294,030	2,635,037	11,248,552	15,288,338
Pennsylvania.....	18,301,910	21,119,950	1,885,444	3,149,187	20,187,354	24,269,137
Pittsburg, Shamut & Northern.....	1,020,408	1,490,802	3,187	4,058	1,023,575	1,503,867
Virginian.....	1,579,072	2,272,371	206,081	350,973	1,785,133	2,623,344
Western Maryland.....	1,604,677	1,792,704	2,375,089	2,129,842	3,979,766	3,922,546
<b>Total.....</b>	<b>60,764,813</b>	<b>75,477,975</b>	<b>12,528,834</b>	<b>17,450,618</b>	<b>73,203,647</b>	<b>92,928,593</b>
<b>FOR COMPANY FUEL.</b>						
<b>Anthracite:</b>						
Baltimore & Ohio.....			142	36	142	36
Erie.....	147,109	92,144	703	145	147,812	92,289
Pennsylvania.....	64,706	73,553	102,974	99,720	167,680	173,273
<b>Total.....</b>	<b>211,815</b>	<b>165,697</b>	<b>103,819</b>	<b>99,901</b>	<b>315,634</b>	<b>265,598</b>
<b>Bituminous:</b>						
Baltimore & Ohio.....	2,051,658	2,932,020	50,106	82,458	2,101,764	3,014,487
Buffalo, Rochester & Pittsburgh.....	260,388	366,730			260,388	366,730
Buffalo & Susquehanna.....	48,727	56,041			48,727	56,041
Chesapeake & Ohio.....	998,327	1,119,931			998,327	1,119,931
Erie.....	807,250	718,513	811,937	987,774	1,619,217	1,706,287
Huntingdon & Broad Top Mountain.....	14,907	17,513			14,907	17,513
New York Central (Buffalo and east).....	1,294,270	1,224,540			1,294,270	1,224,540
Norfolk & Western.....	1,183,655	1,374,343	121,633	254,541	1,305,288	1,628,884
Pennsylvania.....	3,564,240	4,126,978	165	622	3,564,405	4,127,598
Pittsburg, Shamut & Northern.....	43,503	71,551			43,503	71,551
Virginian.....	115,020	127,050	145	27,273	115,165	154,323
Western Maryland.....	270,459	283,608	972	36,143	271,431	319,751
<b>Total.....</b>	<b>10,652,434</b>	<b>12,418,825</b>	<b>984,958</b>	<b>1,388,811</b>	<b>11,637,392</b>	<b>13,807,636</b>
<b>COKE FOR REVENUE AND FUEL.</b>						
Baltimore & Ohio.....	1,185,134	1,767,019	461,789	485,821	1,646,923	2,252,840
Buffalo, Rochester & Pittsburgh.....	201,066	209,246	67,776	83,482	268,842	292,728
Buffalo & Susquehanna.....	293,728	233,884			293,728	233,884
Chesapeake & Ohio.....	51,881	218,257	58,163	57,709	110,044	275,963
Erie.....			497,573	572,252	497,573	572,252
Huntingdon & Broad Top Mountain.....	25,541	36,831	461	4,084	26,002	40,915
Norfolk & Western.....	438,029	1,015,091	5,665	53,059	444,294	1,068,759
Pennsylvania.....	3,701,516	5,729,882	1,295,335	1,621,911	4,996,851	7,351,793
Pittsburg, Shamut & Northern.....				70		70
Virginian.....				30		30
Western Maryland.....	24,138	47,696	111,252	84,360	135,390	132,046
<b>Total.....</b>	<b>5,921,633</b>	<b>9,258,496</b>	<b>2,498,014</b>	<b>2,962,778</b>	<b>8,419,647</b>	<b>12,221,274</b>

NOTE.—Totals do not include amounts of coal received by the New York Central Railroad from connections. The Southern Railroad transported from the Tennessee and Alabama districts 297,471 short tons of bituminous coal in June, 1916, and 263,824 short tons in June, 1915.

**FRESH FISH BY BRITISH PARCEL POST.**

[Consul Charles M. Hathaway, jr., Hull, England, Aug. 11.]

An expeditious, satisfactory, and economical method of getting fresh fish from the various fishing ports directly into the hands of consumers all over the British Isles is in existence. Its main center is Grimsby, where a group of fish merchants devote themselves to this special business, dispatching daily hundreds or even thousands of parcels, the majority of which are less than 6 pounds in weight when fully packed for shipment. These packages go forward either by passenger train under a special low rate for small parcels granted by the railway companies (this service being analogous to that of express companies in the United States) or by parcel post. It is understood that more fish is sent by the railway service than by mail, although both means are extensively used.

**Parcel-Post and Railway Rates.**

Fish goes by parcel post on the same terms as any other goods. The rates for all parcels are: Not exceeding 1 pound, 8 cents; between 1 and 2 pounds, 10 cents; between 2 and 3 pounds, 12 cents; between 3 and 5 pounds, 14 cents; between 5 and 7 pounds, 16 cents; and 2 cents per pound for every additional pound up to 11 pounds, which is the maximum weight of any parcel sent by post. These rates, of course, are for any distance in Great Britain and Ireland and include delivery to residence.

Railway parcel rates are based on distances, all goods being transported at owner's risk. Rates up to 11 pounds are quoted for comparison with post-office rates: For packages not exceeding 2 pounds, 8 cents to any distance; not exceeding 3 pounds, 10 cents to any distance; not exceeding 7 pounds, 12 cents to any distance; not exceeding 9 pounds, 12 cents up to 100 miles, 14 cents up to 200 miles, 16 cents above 200 miles; not over 10 pounds, 12 cents up to 100 miles, 16 cents up to 200 miles, 18 cents beyond 200 miles; not over 11 pounds, 12 cents up to 100 miles, 18 cents up to 200 miles, 20 cents above 200 miles. The railway rate includes delivery wherever the railway has delivery service, which means all the larger towns in England. For this special parcel service the railways issue stamps like postage stamps, and these are affixed to the parcels to prepay the freight exactly as postage stamps are used by the post office.

**Advantages of Two Systems Compared.**

It will be observed that the railway rate is lower than the post-office rate. For instance, a 4-pound parcel by mail would cost 14 cents, by railway 12 cents to any distance. An 8-pound parcel would cost 18 cents by mail, by railway it would cost 12 cents for not over 100 miles, 14 cents for not over 200 miles, and 16 cents for greater distances. An 11-pound parcel would cost 24 cents by mail, by railway service it would cost 12 cents for not over 100 miles, 18 cents for not over 200 miles, and 20 cents for over 200 miles.

Railway delivery service is esteemed more rapid than that of the post office, but the post-office delivery service extends to all parts of the country, while the railway delivers only in the larger towns and cities. Parcels for small towns and country districts, therefore, generally go by parcel post, unless the consignee lives so near a railway station that he can conveniently go after his consignment. Further,

as the fish parcels are handled by the post office in the same service with other parcels, the fish must be so packed that the parcel remains dry. This excludes the possibility of icing, and in the warmer weather makes it desirable to forward by parcel post nothing except very fresh fish sent out in the afternoon for delivery early next morning.

#### **Methods of Packing Employed.**

From November to March no ice is required for these shipments, and, in fact, the average temperature in the United Kingdom even in the summer rarely rises to such a point as to make ice absolutely necessary to carry perfectly fresh fish through a one-night journey.

The fish are wrapped in paper and then put in a woven straw bag called a bass, which is fastened up. This is all the packing. Before the war fish was wrapped in a special paper sometimes referred to as "vegetable parchment," sometimes as "solling paper." This is not now obtainable, probably because manufactured on the Continent. If ice is needed it is put in the bass with the fish. Then, of course, the parcel has to go by rail as the post office will tolerate no leakage.

Packages exceeding 11 pounds go by rail at corresponding rates, and are often conveniently put in boxes with as much ice as is desired. Special fish rates per hundredweight of 112 pounds are given from Grimsby, Hull, and other fishing ports to towns of size. These may be utilized for parcels of less than a hundredweight whenever they figure out less than the regular parcel rate. These are, however, from station to station and do not include delivery.

#### **The Direct-to-Consumer Trade.**

The small-parcel shipment direct to consumers is not a Hull trade but is made much of in Grimsby. Shipments from Hull are almost always made in boxes of considerable size to the trade. The reason for this appears to be that the Hull fishing fleet generally is engaged in long-distance fishing, and the fish landed here are, consequently, not so fresh as those received at Grimsby nor in such good condition.

A leading Grimsby house in the small-parcel-direct-to-consumer trade states that the average weight of its parcels is 5 to 6 pounds. Consumers who want a small parcel of fish send, say, 60 or 75 cents to one of the houses engaged in the business, requesting that a parcel be sent them. The merchant makes up a parcel accordingly and despatches it by rail or post as may suit the case. Of course, these fish merchants have many regular customers with whom they carry accounts, but the proper course for a stranger would be to send them some small sum with some indication of the kind of fish required.

Only the freshest fish are selected for this sort of shipment. The fish landed at Scarborough is esteemed the freshest in the United Kingdom and brings the highest average price per ton, but the supply is largely taken by high-class hotels, so that the small-shipment business has not been able to get a foothold there.

#### **Introducing the Service Elsewhere.**

The applicability of this method of distribution elsewhere would depend on (1) the freshness of the fish available for shipment (i. e.,

how long after catching they are landed), (2) on the temperature to be undergone, and (3) on the transportation rates. There would appear to be no inherent difficulty in making such shipments by parcel post in the northern part of the United States for considerable distances except in hot weather. For the hot weather an express service outside the ordinary postal service would have to be provided—one admitting ice in the parcels and permitting leakage.

There are being forwarded samples of the basses used for small-parcel shipments (basses of larger sizes are also made), and samples of the "grease-proof" paper at present used to wrap the fish before putting it in the basses, and of the "vegetable parchment" formerly employed for this purpose, but not now procurable.

[The samples referred to and the small-parcels rate sheet of the North Eastern Railway may be inspected at the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce or its district and cooperative offices upon referring to file No. 73872.]

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### NEW CHART OF FLORIDA WATERS PUBLISHED.

The Department of Commerce announces the publication by the United States Coast and Geodetic Survey of new chart No. 1113, of the Gulf coast, Habana to Tampa Bay; mercator projection, average scale, 1.471900 (0.15 inch to nautical mile) dimensions 43 by 29 inches. It is printed by lithography, a transfer having been made from the engraved copper plate. The land is distinguished by a buff tint, and in order to emphasize the shoal water areas they are tinted blue for depths of three fathoms or less.

This chart replaces No. 16 and includes part of the area of No. 15. It is intended for offshore navigation like the charts which it replaces, but differs from them in being constructed on the mercator projection, and having but one depth unit, the fathom.

This chart covers one of the most important water areas along our southern coast line, as it includes the western portion of the Straits of Florida, the great commercial thoroughfare connecting the Atlantic Ocean and the Gulf of Mexico. It also includes such important places as Habana on its extreme southern edge and Tampa Bay on its extreme northern edge, while Key West occupies a central position in the lower half of the chart.

The price of the chart is 50 cents.

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### NEW ZEALAND INTEREST IN HEATING APPLIANCES.

[Consul General Alfred A. Winslow, Auckland, Aug. 1.]

The heating of factories in certain portions of New Zealand has been discussed in Parliament. If efforts to have the factory law amended so as to compel owners of factories in certain of the colder sections of this Dominion to heat the plants during the winter months are successful, there should be a good demand in New Zealand for heating appliances. American manufacturers should study the situation.

The proposed action would lead to a greater general demand for heating appliances such as are placed in public buildings, churches, theaters, etc., and even in the homes, which at present in most parts of the country are poorly heated, as heating is understood in the United States.

**NORWAY'S TRADE IN COTTON YARN.**

[Consul Charles Forman, Bergen, Aug. 8.]

Before the outbreak of the present war cotton yarns were imported into Norway chiefly from Great Britain, Germany, and Sweden, the first-named country being the most important source.

In 1913 the imports into Norway of cotton yarn, bleached and unbleached, but not dyed or printed, totaled 3,902,600 pounds, valued at \$940,385. Of this quantity, 2,631,452 pounds were imported from Great Britain, 800,966 pounds from Sweden, and 274,833 pounds from Germany. In the same year 545,000 pounds of dyed and printed cotton yarn, value \$138,583, were imported, of which about one-third was imported from Germany, Great Britain and Sweden ranking next in the order named.

In 1914 the imports of cotton yarn, bleached and unbleached, amounted to 3,919,100 pounds, valued at \$881,179, of which 2,735,087 pounds were furnished by Great Britain, 779,674 pounds by Sweden, and 218,196 pounds by Germany. In that year 494,800 pounds of dyed and printed cotton yarn were imported, of which Great Britain supplied something less than a third, Germany and Sweden being the next most important sources of supply.

**Opening for American Yarns.**

At the present time an opportunity exists for the importation of cotton yarns from the United States. The best way to enter the market would be to appoint an agent in Bergen, with exclusive territory, who would canvass the mills and other users of yarns. [A list of agents in Bergen and of dealers there who handle yarn may be had upon application to the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce or its district and cooperative offices. Refer to file No. 79706.] A credit of three months is usually extended, and for cash a discount of 2 per cent is granted. Prices should be quoted c. i. f. Bergen, if possible, but may be quoted f. o. b. New York. (Bergen has direct steamship connection with New York by the vessels of the Norwegian America Line.) Samples should be furnished.

Under Nos. 42 to 47 of the Norwegian import tariff (applicable to all countries alike), the duties on cotton yarn are, per 100 pounds: Single, unbleached, \$1.46; single, bleached, \$1.82; single, dyed or printed, \$3.64. The duty on unbleached yarn of two or more threads is the same as on the single-thread yarn unbleached; bleached, \$2.43; dyed or printed, \$4.25. The tare on all the foregoing is 50 per cent on reels or rollers of wood, wood pulp, paper, pasteboard, or metal. No duty is charged on the paper packing.

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**PROPOSED CANADIAN NORTHERN RAILWAY STATION.**

[Vice Consul G. C. Woodward, Vancouver, British Columbia, Aug. 19.]

The Canadian Northern Railway has made application to the civic authorities for a building permit for the erection of the main portion of its railway depot on the reclaimed lands of False Creek. The estimated cost is \$574,929. This permit does not include platforms or sheds. The contractors are the Northern Construction Co., 736 Granville Street, Vancouver, British Columbia.

**UNITED STATES BUYING DIAMONDS FROM BRAZIL.**

[Consul General Alfred L. M. Gottschalk, Rio de Janeiro, Aug. 8.]

One of the chief sources of the wealth of Brazil was for many years its diamond mines. These, however, began to lose their importance with the advent of the newly discovered diamond fields of South Africa, which, because of their easier working and more clearly defined deposits, produced stones at a lower price. Since the beginning of the European war, however, American diamond buyers have shown a revival of interest in the diamond fields of Brazil, which have attracted a considerable number of buyers. The Brazilian *garimpeiro*, or native diamond miner, has seen prices rising steadily under the competition of the foreigners.

There are apparently no American diamond miners in the country. The business is done entirely by purchase from the *garimpeiro* or from native brokers of the interior, who are numerous. A packet of stones often passes through many hands before reaching the actual exporter.

**Many Taken to Seacoast by Chance Messengers.**

One of the curious features of the trade is the confidence shown by the native miner in certain business men to whom he will sometimes intrust numerous packets of uncut stones for delivery to some distant point, without exacting a receipt and without fear of substitutions or loss. As a result, many Brazilian diamonds reach the seacoast in small paper packets carried in the breast pockets of chance messengers, so that there is no possibility of obtaining from official statistics any idea of the extent of the trade or of the production.

Until 1914, diamond buying here was largely in German hands. Numerous Syrians who had settled in the interior acted as brokers or intermediaries, and many traveling German buyers made their purchases direct from the miners. Only a few buyers for American firms were ever seen in the country, and most of these were German-Americans. Since the beginning of the European war, however, many American firms have evidently been sending agents here. It is the general impression among such agents that if the demand for diamonds of this class keeps up in the United States, the higher prices which our market offers them will eventually crowd competing buyers out of the field.

**Encourages Discovery of New Fields.**

The Brazilian Department of Agriculture, Industry, and Commerce has given considerable attention to this matter, and efforts have been made to survey existing fields and to encourage the discovery of new ones. It is said by geologists who have visited the mining regions that usually the Brazilian diamonds are found in pockets, sometimes far from each other, and that this erratic geological distribution has made it difficult to exploit the diamond fields.

The Brazilian Minister of Agriculture, Industry, and Commerce, in his recent report to the Government, speaks of the discovery last year in the *Matta de Corda* and on the slopes of the divide between the valleys of *São Francisco* and *Paranahyba*, of extensive formations of "kimberlite" (diamond-matrix rock) identical with the de-

## WOOD-PULP SITUATION

[Consul General Ernest L.]

leads to the belief that there is The manufacture of strong sulphate in Norrland (northern Baltic wood pulp, has been normal difficulties, but it is stated that the Sundsvall district, however, have time last year.

with 25 to 30 per cent overhead. of chemical wood pulp and paper

Sulphate kraft pulp has been imported matter, except canceled that no tonnage had been accumulated or removed. But exporters' permission opened by the end of May in obtaining licenses for export 13.1 per cent this year, against sulphate mills are said to be experiencing

The embargo of the Swedish embargo's salt. It is evident that wood pulp, paper, etc., has not been for exports of chemical wood on the other hand, licenses for exchange for licenses from foreign given, and there is no reason to believe, dyestuffs, and other goods be given to facilitate exports of certain in any other way. States.

Difficulties in Importing Sulphate of certain chemicals from America, freight rates present a serious obstacle.

Imports of sodium sulphate from Sweden have entirely ceased, and Germany now for permission to purchase and article. The importation of the States.

articles generally, is slow and will be obtained until the war is have experienced real difficulties: chemical.

A more serious question is that of the beginning of this war, security—

but now coal is extremely difficult to obtain in Sweden were published in Feb. 26, 1916.]

mills are entirely dependent on CAN LINEN INDUSTRY. can not spare much of its own used by those who seek to establish have obtained Belgian coal, which profitable American industry have very expensive, on account of transportation upon which the Bureau substitute for coal the pulp mills has made a report. The publication of the planing mills and sawmills, 2, entitled "Development of an wood and No. 6 quality sawn goods prepared by W. A. Graham countries under normal circumstances in textile matters. The press-wood, but labor is very expensive emphasized the necessity of Much labor is withdrawn from the tions.

Important among those that are Price Expected to Increase While War find some artificial method of

On account of the enormous demand, thus relieving the flax has increased to 375 to 400 crowns convince the American public f. o. b. Swedish export harbors. as any other.

is to rise as long as the war lasts. Production of flax fiber has increased would be able to consume nearly the report states. In the United The Affärsvärlden of May 24, entirely for the seed, which is

In the mechanical-pulp market the production of paints and varnishes. but the supply is pretty small, so that in this country in 1915, the crowns (\$42.88) net f. o. b. Göteborg, that only 2,000 acres were has been obtained at the latest sales of the straw from the seed-bearing and the quotations remain at 55 crowns per ton.

f. o. b. Göteborg. The high freight rates for new sales for the Norrland pulp mills for the nominal price of 5 for sulphite and sulphate pulp, and gums, Washington, D. C., or agreement with England become an obstacle. Bureau of Foreign and Domestic pulp can be granted to the fullest extent firmer, with a consequent essential rise

**WOOD-PULP SITUATION IN SWEDEN.**

[Consul General Ernest L. Harris, Stockholm, July 11.]

The manufacture of strong sulphate wood pulp, so-called kraft wood pulp, has been normal during the past year. The mills in the Sundsvall district, however, have found their normal output reduced with 25 to 30 per cent overhead.

Sulphate kraft pulp has been in very good demand, with the result that no tonnage had been accumulating for exportation when navigation opened by the end of May. The stock of kraft wood pulp is 13.1 per cent this year, against 36.5 per cent last year.

The embargo of the Swedish Government on the exportation of wood pulp, paper, etc., has not been removed and is still in force; on the other hand, licenses for export to Italy and France are freely given, and there is no reason to doubt that licenses will continue to be given to facilitate exports of wood pulp and paper to the United States.

**Difficulties in Importing Sulphate of Soda.**

Imports of sodium sulphate from Great Britain have almost entirely ceased, and Germany now supplies the Swedish mills with this article. The importation of the sulphate, as well as of all other articles generally, is slow and unsafe, but until now only two mills have experienced real difficulties on account of a shortage of that chemical.

A more serious question is that of coal. Sweden has always, until the beginning of this war, secured her supplies from Great Britain, but now coal is extremely difficult to obtain from that quarter, and mills are entirely dependent on German mines for coal. Germany can not spare much of its own coal for Sweden, but the mills here have obtained Belgian coal, which is of a very inferior quality, and very expensive, on account of the prevalent high freights. As a substitute for coal the pulp mills use shavings and sawdust from the planing mills and sawmills, and also in many instances split wood and No. 6 quality sawn goods, which are exported to other countries under normal circumstances. There is no lack of pulp wood, but labor is very expensive and wages are continually rising. Much labor is withdrawn from the industry by occasional mobilizations.

**Price Expected to Increase While War Lasts.**

On account of the enormous demand for kraft wood pulp the price has increased to 375 to 400 crowns (\$100 to \$107) per ton net cash f. o. b. Swedish export harbors. Everything indicates that the price is to rise as long as the war lasts, for it seems as if Germany alone would be able to consume nearly the whole of the Swedish production. The Affärsvärlden of May 24, 1916, states:

In the mechanical-pulp market the demand for dry white pulp is still lively, but the supply is pretty small, so that prices have risen somewhat, and 160 crowns (\$42.88) net f. o. b. Goteborg, inclusive of ordinary agent's commission, has been obtained at the latest sales. For wet pulp the market is unaltered, and the quotations remain at 55 crowns (\$14.74) to 57 crowns (\$15.28) net f. o. b. Goteborg. The high freight rates continue to hamper the conclusion of new sales for the Norrland pulp mills. The market is very firm indeed, both for sulphite and sulphate pulp, and quotations are rising steadily. Should the agreement with England become an actuality, so that export licenses for wood pulp can be granted to the fullest extent, the market will certainly become still firmer, with a consequent essential rise in price.



**Stock on Hand Smaller Than Last Year.**

Information from other sources leads to the belief that there is some tonnage of sulphate kraft pulp in Norrland (northern Baltic ports) awaiting transportation facilities, but it is stated that the stock on hand is smaller than at this time last year.

The embargo on the exportation of chemical wood pulp and paper cuttings (pappersspan) and waste printed matter, except canceled postage stamps, has not been modified or removed. But exporters state that they have had no difficulty in obtaining licenses for exports to the United States. The pulp mills are said to be experiencing great difficulty in obtaining Glauber's salt. It is evident that licenses are granted as far as possible for exports of chemical wood pulp, in certain cases probably in exchange for licenses from foreign countries for coal, coke, structural iron, dyestuffs, and other goods which Sweden needs but can not obtain in any other way.

Attempts are being made to obtain certain chemicals from America, but it seems that the unusually high freight rates present a serious obstacle, and there may also be other hindrances in case the Swedish mills have to ask some third party for permission to purchase and import such goods from the United States.

Statistics regarding pulp can not be obtained until the war is over.

[Previous articles on the wood-pulp situation in Sweden were published in *COMMERCE REPORTS* for July 26, 1915, and Feb. 26, 1916.]

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**DEVELOPMENT OF AN AMERICAN LINEN INDUSTRY.**

Several problems which must be solved by those who seek to establish the manufacture of linen as a profitable American industry have been carefully examined in an investigation upon which the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce has made a report. The publication is Special Agents' Series No. 122, entitled "Development of an American Linen Industry," and was prepared by W. A. Graham Clark, who is especially well equipped in textile matters. The present high prices of linen and flax have emphasized the necessity of this work.

Two questions stand out as most important among those that are presented in this report. One is to find some artificial method of preparing the flax straw for the spinner, thus relieving the flax grower of this task, and the other is to convince the American public that American-made linen is as good as any other.

The only country in which the production of flax fiber has increased consistently in recent years is Russia, the report states. In the United States flax has been raised almost entirely for the seed, which is used to make linseed oil for the production of paints and varnishes. Of some 3,000,000 acres devoted to flax in this country in 1915, the Department of Agriculture estimates that only 2,000 acres were used to raise flax for fiber. The bulk of the straw from the seed-bearing plants is burned and used for fertilizer.

The Bureau's report may be obtained for the nominal price of 5 cents from the Superintendent of Documents, Washington, D. C., or from the nearest district office of the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce.

**POWER CONTRACT MADE IN TASMANIA.**

[Consul W. A. Bickers, Hobart, July 27.]

In previous reports it was forecasted that there would be an extension of the State hydroelectric plant at the Great Lakes. A contract has now been closed between the hydroelectric department and Amalgamated Zinc (Ltd.) of Melbourne, in which the local plant agrees to furnish the company with 4,000 horsepower not later than January 1, 1918.

Amalgamated Zinc (Ltd.) will establish a plant here for the electrolytic treatment of ores. If the process, which is similar to that used by the Anaconda Co. of the United States, is successful, Amalgamated Zinc (Ltd.) can demand an additional 26,000 horsepower from the hydroelectric department, and if power is available, a further 20,000 horsepower will be supplied to this company upon its request.

The Mount Lyell Mining & Railroad Co. also is negotiating for 25,000 horsepower for treatment of silver-lead ores in the Zeelan field, and the Complex Ores Co. (Ltd.) has contracted for 3,500 horsepower, with an option on an additional 6,500 horsepower for a carbide and ore-treatment plant that will be constructed at North-west Bay as soon as conditions become more favorable.

**Increased Power to be Offered at Reduced Price.**

Amalgamated Zinc (Ltd.) will pay about \$17 per horsepower per annum for the initial 4,000 horsepower and has already paid \$68,131 to the hydroelectric department for the first year's power. In case the zinc company decides to avail itself of the privilege of demanding the large increase in power on which it has an option, the price will be \$9.73 per horsepower per annum.

The Tasmanian Government has offered a tract of land near Hobart to the zinc company for its plant, but the consent of Parliament is necessary to confirm the offer. It is stated that arrangements can be made for locating the factory elsewhere in case Parliament will not grant this particular tract.

No information is available here as to the size and cost of the initial plant contemplated by the zinc company, but as the power will be available by January 1, 1918, and the company will be charged for it whether it is used or not, it is likely that work will be started in the near future. This information will be forwarded as soon as available. Persons interested in this particular phase of the undertaking should note that the company intends to employ in the electrolytic treatment of zinc concentrates the methods employed by the American company mentioned, although it may happen that some minor changes will be necessary to obtain the best results from Australian concentrates.

[Articles on the hydroelectric project in Tasmania were published in *COMMERCE REPORTS* for Nov. 1 and Nov. 2, 1915.]

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**REPORT ON COTTON GINNING.**

The number of bales of cotton ginned in the United States from the growth of 1916 prior to September 1, 1916, counting round as half bales, was 850,032, compared with 463,883 to the corresponding date in 1915, according to figures compiled by the United States Bureau of the Census.

# TIN MINING IN SIAM.

[Vice Consul Carl C. Hansen, Bangkok, July 5.]

The main portion of Siam's tin output comes from the Malay State Puket, which embraces the Provinces of Takuapa, Pangnga, Renong, Trang, and others to the west of the main watershed of the Malay Peninsula. During February of this year a British consular officer undertook a tour of inspection of the tin interests in these districts and has recently reported as follows:

At present tin operations in Takuapa are in the hands of the Chinese. The output from the district has for the last few years slightly exceeded 500 tons annually, but it has declined since the commencement of the war, owing to the low price the metal has at times commanded. During the year ended March 31, 1915, 497 tons of metallic tin were recovered, while the amount for the succeeding nine months was 252 tons.

Some years ago a Danish company obtained a concession at Pong, some 500 acres in extent, for mining purposes. A subsidiary company was formed in London to work this area and others at Huey Yawt in Monthon Puket and at Nong Pet near Ronphibun in the adjoining Monthon of Nakon Sritamarat. This company expected its bucket dredge to arrive at the end of April, 1916, but, owing to difficulties of transport between Takuapa and Pong, it will not be possible to commence mining operations before April, 1917. The ground is said to average 1 pound of tin oxide to the cubic yard.

Pangnga, like Takuapa, is mainly devoted to the production of tin, of which over 800 tons have been recovered during each of the last two years. For the nine months ended December 31 last over 950 tons of metallic tin were produced, a considerable increase thus being shown.

Tainuang, some 40 miles from the town of Pangnga, is peopled almost entirely by Chinese, who are engaged in mining operations. The output of tin from the Muang of Pangnga is likely to increase in the future, while that from Tainuang is expected to remain stationary for the next three years, after which a rapid decline is anticipated. Considerable attention is now being given to the development of the tin-mining industry at Tung Maprow, which is also comprised in the Muang of Pangnga.

## Increased Deposits at Amsterdam Savings Bank.

Vice Consul Eugene Nabel, at Amsterdam, the Netherlands, reports that the deposits at the Amsterdam Postal Savings Bank for the fiscal year ended June 30, 1916, amounted to \$4,454,746, an increase of \$1,125,234, as compared with the previous year. The withdrawals were \$3,863,384, or \$748,854 less than during the last year.

## OFFICES OF THE BUREAU OF FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC COMMERCE.

### DISTRICT OFFICES.

NEW YORK: Room 409, Customhouse.  
BOSTON: 18th floor, Customhouse.  
CHICAGO: 504 Federal Building.  
ST. LOUIS: 402 Third National Bank Building.  
ATLANTA: 521 Post Office Building.  
NEW ORLEANS: 1020 Hibernia Bank Building.  
SAN FRANCISCO: 307 Customhouse.  
SEATTLE: 848 Henry Building.

### COOPERATIVE OFFICES.

CLEVELAND: Chamber of Commerce.  
CINCINNATI: Chamber of Commerce.  
CINCINNATI: C., N. O. & T. P. Ry. Co.  
LOS ANGELES: Chamber of Commerce.  
PHILADELPHIA: Chamber of Commerce.  
CHATTANOOGA: South American Agent, Southern Ry. Co.  
PORTLAND, OREG.: Chamber of Commerce.

**PROPOSALS FOR GOVERNMENT SUPPLIES AND CONSTRUCTION.**

[Correspondence should be direct with the offices named, and specifications can usually be obtained at the points where the goods are to be delivered or the work is to be performed. In cases where the time limit is too short to permit firms to submit tenders, they should ask to be placed on the mailing lists of such offices to receive notices calling for future supplies or work of a similar nature.]

*Repairing of light vessel*, No. 3554.—Sealed proposals will be received by the Lighthouse Inspector, Baltimore, Md., until September 12, 1916, for docking, cleaning, painting, and repairing *Light Vessel No. 80*. Information may be had on application to the above office.

*Construction work*, No. 3555.—Sealed proposals will be received at the Supervising Architect's Office, Treasury Department, Washington, D. C., until October 6, 1916, for the construction, complete, of the post office at Skowhegan, Me. Drawings and specifications may be obtained on application to the above office.

*Medical supplies*, No. 3556.—Sealed proposals will be received by the Medical Supply Depot, United States Army, 543 Greenwich Street, New York, N. Y., until September 21, 1916, for supplying all kinds of drugs, including aspirin, *asafœtida*, *caffèina citrata*, *cocainæ*, *morphinæ sulphuæ*, etc.

*Construction work*, No. 3557.—Sealed proposals will be received by the Supervising Architect's Office, Treasury Department, Washington, D. C., until September 11, 1916, for the construction of mezzanine floors and certain alterations, etc., at the post office and courthouse, Philadelphia, Pa. Drawings and specifications may be obtained on application to the Supervising Architect's Office, Treasury Department, Washington, D. C.

*Refrigeration plant*, No. 3558.—Sealed proposals will be received at the office of the Superintendent, Coast and Geodetic Survey, 205 New Jersey Avenue SE., Washington, D. C., until September 20, 1916, for a refrigerating plant of ammonia type for the Coast and Geodetic Survey steamer *Surveyor*. Specifications and full details will be furnished on application to the above office.

*Medical supplies*, No. 3559.—Sealed proposals will be received at the Medical Supply Depot, United States Army, 21 M Street NE., Washington, D. C., until September 17, 1916, for furnishing and delivering stationery, surgical dressings, rubber aprons, wash basins, folding chairs, egg beaters, lemon squeezers, seamless pitchers, alcohol stoves, soap boxes, glass graduates, etc.

*Dredging*, No. 3560.—Sealed proposals will be received at the United States Engineer Office, New Haven, Conn., until September 23, 1916, for dredging in Duck Island Harbor, Conn. Information will be furnished on application to above office.

*Repairing of light vessel*, No. 3561.—Sealed proposals will be received by the Lighthouse Inspector, Portland, Me., until September 25, 1916, instead of September 18, 1916, as heretofore advertised, for docking and repairing Portland Light Vessel No. 74. Information furnished on application to above office.

*Medical supplies*, No. 3562.—Sealed proposals will be received by the Medical Supply Depot, United States Army, 543 Greenwich Street, New York, N. Y., until September 27, 1916, for furnishing and delivering wire letter baskets, loose-leaf binders, wool blankets, prescription books, bath robes, pajama coats and trousers, cotton pillowcases and sheets, towels, etc.

*Motor launch*, No. 3563.—Sealed proposals will be received by the Lighthouse Inspector, New Orleans, La., for building and furnishing a 42-foot gasoline motor launch, complete. Information will be furnished on application to the above office.

*Dredging*, No. 3564.—Sealed proposals will be received at the Bureau of Yards and Docks, Navy Department, Washington, D. C., until October 7, 1916, for dredging in the Cooper River, S. C., from Charleston Harbor to the navy yard. Plans and specifications may be obtained on application to the Bureau of Yards and Docks, Charleston, S. C.

*Dories*, No. 3565.—Sealed proposals will be received by the Lighthouse Inspector, New Orleans, La., for furnishing five 20-foot power dories. Further information may be obtained on application to the above office.

*Construction work*, No. 3566.—Sealed proposals will be received at the Supervising Architect's Office, Treasury Department, Washington, D. C., until October 12, 1916, for the construction of the post office at Buckhannon, W. Va. Drawings and specifications may be obtained on application to the above office.

**FOREIGN TRADE OPPORTUNITIES.**

Reserved addresses may be obtained from the Bureau and its district offices. Request for each opportunity should be on a separate sheet and state opportunity number. The Bureau does not furnish credit ratings or assume responsibility as to the standing of foreign inquirers; the usual precautions should be taken in all cases.

**Machinery**, No. 22353.—The Bureau is informed by a firm in the United States that one of its customers in France wishes to receive full information relative to machinery for the manufacture of wire nails. The machinery will be purchased by the firm in the United States.

**Printing machinery, etc.**, No. 22354.—An American consular officer in Norway writes that a business man in his district wishes to represent American manufacturers of printing machines, to be used principally for printing cards, envelopes, letterheads, and circulars, etc.; printing machinery requisites, modern mercantile type, ink, etc.; card and paper cutting machines, wire-binding machines, perforating machines, and manifolding and duplicating machines. Correspondence in English. Reference.

**Rice and peas**, No. 22355.—Supplementing foreign trade opportunities, Nos. 21898 and 22003, the Bureau is informed that a company in Cuba wishes to form commercial relations with American exporters of rice, dried peas, and all kinds of canned fish.

**Machinery, patent medicines, jewelry, etc.**, No. 22356.—An American consular officer in Argentina writes that a merchant in his district desires to represent American manufacturers and exporters of machinery, patent medicines, cotton and woolen goods, barrels and barrel shooks, optical and surgical instruments, cheap jewelry, and advertising novelties. Catalogues, advertising material, and full information should be sent at once. Correspondence may be in English. References.

**Hardware, brooms, etc.**, No. 22357.—An American consular officer in Ireland reports that an American citizen in his district wishes to establish a general store for the sale of such American products as hardware, brooms, cotton goods, etc. References.

**Naval stores**, No. 22358.—A firm in Peru informs the Bureau that it wishes to communicate with American manufacturers and producers of naval stores, including general provisions, groceries, anchors, lanterns, ropes, cables, etc. The firm wishes to secure an exclusive agency. References.

**General representation**, No. 22359.—The Bureau is informed that a business man in Italy desires to secure the sole agency from American manufacturers and exporters. He does not specify any particular line. Reference.

**Playground equipment**, No. 22360.—The commercial attaché of the Department of Commerce in Peru transmits the name and address of a man who has undertaken a campaign for the establishment of public playgrounds. Catalogues and full information should be sent to the man and to the commercial attaché.

**Foodstuffs, hardware, etc.**, No. 22361.—A firm in the United States which is engaged in the rubber and timber business in Bolivia informs the Bureau that it is establishing a large warehouse on its property and would like to communicate with American manufacturers and exporters of foodstuffs, textiles, hardware, and novelties. The firm will buy on its own account.

**Paints, varnishes, etc.**, No. 22362.—A business man in Uruguay writes the Bureau that he desires to represent American manufacturers and exporters of paints, varnishes, disinfectants, and drugs, etc. He states that he is traveling throughout South America representing American manufacturers. Reference.

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Within two weeks of the publication (in a Confidential Circular) by the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce of an opportunity for the sale of bleaching powder in the Netherlands, a New York manufacturer had secured an order for \$31,000 worth of his product, and is only awaiting a license from the Netherlands Oversea Trust to make shipment.

**RETURN OF COMMERCIAL ATTACHÉ.**

American business men will be glad to learn of the return to this country next week of Mr. Erwin W. Thompson, our commercial attaché for Germany, the Netherlands, and the Scandinavian countries. Prior to his appointment as commercial attaché in 1914, Mr. Thompson was engaged for upward of 30 years in the designing, building, and operation of cottonseed oil mills, one year selling machinery and supplies, three years selling cottonseed products in Germany, and for over a year was a commercial agent of the Department of Commerce, engaged in investigating and reporting upon foreign markets for American vegetable oils and seed products.

During his incumbency of the post of commercial attaché Mr. Thompson has been temporarily stationed at The Hague, Netherlands, owing to present conditions in Europe which make it seem inadvisable for him to be located in Berlin, as originally planned. A large part of the attaché's time at The Hague has been devoted to assisting American merchants and manufacturers in connection with the various prohibitory trade enactments of the warring nations, and he has been instrumental in obtaining the lifting of several embargos and in effecting a change in some of the methods adopted by the Governments and by the Netherlands Overseas Trust in regard to the operation of the enactments referred to.

Mr. Thompson will spend several months in this country on official duty, and will be prepared to confer with representative bankers, merchants, and manufacturers regarding trade conditions in his district, as well as to address commercial gatherings. Requests for appointments should be addressed promptly to the "Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, Washington, D. C."

**AMERICAN CONSULAR OFFICERS ON LEAVE OF ABSENCE.**

The following American consular officers are on leave of absence in the United States, and will be glad to confer with business men and commercial organizations relative to conditions in their respective jurisdictions. The consul's time is available primarily for personal interviews. He has limited facilities for correspondence, and except in urgent cases letters should be directed to the consulate.

Name.	Post.	Expiration of venue.	Address.
Jewell, John F.....	Chefoo, China.....	Oct. 1	Galena, Ill.
Kemper, Graham H.....	Erfurt, Germany.....	Sept. 10	Department of State, Washington, D. C.
Hazeltine, Ross.....	Port Antonio, Jamaica.....	Oct. 1	Do.
Laing, James Oliver.....	Karachi, India.....	Sept. 30	C/o University Club, Kansas City, Mo.
Leonard, Walter A.....	Colombo, Ceylon.....	Oct. 14	Essex, Iowa.
Osborne, John Ball.....	Havre, France.....	Oct. 21	Department of State, Washington, D. C.
Mansfield, Robert E.....	Vancouver, Canada.....	Sept. 15	Rushville, Ind.
Pike, William J.....	St. Gall, Switzerland.....	Nov. 1	Department of State, Washington, D. C.
Armstrong, John S.....	Bristol, England.....	.....	1200 Eutaw Place, Baltimore, Md.
Henry, Frank Anderson.....	Puerto Plata, Dominican Republic.	Oct. 1	C/o Hallowell & Henry, 27 Pine Street, New York City.

SEP 25 1916

## COMMERCE REPORTS

PRINCETON, N. J.

DAILY CONSULAR AND TRADE REPORTS

ISSUED DAILY BY THE BUREAU OF FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC COMMERCE

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

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No. 213 Washington, D. C., Monday, September 11

1916

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## COMMERCIAL FAILURES IN THE NETHERLANDS.

[Vice Consul Eugene Nabel, Amsterdam, Aug. 23.]

A recent report of an Amsterdam commercial bureau states that the number of business failures in the Netherlands for the first six months of 1916 was 666, an increase of 93 over the like period in 1915. The total number of such failures from January 1, 1916, up to and including August 19, 1916, was 717, as compared with 894 during the corresponding period of last year.

## SHORT PACIFIC SALMON PACK.

[Vice Consul G. C. Woodward, Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada, Aug. 31.]

Unofficial reports place the sockeye salmon pack of British Columbia for 1916 at 200,000 cases, while the Alaska pack of pink salmon shows a shortage of 1,000,000 cases as compared with 1915. A heavy shrinkage is also looked for in the Alaska red salmon and the Puget Sound sockeye.

Pink salmon sold in the early season of 1915 for \$0.65 a dozen cans, while this year the price was \$0.90 in San Francisco and \$1 in Seattle. Alaska red salmon sold last year at \$1.50, with the same price this year at San Francisco and an advance of \$0.10 in Seattle. The short pack, together with the heavy war demand, is given as the reason for the increased price.

## Postponement of Work in Puerto Colombia.

The Colombian Government has granted permission to the Baranquilla Railway and Pier Co. (Ltd.) to suspend its operations in Puerto Colombia until two months after the close of the European war. In its application for postponement of the date of completion, published in the Diario Oficial of July 19, the company states that it is unable to continue the work of extending the wharf and removing the rocks in the harbor on account of the difficulty in securing needed mechanics and materials.

**MEXICAN OIL FOR UNITED STATES.**

[Consul Claude I. Dawson, Tampico, Aug. 14.]

July invoice declarations of shipments of crude petroleum and petroleum products to the United States in July, 1916, reached a total of 1,578,827 barrels for the entire district, of which 1,093,339 barrels went from Tampico and 485,488 barrels from Tuxpam. Other shipments reported amounted to 180,210 barrels from Tampico and 696,887 barrels from Tuxpam. In addition, 92,254 barrels invoiced and loaded in June were held over until July as a result of unusual local conditions. The gross shipments therefore totaled 2,548,178 barrels, against 2,732,738 in May and 2,394,829 in June.

The Tuxpam oil movement showed a steady increase for several months; but at Tampico it has been stationary. It would have been heavier in July but for the political situation obtaining the first few days of the period, under which some shippers curtailed output and others ceased operations altogether; and the 25 per cent war tax imposed by local military decree acted as a bar to oil exports during the few days it was in effect.

**Improvement in Transportation Facilities.**

Oil shipments from the Tampico district from month to month bear little relation to the possible production, but rather reflect the state of the transportation market. In this respect there is constant improvement. The Petroleum Transport Co. (affiliated with the Huasteca and allied concerns) is rapidly augmenting its fleet of tankers. It is said to have 21 new ships building or contracted for, all to be of large carrying capacity. One of this fleet made its first voyage to Tampico in July, the *George E. Paddleford*. A constantly increasing number of new ships, each with two and three times the cargo capacity of the older vessels, will soon open the way for a much larger volume of oil shipments from the district.

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**GOLD MINING NEAR GOVERNMENT RAILWAY IN ALASKA.**

Gold mining in the Willow Creek district, Alaska, is the subject of a report issued by the United States Geological Survey. The region has recently been the scene of active prospecting, and plans are under way for mining on several properties as the result of the beginning of the construction of the new Government railroad, which will pass along the border of this district.

For several years gold has been produced from lode mines in this region, and in 1915 the value of this product amounted to nearly \$250,000. The observations made by the Government geologist at several of the more developed properties indicate that the lodes persist to a considerable depth and that the ore from the deeper levels will probably be free milling.

A copy of the report (Bulletin 642-F) may be obtained free on request to the Geological Survey, Washington, D. C.

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**Plans for Quebracho Plant in Paraguay.**

The Congress of Paraguay is considering the application of a North American syndicate, represented by John Pope, for a concession to manufacture quebracho.



**CONSTRUCTION WORK.****CANADA.**

[Consul Henry H. Balch, Yarmouth, Nova Scotia, Aug. 20.]

**Moving-Picture Theater to be Erected and Equipped.**

Work on the new moving-picture theater, to be known as the New People's Theater, located in the heart of Yarmouth, is to begin at an early date so as to be completed about the close of the present year. The plans are being drawn by a local architect. The walls are to be of concrete blocks. The floor space will be about 90 by 55 feet, with a total seating capacity of about 900, including gallery.

An entire equipment consisting of the lighting, chairs, etc., as well as screens, will have to be provided.

[American concerns interested in furnishing material either for the building or the equipment should communicate at once with the manager, whose name and address can be obtained at the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce or its district offices. Refer to file No. 79975.]

[Vice Consul G. C. Woodward, Vancouver, British Columbia, Aug. 12.]

**Wharf Improvements in Vancouver.**

The Canadian Pacific Railway Co. has called for tenders for dredging in front of its wharves. The completion of this work will give a minimum depth of 30 feet at low tide.

This company is now making arrangements for the construction of an 850-foot pier, at an estimated cost of \$1,250,000. It is expected that this pier will be one of the largest on the Pacific coast of North America. A double-deck shed will be erected on the pier when completed.

The company recently installed on its docks at Vancouver a 50-ton electrically operated derrick, having a lifting reach of 80 feet, the former derrick having a maximum capacity of 15 tons. It is one of the latest and most approved type, equipped with all the modern devices for the efficient and quick handling of heavy loads, and cost between \$25,000 and \$30,000.

**NEW ZEALAND.**

[Consul General Alfred A. Winslow, Auckland, Aug. 1.]

**Expenditures on Public Works.**

According to a statement just given out by the Minister of Public Works of New Zealand, there was a total of \$11,411,670 expended during 1915 on public works in New Zealand out of a total appropriation of \$20,357,275, leaving a balance at the end of the fiscal year ended March 31, 1916, of \$6,292,876. This large surplus is owing to the fact that it has been the policy of the New Zealand Government to bring down the expenditures along all lines to the lowest limit possible without seriously interfering with Government matters in general.

The estimated expenditures for the year ending with March 31, 1917, are fixed at \$8,945,605, which it will be seen is largely covered by the balance now on hand in that fund, so that the present parliament is only providing for \$2,652,729 for this year.

During the year it is proposed to expend about \$1,771,406 on public buildings, against \$1,634,044 for the year ended March 31, 1916. The principal items for this year are the new parliament buildings,

police headquarters, and government printing office, now under erection at Wellington. It is expected to complete the new parliament building during this fiscal year.

During the year ending with March 31, 1917, it is proposed to expend \$2,043,980 on new roads and bridges, against \$2,065,800 expended during the last fiscal year.

Aside from the above, the Auckland city council has outlined a system of improvements to be carried out within the next few years that means an expenditure of about \$5,000,000 on drainage, streets, and other city improvements, in addition to about an equal sum that it is proposed to expend on additional water supply for the city.

#### **Irrigation and Dredging Work.**

Much progress has been made in irrigation work in the South Island, and especially in the Ida Valley, Central Otago. Two contracts for the main race from Manuherikia River to Alexandria have been let, and the work is in progress. These works are expected to develop some rich farm lands.

Some extensive dredging work is being done in the North Island, south and east of Auckland, where there are extensive tracts of low lands and swamps that will make desirable farms and grazing lands when properly drained.

The New Zealand Government is assisting in this undertaking and encouraging these movements very materially, which means much for the development of these sections.

There is also an urgent move on the part of the chambers of commerce in Auckland and Onehunga to push for the 1,000-yard ship canal to connect the bays or inlets from the west coast of New Zealand to those reaching from the east coast near the city of Auckland, thus making it possible for vessels to pass from one coast to the other at this point.

#### **Demand for Dredging and Draining Machinery.**

These schemes will call for much additional dredging and draining machinery, and full information relative to the surplus dredging machinery that has been used on the Canal Zone should be sent to this consulate general, for it would seem much of this could be used to advantage in some of this work, particularly the dredging of the 1,000-yard ship canal and deepening the channels from coast to coast, which will require a large amount of work.

#### **TRINIDAD.**

[Consul Andrew J. McConico, Trinidad, British West Indies, Aug. 18.]

#### **Proposed Harbor Improvements for Port of Spain.**

During the latter part of 1912 the consulting engineers of the Government of Trinidad and Tobago submitted a report for the improvement of the harbor of Port of Spain, involving an expenditure of \$3,211,200. The scheme comprised the construction of deep-water quays 3,100 feet in length, with an approach channel and basin, an extensive reclamation, and the requisite shed, railway, and crane equipment.

On account of the magnitude of the undertaking and the expense involved, a scheme for the improvement of the present lighterage facilities is now being considered as an alternative to the project for the berthage of ocean-going steamers. This new scheme will entail an expenditure of approximately \$580,000, and will tend to

conserve and render permanent vested interests in the lighterage business. If adopted, it will necessitate the widening of Queen's Wharf 15 feet and over a length to 1,290 feet to provide for a depth of water alongside of 10 feet, the construction of six jetties of 100 feet or more, a quay wall 270 feet in length, a considerable amount of dredging, the extension of the customs building, the construction of a new warehouse for bonded goods, and a new American warehouse.

### HEATING AND SANITARY ENGINEERING IN PEKING.

[John R. Arnold, in charge of commercial attaché's office, Peking, China, July 26.]

There are indications that with careful development on the ground a good future is to be looked for in the business of importing and installing heating and sanitary apparatus and equipment in the cities of North China. The present investigation has covered only the city of Peking, but it is understood that conditions are similar in Tientsin and elsewhere. There are several firms engaged in the business at present, but much the most active of these is an American concern with a head office in Tientsin and a branch at Peking. The only others that do any worth-while business are two of British nationality. The American house referred to has in Peking an experienced heating and sanitary engineer and reports an excellent beginning of business.

The winters in North China are quite severe, and an adequate heating system is a necessity. Unlike the Japanese, the Chinese are accustomed to heat their houses as well as they can afford during the winter, and, while with characteristic national conservatism they will be slow in coming to see the advantage of modern central heating plants, there is reason to expect that they will do so in time. So far most of the orders received by the American company referred to have been from foreign residents and business houses. Coal is plentiful in the region roundabout and it is delivered in Peking at reasonable cost.

#### Foreigners the Chief Buyers at Present.

Sanitary installations are more likely for some time to be confined to properties with which foreigners are concerned, as the Chinese are not strongly interested in this subject. There is no sewer system in Peking, and existing sanitary arrangements are mostly primitive, although the large hotels and some of the other more modern buildings occupied by foreigners have full equipment. There is a very good water system and no insurmountable obstacle to the extension of installations of this character when a demand has been worked up.

While Peking is not a treaty port, nor even a commercial center of great importance, its position as the capital of China is likely to cause it always to be the site of a considerable foreign colony, and it will, of course, attract to itself large numbers of Chinese of the classes able to pay for foreign comforts of the kinds referred to, and who have in some cases been more or less accustomed to them.

Imports of heating and sanitary equipment are not shown separately in the Chinese customs statistics, but the American concern just mentioned is said to have imported more than 200,000 taels (approximately \$125,000) worth of boilers, radiators, and other heating apparatus in about six months, besides large quantities of pipe, valves, and other plumbing equipment. These are all of American manufacture.

**JAPANESE BANKING PLANS IN CHINA.**

[Consul General George H. Scidmore, Yokohama, Japan, Aug. 6.]

Japan's economic investigation committee held a meeting August 4 in the Premier's official residence. More than 30 members were present, including the Premier and the Ministers of Finance and of Agriculture and Commerce. The chief purpose was to discuss the plans for the establishment of the Sino-Japanese Bank and the Manchurian Bank, which had just passed the financial subcommittee. The plans as amended by the subcommittee were adopted. As already announced in *COMMERCE REPORTS*, the amounts of capital for these two institutions are, respectively, \$9,970,000 and \$4,985,000. Both are to be joint enterprises of Japanese and Chinese capitalists. They are authorized to issue notes payable on sight, but are forbidden to issue and sell premium debentures in Japan.

It is provided that the business of the Sino-Japanese Bank, says the Japan Advertiser, shall include loans against reliable securities, and mortgages; acceptances, underwriting, or purchase of loan bonds, stocks, and shares; trust business, deposits, discounting of bills, collection of money, drawing of drafts and money-order bills, purchase or sale of gold and silver bullion, money exchange, and banking agencies.

**Business of the Manchurian Bank.**

The business of the Manchurian Bank is to include loans against the security of landed estates, commercial privileges, or public revenue, and other rights on landed estates on condition of repayment in annual or periodical installments; loans against the mortgages of railways and other reliable properties; loans against the security of bonds, debentures, stocks, and other valuable documents or properties, deposits, discounting of bills, collection of money, drawing of drafts and money-order bills, trust business, purchase or sale of gold and silver bullion and money exchange, banking agencies, and the acceptance, underwriting, or purchase of bonds, debentures, or stocks.

It was decided that the Government would grant a subsidy to both banks for 10 years. This subsidy is to be large enough to guarantee minimum dividends of 6 per cent for shares. In the case of the Sino-Japanese Bank, one-third of the members of the board of directors may be nominated from among Chinese shareholders.

The Advertiser says it was decided that the Government should open negotiations with the Chinese Government about these banks.

**Report of Postal Savings Bank Department.**

The report of the Postal Savings Bank Department of Japan, says the Japan Times, shows that the amount of postal savings has greatly increased during the past year. The most noteworthy increase in the number of depositors and amount of deposits is seen in Korea, Manchuria, and Formosa. The number of depositors at the end of July was 14,263,826, and their total deposits amount to \$131,190,014. The increase during the year in the number of depositors was 1,270,450, with a total of \$27,159,258.

The number of depositors in the settlements of Formosa, Manchuria, and Korea is now 1,271,771, with funds of \$7,625,212. During the past year the number of depositors increased by 277,327 and the deposits by \$1,574,780.

[A previous report on the plans for the Sino-Japanese and Manchurian Banks was published in *COMMERCE REPORTS* for Apr. 6, 1916.]

**FINANCING MACHINERY IMPORTS IN RUSSIA.**

[Commercial Attaché Henry D. Baker, Petrograd, June 14.]

Imports of machinery and machine tools into Russia, always very important, are especially so at present. Next to cotton, the largest item in connection with imports into Russia from the United States is agricultural machinery, the greater part of which is arranged for by an American company that has branch offices throughout Russia and Siberia. There are also fair imports of traction engines and thrashing machinery. Next to cotton and agricultural machinery and tools, the largest import from the United States to Russia is general machinery and machine tools, including a certain small amount of mining machinery. Previous to the war there was imported into Russia by way of Germany about two and one-half times as much American machinery and machine tools as were imported direct from the United States. German firms were ready to pay cash on the documents in New York and to extend credit in Russia, making use of a well-developed credit information system.

The whole structure of business in Russia, especially the machinery and machine-tool business, is built upon credit, which has been found necessary owing to competition in selling goods and the need of credit by dealers often remotely situated from the chief trade centers and requiring much time for turnover of their goods. Many able and enterprising concerns have built up a good business by distributing the products of manufacturers who have not the capital to do business except on a credit basis. The representative of one of the largest industrial establishments in the United States makes the statement that his losses through extending credit in Russia for the last 20 years have been less than 2 per cent. It is doubtful whether there are many manufacturers who use so small a percentage in figuring their costs to cover bad debts.

American firms usually require cash against documents in New York before selling machinery or machine tools in Russia, and have thus let their business drift into the hands of German firms. English firms take payment for machinery and machine tools with terms one-third payment with order, one-third when shipped, and one-third on receipt of the goods by purchasers. German firms previous to the war gave credits for such merchandise of 6 to 9 or even 18 months. A great deal of such merchandise is sold at the Nizhni-Novgorod fair on the basis of payment at the next year's fair. During the present war, with credit conditions abnormal, importers are generally required to pay cash with their orders.

**THE SEASON'S TRADE IN VALENCIA ORANGES.**

[Consul John R. Putnam, Valencia, Spain, Aug. 12.]

The season closed on July 15, 1916, with total shipments of oranges by sea amounting to 4,341,959 cases, including nearly 3,700,000 cases to the British Isles, as compared with an exportation during the 1914-15 season totaling 4,617,563 cases, of which Great Britain and Ireland received 3,623,000 cases.

Shipments to France show an increase of over 100,000 cases, while those to the Netherlands and Italy have decreased by about 180,000 and 140,000 cases, respectively. There was also a falling off of nearly 90,000 cases in shipments to Denmark, and of 36,496 cases to Buenos Aires.

**LUCKENBACH SHIPS TO START SERVICE TO AUSTRALASIA.**

[Consul General Alfred A. Winslow, Auckland, New Zealand, Aug. 2.]

There is still a shortage in shipping space from the United States, but conditions seem to be improving very materially, and supplies from American sources are coming forward much more satisfactorily. Improved conditions appear to be due partly to the amalgamation of the Oriental Steam Navigation Co., with the New Zealand Shipping Co. and the Federal Steam Navigation Co., which forms a combination controlling about 90 steamers. It is proposed that the steamers of the New Zealand Shipping Co. be sent through the Panama Canal to England, with the idea of sending them later via Atlantic ports of the United States. In fact, the last steamer leaving here by that line is to call at Newport News for coal as an experiment.

The purchase of 15 fine, large steamers by the Australian Government for service between that country and the United Kingdom will very materially relieve the strain on the regular shipping to this part of the world and will have a tendency to improve conditions in general.

**Sailing Under American Flag, Arrives on Maiden Voyage.**

The arrival here July 19 of the steamship *Edgar F. Luckenbach*, of the Luckenbach Steamship Co., New York, sailing under the American flag, with a cargo of gasoline, benzene, and kerosene for New Zealand ports, means much for American business in Australasia. The *Edgar F. Luckenbach* had on board 289,000 cases. A few days later the steamer *Florence Luckenbach*, of the same company, arrived in Wellington, New Zealand, loaded with automobiles, of which 320 were discharged at that port and the balance taken to Australian ports. It is stated that another steamer belonging to this company is now loading in New York. These are modern 8,000-ton steamers, recently built in the United States. The *Edgar F. Luckenbach* was on its maiden voyage. The steamers are classed as 13-knot boats.

It is planned that these steamers shall not return direct to United States ports through the canal, but pick up cargo in Australasia for such ports as may be most advantageous. According to the best information obtainable here, however, this company proposes to establish a regular line from the United States to Australasia and return as soon as conditions become normal and New Zealand and Australian exports are moving freely in the markets of the world.

**Extensive Demand for Cargo Space Expected.**

It is thought that the demand for cargo space from Australasia to the United States will more than equal the exports of the United States to Australasia when conditions become normal.

It is understood that freight rates from New York have been somewhat reduced recently, and that the outlook is good for additional decreases in the near future. The hope is expressed here that conditions will become somewhat better between the west coast of the United States and New Zealand, for the rates have been exceedingly high during the past few months. A rate of \$50 per ton was paid recently on traction engines, which could be shipped to this country before the war at the rate of \$10 per ton. The shippers had difficulty in getting space even at that rate.

It is reported here that some shippers' agents in New York advertise space for sale to the highest bidder, who in turn holds this space at a higher rate, and allots it to those who are willing to pay a heavy advance. This means that the consumer in this country is obliged to pay exceedingly high prices for foreign wares, a condition which has a tendency to reduce the consumption.

[A previous discussion of the shipping situation between the United States and New Zealand was published in *COMMERCE REPORTS* for July 18, 1916.]

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### **TUNGSTEN DEPOSITS IN CALIFORNIA DEVELOPED.**

Tungsten deposits in California, which were discovered in 1913, but remained practically unknown until the spring of 1916, have recently yielded considerable quantities of the mineral under the stimulus of the increased demand. A representative of the United States Geological Survey, who has visited the plant established there, finds that the ore bodies have some remarkable characteristics.

The deposits are 8 miles west of Bishop, Inyo County, Cal. On April 7 the Standard Tungsten Co. began work. Trails and roads were built, ore bodies were opened up, a mill was erected, and electric power was brought in. On June 7 the mill began to crush ore. The Tungsten Mines Co., started work on May 1, and by the latter part of July had completed a mill of 300 tons daily capacity, and was rapidly opening its main ore body, disclosing a lode as much as 60 feet wide. This activity has greatly stimulated prospecting, and tungsten has been found in a belt 15 miles long.

The ore bodies, it is found by the Geological Survey, are of a kind not mentioned by the recognized authorities on ore deposits as a commercial source of tungsten. The ore consists of scheelite associated mainly with garnet, epidote, and quartz. The general country rock is granite, but in it are scattered masses of limestone, which became mineralized at the time when the granite cooled from a molten condition. The limestones were altered to masses of garnet carrying subordinate scheelite by the metallic vapors then given off, and these are the ore bodies now worked. They average about 2 per cent of tungsten trioxide ( $\text{WO}_3$ ).

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### **DESIGNS OF DOORS AND WINDOWS IN SOUTH AMERICA.**

The Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce has had prepared blue prints showing designs of doors and windows common in South American countries. Some of these show designs of the massive ornamental front doors that are in high favor for city residences, others of the less expensive front and rear doors, as well as several windows and window doors, together with their dimensions. These were prepared from drawings furnished by Special Agent Roger E. Simmons in connection with his reports "Lumber Markets of the East Coast of South America," Special Agents Series No. 112, and "Lumber Markets of the west and North Coasts of South America," Special Agents Series No. 117, in which publications is given an account of the sash and door market in each country. These prints will be loaned to firms interested. (Refer to files Nos. 741 and 772.)

**FOREIGN MARKETS FOR EXPLOSIVES.****BRAZIL.**

[Consul General A. L. M. Gottschalk, Rio de Janeiro, June 3.]

The Brazilian trade in explosives seems to have been held in the past almost entirely by the two Nobel concerns of England and Germany, respectively. It is believed that, prior to the war, these two concerns had some working agreement by which they avoided such competition as would interfere materially with the hold their product had upon the market. The only American interest in this line that has been represented here in the past appears not to have formed part of this group, but some years ago it was intrusted with the construction of the Brazilian Government's powder works at Piquete in the State of São Paulo.

Far more serious as a competitor to the Nobel interests than our American product was the competition of a purely local explosive known as stygia.

**Conditions Favorable to American Manufacturers.**

It is quite certain that, with the almost complete cessation of exports of explosives from European countries, there is to-day some demand for explosives in most South American countries which our American firms should be called upon to fill. In Brazil, however, the almost complete cessation of railroad extension, and building and mining operations that demand blasting rock, make this demand relatively small. American manufacturers also have to contend with a railroad situation at home, and with an ocean freight situation abroad, which make the proper filling of orders extremely difficult.

The chief factor in the business for any firm that may be interested is the control of some space for storage. Cargoes of explosives landing at Rio de Janeiro, where most of them are received for distribution through the country, may be stored under municipal regulations only at places within a given distance from the city limits, or the bay shore, and the islands of the bay are therefore practically the only places available for the purpose.

**Interests Represented Previous to the War.**

Before the war the market was controlled by the Nobel product, the English Nobel interest being represented here by a group of three firms, one of which, owning very good storage space, appeared to have the actual representation, while another did most of the actual selling, and the third owned adequate storage space and did some selling. The German Nobel interest, on the other hand, was intrusted to one (German) firm, which probably sold both directly and through a great number of German firms here. The only American explosives here were handled by a local house which had doubtless obtained the representation of the American firm's brand because it happened to control some storage space on one of the islands of the bay.

Brazilian imports of dynamite during 1913, 1914, and 1915 were:

Country of origin.	1913	1914	1915
United States .....	\$12,617	\$2,764	.....
Germany .....	36,911	15,310	.....
United Kingdom .....	13,830	104,391	\$97,049
France .....	18,629	7,080	.....
All other .....	32	.....	9,945
<b>Total .....</b>	<b>82,019</b>	<b>129,527</b>	<b>107,594</b>



**Successful Trade Requires Storage Accommodations.**

To build up anything like a lasting trade in American high-power explosives here the American manufacturer should find not only a suitable local person to handle his goods, but a person who has storage accommodations. European interests seem to have acquired almost complete control over space that is available for that purpose.

The formula of "stygia" is not disclosed. I am told that one of its essential constituents is "trinitro-toluol," which the firm has recently been trying in vain, it states, to obtain from the United States. "Stygia" is sold in large quantities here, and invariably undersells either the Nobel or the American products. It is described as an explosive of good qualities, resisting the concussion of a rifle bullet even at short distances, not subject to freezing, and not easily ignited by a flame. Its hygroscopic power is said to be low, so that it may be stored in damp places. The claim is made that it is 18 per cent superior to dynamite. It is manufactured by a firm which has offices in this city and factories at Nictheroy, in the State of Rio de Janeiro.

[A list of dealers in powder and explosives at Rio de Janeiro may be obtained from the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, its district or cooperative offices. Refer to file No. 78018.]

**GUATEMALA.**

[Consul Stuart K. Lupton, Guatemala City, June 27.]

**Restrictions Upon Imports Established by Government.**

According to paragraph 2 of the Guatemalan customs tariff, the importation of breech-loading and repeating firearms of the .58, .50, .44, and .43 calibers is forbidden. According to paragraph 5, the importation of carbines or rifles such as are used by the National Army is prohibited. Paragraph 12 further provides that Evans, Winchester, and Remington rifles shall not be imported. As a matter of fact, however, it is understood that no importation of firearms is permitted without a special permit from the Minister of War or the President of the Republic for each shipment. The duties leviable on firearms are as follows:

Paragraph 847: Breech-loading or repeating firearms, not otherwise specified, except of the calibers .58, .50, .44, and .43, the importation of which is forbidden, and their repair parts—Per kilo (2.2 pounds) net weight, plus weight of inside packing, 2 pesos.

Paragraph 848: Firearms of all sorts, not breech-loading or repeating, and their repair parts—Per kilo, including weight of inside wrapping, 0.75 peso.

Paragraph 903: Air rifles—Per kilo, including weight of inside wrapping, 3 pesos.

**Sale of Ammunition a Government Monopoly.**

The importation and sale of ammunition, explosives, and saltpeter is a Government monopoly. Paragraph 6 of the customs tariff prohibits the importation of cartridges for rifles, shotguns, and revolvers of all kinds and calibers; paragraph 9, that of potassium nitrate (saltpeter) in amounts exceeding 10 kilos; paragraph 10, that of nitroglycerin or dynamite; paragraph 11, that of powder of all kinds.

The Government imports these and sells to local buyers. The care and distribution of the stock is given to the Dirección General

de Licores y Ramos Estancados, Guatemala City. The contract for these supplies has usually been given to a firm at Guatemala City, which has an office at San Francisco, Cal.

The importation of empty shotgun shells (both brass and cardboard), wads, percussion caps, and limited quantities of saltpeter is permitted. I understand that the importation of empty rifle shells is not allowed. The duties provided by the customs tariff are:

*Paragraph 1670.*—Empty shotgun shells.—Per kilo of 2.2 pounds, gross weight, 0.50 peso.

*Paragraph 1989.*—Cardboard, felt, or waste wads for firearms.—Per kilo, including weight of inside wrapping, 0.50 peso.

*Paragraph 1247.*—Copper or brass percussion caps for firearms.—Per kilo, including weight of inside wrapping, 1 peso.

*Paragraph 2704.*—Potassium nitrate, the importation of quantities exceeding 10 kilos per single consignment being prohibited.—Per kilo, net weight, 0.40 peso.

These duties are payable, one-half in American gold and one-half in the local currency. The Guatemalan peso is worth to-day \$0.0246 gold. Thus the duty on 1 kilo of percussion caps, 1 peso, would be 50 cents gold, plus 50 centavos, equal to about \$0.5123 gold.

Those connected with the Government importations are: President Manuel Estrada Cabrera, Ministro de Hacienda y Crédito Público, Ministro de la Guerra, Ministro de Fomento, Director General de Licores y Ramos Estancados, and Schwartz & Co.

[A list of firms that sometimes import firearms and purchase powder, cartridges, etc., from the Guatemalan Government for retailing may be obtained from the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, its district or cooperative offices. Refer to file, No. 78531.]

## PORTO RICAN TRADE ORGANIZATIONS TO AID COFFEE INDUSTRY.

[Commercial Agent Harwood Hull, San Juan, Sept. 1.]

The Insular Chamber of Commerce, composed of local business organizations in the six largest cities of Porto Rico, cooperating with the National Coffee Growers' Association, at its annual meeting just closed, decided to send a representative to the United States to visit the various chambers of commerce, boards of trade, and other business organizations, in an effort to arouse interest in obtaining a market for Porto Rican coffee in the United States and to otherwise work for the upbuilding and protection of this industry. Coffee men assert the industry is languishing chiefly because the island can not sell its coffee in Cuba and Spain, its two best markets, as favorably now as during the Spanish régime, when concessions were made to products from the Spanish colonies, and also because a satisfactory American market has not been developed.

In the year ending June 30, 1916, Porto Rico exported 31,634,975 pounds of coffee, valued at \$1,976,288, to foreign countries, and 509,158 pounds, valued at \$77,965, to the United States. Cuba purchased 18,521,991 pounds for \$2,739,549; Spain, 7,454,410 pounds, valued at \$1,242,715. Italy, France, and Sweden were the next largest buyers.

Arturo Bravo, San Juan, is secretary of the Insular Chamber of Commerce, and X. Mariani, Ponce, is president of the National Coffee Growers' Association.

**IMPROVED CANARY POTATO CROP.**

[Consul George K. Stiles, Teneriffe, Canary Islands, July 31.]

Exports of the spring crop of Canary Island potatoes fulfilled the forecast made by this office [see COMMERCE REPORTS for Apr. 7, 1916] by exceeding the amount then expected by the trade here. Early in July the exportation reached the Government limitation of 3,000 tons, with potatoes still quoted below 18 pesetas (\$3.48) per 100 kilos (220 pounds), the figure fixed by the Government for local sales.

Late rains in April improved the crop, and on July 12 the Madrid authorities lifted the ban on potato exportation, and the Canary crop has since been bringing high prices in Liverpool and Marseille. Prices are approximately 15 per cent higher than in 1915, and with increased exports financial pressure has appreciably eased in Santa Cruz de Teneriffe and Las Palmas, Grand Canary. The outlook is that the spring crop will run 4,000 tons, as against 3,000 tons in 1915.

Potatoes, which last August were selling at \$5 per 100 kilos (220 pounds), cost now \$3.48. This has relieved the poorer classes, whose principal diet is composed of salt fish and potatoes.

Exports of the spring potato crop from Teneriffe to Porto Rico were valued at \$5,150, against \$3,840 last year.

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**SCHEDULE OF FEES FOR CANADIAN AGRICULTURAL LOANS.**

[Vice Consul G. C. Woodward, Vancouver, British Columbia, Aug. 30.]

The scale of fees to be charged for loans made to farmers under the terms of the new provincial agricultural loan act has been fixed as follows: On loans up to \$2,500, \$5; between \$2,500 and \$3,750, \$7.50; between \$3,750 and \$5,000, \$10; between \$5,000 and \$7,500, \$15; between \$7,500 and \$10,000, \$20.

[The provisions of the British Columbia agricultural credits act were given in COMMERCE REPORTS for May 10, 1916.]

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**PROPOSED MUNICIPAL IMPROVEMENTS IN TCHITA.**

[Consul John K. Caldwell, Vladivostok, Asiatic Russia, July 27.]

According to newspaper reports, the Russo-American Asiatic Stock Co. has made the following proposition to the city of Tchita, Siberia: To build and equip waterworks, tramways, central electric station, roads, and other similar improvements in the town and to supply machinery and materials of American origin on a credit basis. They will accept a municipal loan in payment, which will be placed in the United States.

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**Proposed Resumption of Steamship Service from Colon.**

The Colon agency of the Royal Mail Steam Packet Co. informs Consul Julius D. Dreher, at Colon, Panama, that it is expected that the service of this steamship line between Colon and New York will be resumed at some time in the near future. This service was discontinued in November, 1914, owing to the requisition of some of the vessels of this line for war purposes by the British Government. Ships in this service sailed every 14 days.

**AMERICAN CONSULAR OFFICERS ON LEAVE OF ABSENCE.**

The following American consular officers are on leave of absence in the United States, and will be glad to confer with business men and commercial organizations relative to conditions in their respective jurisdictions. The consul's time is available primarily for personal interviews. He has limited facilities for correspondence, and except in urgent cases letters should be directed to the consulate.

Name.	Post.	Expira- tion of vacan.	Address.
Jewell, John F.....	Chefoo, China.....	Oct. 1	Galena, Ill.
Hazeltine, Ross.....	Port Antonio, Jamaica.....	do.	Department of State, Washington, D. C.
Laing, James Oliver.....	Karachi, India.....	Sept. 30	C/o University Club, Kansas City, Mo.
Leonard, Walter A.....	Colombo, Ceylon.....	Oct. 14	Essex, Iowa.
Osborne, John Ball.....	Havre, France.....	Oct. 21	Department of State, Washington, D. C.
Mansfield, Robert E.....	Vancouver, Canada.....	Sept. 15	Rushville, Ind.
Pike, William J.....	St. Gall, Switzerland.....	Nov. 1	Department of State, Washington, D. C.
Armstrong, John S.....	Bristol, England.....	.....	1200 Eutaw Place, Baltimore, Md.
Henry, Frank Anderson.....	Puerto Plata, Do- minican Republic.	Oct. 1	C/o Halliwell & Henry, 27 Pine Street, New York City.
Masterson, William W.....	Durban, South Africa.	Sept. 30	

\* Consul Masterson informs the Bureau that he will be in New York City from Sept. 26 to 30, during which period he will be pleased to meet those interested in South African commercial matters. Communications should be sent to the Bureau's district office, Room 402, Customhouse, New York City.

Consul E. Carleton Baker, of Nagasaki, Japan, who has been on leave of absence in this country, will be at San Francisco from September 20 to October 5, previous to his return to Japan. His address while in San Francisco will be care of District Office, Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, 307 Customhouse.

**MANUFACTURE OF FELT GOODS IN UNITED STATES.**

A statement of the results of the 1914 census of manufactures for the felt-goods, wool-felt hat, and fur-felt hat industries in this country has been prepared by the United States Bureau of the Census.

Changes in styles caused a marked decrease in the production of fur-felt hats from 1909 to 1914, the output of finished hats declining from 2,989,252 dozen to 2,118,634 dozen, or by 29 per cent. The total value of the products of this industry decreased from \$47,864,630 to \$37,349,744, or by 22 per cent, during the 5-year period.

A still greater decline took place in the production of wool-felt hats, the output of finished hats of this class decreasing from 590,957 dozen in 1909 to 381,044 dozen in 1914. The total value of the products of this industry decreased from \$4,382,411 in 1909 to \$1,944,484 in 1914, or by 55.6 per cent.

The total value of felt products other than hats in 1914 was \$13,692,765, an increase of 15.5 per cent over that in 1909, \$11,852,626. A large variety of products is reported by this industry, the most important being endless belts, of which 3,941,795 pounds, valued at \$4,164,186, were reported for 1914; the percentages of increase in quantity and value as compared with the 1909 output being 21.5 and 21.8, respectively. The endless belts are mostly woven felts, and the largest portion of this group consists of paper-makers' felts. Of boot and shoe linings, 3,028,286 pounds, valued at

\$1,512,783, were made in 1914, the percentages of increase in quantity and value during the 5-year period being 82.3 and 194, respectively.

The statistics of the industry for the two years are:

Products.	Number or quantity.		Cost or value.	
	1914	1909	1914	1909
<b>FUR-FELT HAT INDUSTRY.</b>				
Total value <sup>a</sup> .....			\$37,349,744	\$47,864,630
Fur-felt hats.....dozen	2,118,634	2,989,252	33,603,531	43,442,466
Fur-felt hat bodies in the rough <sup>b</sup> .....do	329,363	366,370	2,372,937	2,703,738
All other products, including contract work.....			1,373,276	1,718,426
<b>WOOL-FELT HAT INDUSTRY.</b>				
Total value <sup>c</sup> .....			1,944,484	4,382,411
Wool-felt hats.....dozen	381,044	580,957	1,777,225	3,646,187
Wool-felt hat bodies in the rough <sup>d</sup> .....do	8,715	53,896	13,029	309,492
All other products, including contract work.....			154,230	426,132
<b>FELT GOODS.</b>				
Total value.....			13,692,765	11,852,626
Felt cloths.....square yards	( <sup>e</sup> )	3,764,468	797,048	1,881,854
Trimming and lining felts, including felt skirts and skirtings.....square yards	7,431,152	5,801,635	1,048,583	1,239,221
Table and piano covers.....do	438,178	151,775	272,754	90,465
Saddle felts.....pounds	2,291,662	1,650,991	973,353	575,849
Endless belts.....do	3,941,795	3,243,034	4,164,196	3,417,822
Boot and shoe linings.....do	3,028,286	1,661,090	1,512,783	514,456
Hair felting.....square yards	1,350,436	1,159,999	635,011	531,045
All other felts.....pounds	7,477,263	4,792,738	3,691,081	3,120,548
Waste.....do	332,384	279,119	44,751	16,281
All other products, including contract work.....			553,185	956,085

<sup>a</sup> In addition, fur-felt hats, to the value of \$476,449 in 1914 and to the value of \$806,601 in 1909, were made by establishments engaged primarily in the manufacture of products other than those covered by the industry designation.

<sup>b</sup> The difference between the number of fur-felt hat bodies in the rough used as materials by some establishments and the number manufactured as products by others is due in part to the fact that not all these bodies were used in the same year in which made, and in part to the further fact that some of them were purchased from establishments classified in other industries.

<sup>c</sup> In addition, wool-felt hats, to the value of \$305,181 in 1914 and to the value of \$904,643 in 1909, were made by establishments engaged primarily in the manufacture of products other than those covered by the industry designation.

<sup>d</sup> The difference between the number of wool-felt hat bodies in the rough used as materials by some establishments and the number manufactured as products by others is due in part to the fact that not all these bodies were used in the same year in which made, and in part to the further fact that some of them were purchased from establishments classified in other industries.

<sup>e</sup> Not reported.

## CONSTRUCTION OF STEEL STEAMER IN BRITISH COLUMBIA.

Vice Consul G. C. Woodward, at Vancouver, British Columbia, reports under date of August 30, that the keel for the first large steel steamer to be constructed in British Columbia was recently laid at the Wallace Ship Yards in North Vancouver. The vessel is for the Kishimoto Steamship Co., of Osaka, Japan, and is said to be the first steamer built in Canada for a Japanese firm. The vessel will be about 315 feet in length and have a carrying capacity of 5,000 tons.

## French Chamber of Commerce in Brazil.

Vice Consul Robert S. Keiser reports the organization in the city of São Paulo of the Comité Consultatif du Commerce et de Défense des Intérêts Français dans l'Etat de São Paulo for the extension of French commerce in that section of Brazil. It is the intention, later, to change the name of the association to the Chambre de Commerce Française.

## FOREIGN TRADE OPPORTUNITIES.

Reserved addresses may be obtained from the Bureau and its district offices. Request for each opportunity should be on a separate sheet and state opportunity number. The Bureau does not furnish credit ratings or assume responsibility as to the standing of foreign inquirers; the usual precautions should be taken in all cases.

*Dry goods, brooms, soap, etc.*, No. 22363.—A firm in the United States writes the Bureau that one of its representatives in Dutch Guiana wishes to represent American manufacturers and exporters of dry goods, boots and shoes, hats, butter, soap, brooms, and lamp chimneys. Reference.

*Tea, alcohol, matches, lumber, etc.*, No. 22364.—Supplementing foreign trade opportunity No. 21989, the Bureau is informed that the man desires to enter into commercial relations with American manufacturers and exporters of black tea, alcohol, calcium carbide, wax matches, chemicals for the manufacture of fertilizers, lumber, and numerous other commodities. References.

*Vacuum cleaners, plumbing supplies, etc.*, No. 22365.—The Bureau is informed that a business man in Russia wishes to represent, on a sole-agency basis, American manufacturers and exporters of agricultural machinery, general hardware, portable and stationary vacuum cleaners, plumbing supplies, etc. References.

*Belting*, No. 22366.—The Bureau is advised that a firm in the Netherlands wishes to purchase leather belts.

*Vegetable colors*, No. 22367.—A firm in Australia writes the Bureau that it wishes to communicate with American manufacturers and exporters of vegetable or harmless aniline colors to be used in the confectionery trade. The firm wishes to act on an agency basis.

*Enameled ware, china, and crockery*, No. 22368.—A firm in Canada writes the Bureau that it desires to receive names and addresses of American manufacturers and exporters of enamel and porcelain ware of all kinds, china and crockery.

*Hardware*, No. 22369.—The Bureau is informed that a business man in Russia wishes to communicate with some one in the United States who would be interested in establishing a wholesale business in Russia for the sale of hardware and kindred lines.

*Chemicals, glass, nails, etc.*, No. 22370.—A Greek merchant informs one of the commercial agents of the Bureau that he desires to represent American manufacturers and exporters of chemicals, window glass, nails, printed calico, paper, etc. The man desires to travel in the Balkan States. References.

*Oil paintings*, No. 22371.—An American consular officer in Argentina writes that a business man in his district wishes to correspond with an American firm which produces imitation oil paintings. Catalogues and full information to be sent at once. Correspondence in English.

*Cotton and woolen goods, etc.*, No. 22372.—The Bureau is informed that a firm of commission merchants in Uruguay wishes to form commercial relations with American manufacturers and exporters of all kinds of cotton and woolen goods, machine threads, etc.; also dry goods and hardware. Samples and full information should be sent.

## OFFICES OF THE BUREAU OF FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC COMMERCE.

## DISTRICT OFFICES.

NEW YORK: Room 409, Customhouse.  
BOSTON: 1801 Customhouse.  
CHICAGO: 504 Federal Building.  
ST. LOUIS: 402 Third National Bank Building.  
ATLANTA: 521 Post Office Building.  
NEW ORLEANS: 1020 Ibernia Bank Building.  
SAN FRANCISCO: 307 Customhouse.  
SEATTLE: 848 Henry Building.

## COOPERATIVE OFFICES.

CLEVELAND: Chamber of Commerce.  
CINCINNATI: Chamber of Commerce.  
CINCINNATI: C., N. O. & T. P. Ry. Co.  
LOS ANGELES: Chamber of Commerce.  
PHILADELPHIA: Chamber of Commerce.  
CHATTANOOGA: South American Agent, Southern Ry. Co.  
PORTLAND, OREG.: Chamber of Commerce.

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No. 214 Washington, D. C., Tuesday, September 12 1916

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## BRITISH EMBARGO CHANGES.

[Cablegram from American consul general, London, Sept. 9.]

The following headings are deleted from the prohibitions of export to all non-British destinations: Gloves, fingerless sheepskin; gloves with leather palms; scarfs; jerseys; cardigan jackets; socks; men's gloves and underwear, wholly or partly of wool; mineral and vegetable waxes, except carnauba, and composite waxes; wool, raw sheep's and lamb's, and mixtures thereof; tops, noils, and yarns of animal hair. From the prohibitions to all nonallied European destinations the following items are deleted: Bleaching powder; brewers' dried yeast; cloth manufactured wholly or partly of wool or hair, except khaki woolen or worsted cloth; grindstones; hacksaw blades; strontium sulphate. One item, viz, files, is deleted from the prohibitions to all destinations.

The following articles are now under prohibition of exportation to all destinations: Bleaching powder; grindstones; hacksaw blades; iron wire; iron-wire rods; sole leather; small tools, viz, files other than shoemakers' seat files; umbrella ribs, tubes, and tube frames. Additions to the list of goods prohibited to non-British destinations are the following: Gloves made wholly or partly of leather; certain articles of grindery, viz, brads and metal toe tips; animal hair and tops, noils, mixtures, waste, and yarns thereof; scarves, shawls, jerseys, cardigan jackets, socks, men's gloves and underwear, wholly or partly of wool; certain shoemakers' tools, viz, awls, awl hafts, chisels (hand cold), 8 by  $\frac{3}{4}$  inch files, hammers, single and double-faced irons, forepart, glazing, lap, seat, wheel, and waist knives, cutting nippers, pincers, eyelet pliers, spring punches, rasps, welt plows, runners, and mills; bifurcated steel rivets; strontium sulphate; animal, mineral, vegetable, and composite waxes, except carnauba; raw wool and mixtures thereof. The following are now under prohibition of exportation to nonallied European destinations: Albumen; boots and shoes other than heavy boots for men; felt carpets

and carpet rugs; gramophone records; leather compositions not otherwise prohibited; egg yolk and liquid for human consumption; fabrics manufactured wholly or partly of wool or hair, except khaki woolen or worsted cloth; woolen gloves and hosiery not otherwise prohibited; woolen underwear not otherwise prohibited; yeast.

After October 9 the heading "Bags and sacks not specifically prohibited, except paper bags" in the list of prohibitions to nonallied European destinations, should be deleted, and there should be substituted therefor "Bags, wrappers, or sacks not otherwise specifically prohibited, except paper bags, other than any such bags, wrappers, or sacks as constitute the covering of goods to be shipped for exportation." After October 1 the exportation of steel hoops will be prohibited to all destinations.

### ANALYSIS OF THE FOREIGN TRADE FOR JULY.

The usual monthly statement of the foreign trade of the United States has just been completed by the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, Department of Commerce. The imports and exports by great groups during the month of July and the 7 months ended July, 1916, are presented in the following statement:

Groups.	Month of July—		7 months ended July 31—	
	1916	1915	1916	1915
<b>IMPORTS.</b>				
Crude materials for use in manufacturing.....	\$70,476,675	\$57,736,235	\$646,579,355	\$382,005,240
Foodstuffs in crude condition and food animals.....	16,787,926	16,494,382	128,225,882	128,971,833
Foodstuffs partly or wholly manufactured.....	22,915,910	23,907,692	230,197,264	183,712,778
Manufactures for further use in manufacturing..	23,949,477	23,534,781	247,561,809	140,751,413
Manufactures ready for consumption.....	27,364,051	21,148,111	19,308,976	166,413,558
Miscellaneous.....	1,308,899	463,556	11,946,288	7,196,737
<b>Total imports.....</b>	<b>182,722,958</b>	<b>143,244,787</b>	<b>1,467,819,574</b>	<b>1,009,054,556</b>
<b>EXPORTS.</b>				
Crude materials for use in manufacturing.....	50,850,414	36,781,438	343,960,710	351,247,334
Foodstuffs in crude condition and food animals.....	22,084,856	21,846,911	225,070,763	305,848,589
Foodstuffs partly or wholly manufactured.....	49,610,978	43,340,794	376,478,171	339,378,358
Manufactures for further use in manufacturing.....	78,061,354	43,956,080	490,308,649	251,646,477
Manufactures ready for consumption.....	232,947,796	116,467,330	1,432,005,128	632,026,928
Miscellaneous.....	7,286,181	12,766,994	46,893,014	74,847,353
<b>Total domestic exports.....</b>	<b>440,769,079</b>	<b>264,157,692</b>	<b>2,822,712,435</b>	<b>1,984,984,080</b>
Foreign merchandise reexported.....	4,672,788	4,811,110	33,608,927	35,392,388
<b>Total exports.....</b>	<b>445,441,867</b>	<b>268,968,802</b>	<b>2,856,321,362</b>	<b>2,020,376,468</b>

Exports of principal items under the heading "Miscellaneous" in July, 1916, were: Horses, \$5,602,522; mules, \$1,627,682; and seeds, \$51,739; and for seven months ended July 31, 1916: Horses, \$32,780,150; mules, \$12,150,485; and seeds, \$1,705,960.

### AGRICULTURAL LOAN LAW IN PERU.

The Congress of Peru is considering a law to provide for agricultural loans on security other than land. Under the provisions of the proposed law, farmers could borrow money on their machinery, implements, live stock, lumber, timber, or growing crops. Under the present rural-credits law, farmers may obtain loans on their land only, and the proposed law is intended to extend credit to the large number of farmers who do not own the land they cultivate.



**NEW CUBAN SUGAR CENTRALS.**

[Consul Henry M. Wolcott, detailed as vice consul, Habana, Aug. 26.]

As an indication of the prosperity and rapid expansion of the sugar industry of Cuba, it is now announced that there will be 16 new mills grinding in the crop of 1916. The names of these new centrals and the probable output of each this year are:

Name of central.	Location. (town and province).	Owners.	Esti- mated output, in sacks.
Adelaida.....	Moron (Camaguey).....	Laureano Falla Gutierrez.....	50,000
Occidente.....	Quivicán (Habana).....	Gaidos, Tarafa y Linares.....	40,000
Hershey.....	Santa Cruz del Norte (Habana).....	Hershey & Co.....	100,000
Galope.....	San Juan y Martínez (Pinar del Río).....	Cia. Azucarera Central Galope.....	25,000
Baragua.....	Colorado (Camaguey).....		50,000
Nombre de Dios.....	Guines (Habana).....	Ignacio Pla.....	30,000
Virginia.....	Los Palscios (Pinar del Río).....	Cia. Azucarera Cubana.....	30,000
Oriente.....	Javier (Oriente).....	Marcane, Gil y Chibas.....	80,000
Tacajo.....	Alto Cedro (Oriente).....		40,000
Alto Cedro.....	Marcane (Oriente).....	Alto Cedro Sugar Co.....	50,000
Miranda.....	Palmarito (Oriente).....	Cia. Azucarera Miranda.....	50,000
Santo Tomas.....	Moron (Camaguey).....	Del Campo y Cia.....	50,000
Van Horne.....	San Jenaro (Camaguey).....	Cuba Co.....	70,000
Cunagua.....	Moron (Camaguey).....	Antonio Mendoza.....	30,000
Algodones.....	Guayacanes (Camaguey).....		11,000
Punta Alegre.....	Punta Alegre (Camaguey).....	Atkins, Stone & Co.....	150,000

It will be noted that the estimated output of these new mills approaches 1,000,000 sacks (of 320 pounds each). The machinery and equipment of the new centrals will in the main be the product of the United States.

**PROBABLE GRAIN PRODUCTION IN SPAIN.**

[Consular Assistant Bartley F. Yost, Barcelona, Aug. 11.]

According to reports furnished by the chiefs of the agronomic sections, the probable yield of wheat in the whole of Spain for the current crop year is placed at 152,918,407 bushels, as compared with 139,297,753 bushels in 1915 and 153,219,700 bushels in 1911—the latter a record year. It is calculated that the current crop added to the stocks left over from last year and the quantity imported to date will make an available supply of about 165,345,000 bushels, which is thought to be considerably more than is necessary to supply the needs of the country.

The barley crop is estimated this year at 81,895,415 bushels, compared with 82,971,439 in 1915; the rye crop at 28,736,963 bushels, compared with 26,102,082 bushels in 1915; and the oats crop at 36,267,633 bushels, as compared with 36,948,861 bushels for the previous year.

**Dealers in Paper and Paper Bags in Canary Islands.**

Lists of wholesale buyers of fruit paper and paper bags, and of commission houses dealing in both classes of merchandise in the Canary Islands have been forwarded from Teneriffe by Consul G. K. Stiles. Copies may be obtained from the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, its district or cooperative offices. Refer to file No. 79161. An article relating to this subject was published in COMMERCE REPORTS for September 1, 1916.

### CHANGES IN UNITED STATES COTTON-FUTURES ACT.

The act making appropriations for the Department of Agriculture for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1917, and for other purposes, approved August 11, 1916, contains a reenactment, effective September 1, 1916, of the United States cotton-futures act of August 18, 1914, with a few changes, the more important of which are:

In the seventh subdivision of section 5 authority is conferred upon the Secretary of Agriculture, in case of disputes referred to him, to include in his findings a complete classification of the cotton for the purposes of delivery on future contracts. Under the act of August 18, 1914, his findings were confined to the specific question of grade, quality, or length of staple in dispute. For example, if the dispute involved grade only, and the cotton was found to be less than seven-eighths of an inch in length of staple, the Secretary had no authority to include in his findings a statement as to the length of staple.

A new section, known as section 6A, is inserted. It provides an optional contract under which parties may, without being subject to tax, agree that, under certain specified conditions, the buyer may demand delivery of the basis grade named in the contract.

Section 11 of the act of 1914, which taxes orders sent abroad for the making of future contracts made on foreign cotton exchanges unless certain conditions are complied with, is omitted from the new law.

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### WOOD-PULP SURPLUS PRODUCES JAPANESE LOSSES.

[Comment from Japan Weekly Chronicle, forwarded by office of American commercial attaché, Peking, China.]

During the period when freights were abnormally high Japanese importers ordered abroad quantities of goods greater than were actually wanted. The recent relaxation of pressure on shipping space has therefore led to a great influx of imports, of some of which there was not long ago a serious shortage—particularly wood pulp, iron, chemicals and drugs, wheat, woollen fabrics, cotton, yarn, fertilizer, dyes, and paints. Except where compelled to dump them, importers have generally held on to these stocks, and consequently there is serious pressure on storage space in the ports, especially in Osaka and Kobe. At the latter port, at the end of June, the stocks in the warehouses of the six storage companies were valued at the unprecedentedly high figure of \$33,000,000.

The losses to importers on some commodities, particularly wood pulp, are very serious. As a result of this condition the largest warehouse companies in Osaka have made substantial increases in rates. The market is less glutted as regards rice, beans, flour, crude sugar, marine products, and American cotton and wool.

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### House Flag and Funnel Marks Registered.

The United States Bureau of Navigation announces the registration, pursuant to section 7 of the act of May 28, 1908, of the following house flag and funnel marks of the West Coast Line, Wessel, Duval & Co., 25-33 Broad Street, New York: House flag, a white H in a red field; funnel marks, a white H in a red band, the top and bottom of the funnel being black.

**CHILEAN NITRATE STATISTICS FOR JULY.**

[Consul Thomas W. Voetter, Antofagasta, Aug. 12.]

Chile's production and exportation of nitrate during July were both on a large scale. There were produced in all the oficinas 5,312,776 Spanish quintals (of 101.4 pounds each) and the exports amounted to 5,674,088 quintals. Compared with the corresponding month in previous years the figures are:

July—	Production.	Exports.
	<i>Quintals.</i>	<i>Quintals.</i>
1912.....	4,805,656	4,027,901
1913.....	5,296,034	3,551,434
1914.....	5,713,107	4,344,545
1915.....	2,921,613	4,811,219
1916.....	5,312,776	5,674,088

**Market Quiet—Suggested Use of Boxes.**

The market at Valparaiso, where almost all the transactions in the sale and resale of nitrate take place, was not very active during the month, and the change in price was slight. At the end of the month ordinary, or 95 per cent, nitrate was quoted for sale at about 7s. 5d. (\$1.80) per quintal alongside for delivery in the latter part of 1916. Nitrate for delivery in 1917 is held about a penny. (\$0.02) higher per quintal. Refined nitrate, 96 per cent—1 per cent, sold as high as 7s. 10d. (\$1.90) per quintal, but for 1917 delivery concessions from this price down to about 7s. 8d. (\$1.87) were spoken of.

The price of coal is easier, especially in American brands, and this improves the situation for those oficinas that have not adopted petroleum fuel. Freight rates are also obtainable at slightly lower rates than before, though shipments of nitrate are still delayed for lack of vessels.

A proposal has been seriously made recently looking to the employment of wooden boxes for shipping nitrate, but the consensus of opinion is that the expense will be prohibitive. One thing that causes the idea to be favored is that there would be retained in the country the sum now sent abroad for the 30,000,000 bags used annually to export nitrate.

**JAPAN HAS OVERSUPPLY OF POTASSIUM CHLORATE.**

[Office of American commercial attaché, Peking, China.]

As a result of the war there has been a rapid development of the manufacture of potassium chlorate in Japan. An oversupply of the product has now affected the market. There are about 33 factories, and the total output is placed at 7,000 barrels a month, which will be increased to 10,000 barrels when extensions now projected are completed. The normal domestic consumption is about 7,000 barrels, but the demand is now below this figure, and prices have declined greatly. The Japan Weekly Chronicle says it seems not impossible that they may go down to a point where the less substantial manufacturers will have to close their plants. There has been a little temporary improvement, however, it states, as the result of a reported large order from Russia.

### VINE CULTIVATION IN THE CANTON OF ST. GALL.

[Consul George Nicolas Ifft, St. Gall, Switzerland.]

The cultivation of the vine, while never extensive, has for centuries been a factor in the industrial life of the Canton of St. Gall and has annually supplied a favorite vintage not unknown beyond its own borders. For some years, however, bad weather and vine diseases and pests caused such failures of crops as to threaten the industry.

In 1893 there were 1,401 acres planted in vines in the Canton; in 1900, 1,280 acres; 1909, 922 acres; 1912, 783 acres; and in 1915 the acreage had decreased to 612, which year, however, was an excellent one for the crop and put an end, at least temporarily, to the grubbing up of the vineyards.

The wine districts proper, in the Canton of St. Gall, are the Rhine Valley, the Werdenberg, the St. Gall Highland (District of Sargans), Rapperswil, Iona, and Eschenbach on the upper Lake of Zurich, and the District of Wil. The wine area has decreased considerably in the Rhine Valley, on the Lake of Zurich, and in and around Wil. In the St. Gall Highlands, however, in spite of the failures of many years, a greater persistence was observed, and at present well cultivated vines still cover most of the sunlit slopes of the mountains. These vineyards are cultivated by 900 wine growers. The total crop for 1915 amounted to 228,455 gallons, valued at \$151,290, as compared with 55,767 gallons in 1910, valued at \$33,644.

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### CANADIAN BEARBERRY OR CASCARA BARK.

[Vice Consul G. C. Woodward, Vancouver, British Columbia, Aug. 30.]

A recent report issued by the Dominion Government at Ottawa shows that bearberry or cascara bark is found in Canada only in the mountains of British Columbia. The dried bark is collected, principally by Japanese, during the months of June, July, and August, at least one year before being used.

The plant is described as a small tree, 15 to 20 feet in height, having alternate leaves 2 to 6 inches in length, with prominent veins. The flowers are of a greenish color and grow in clusters. The fruit is an ovoid, black, three-seeded berry. It is found in moist localities and grows readily from seed.

Exports of cascara bark to the United States from the port of Vancouver were valued at \$7,410 in 1909, \$2,615 in 1910, \$1,850 in 1911, \$5,981 in 1912, and \$15,833 in 1915. There were no shipments invoiced during 1913 and 1914, and none were certified at the Vancouver consulate up to August 1 of this year.

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### NEW THEATER ORDINANCE IN VALPARAISO.

A general ordinance governing the construction, lighting, and ventilation of theaters and buildings for moving pictures, circuses, and other public spectacles in Valparaiso, was published in the Chilean Diario Oficial for July 26. The ordinance gives detailed regulations for the installation of electric lighting and for hygienic and safety provisions. Theaters now in operation are given five months to comply with the new ordinance.

**FEDERATION OF BRITISH INDUSTRIES FORMED.**

[Extract from Times Trade Supplement for August, forwarded by Commercial Attaché  
Pierce C. Williams, London, Aug. 11.]

The war has effected a fundamental change in the commercial and industrial atmosphere of the United Kingdom. As a test it has shown us our faults, and as a force it has profoundly modified our actual condition. After the war, to this realization of our deficiencies and to this alteration of our circumstances will be added a third factor, a greatly intensified struggle for the markets of the world. To remedy these deficiencies, to meet these new conditions, and to mobilize for this struggle it is accepted by all that great preparations must be made and extensive reforms must be effected. Up to the present these preparations have been confined to the appointment of a large number of committees to consider the future.

On the unofficial side associations of the different trades, "after the war" committees, and other similar organizations are in existence, and will undoubtedly find that they are called upon to play a conspicuous and important rôle; but these bodies, valuable as they are, are necessarily restricted by their nature and by the purposes for which they were formed to dealing with the interests of a particular trade or of a particular locality, and something more is needed before British industry can work as one whole to attain the general prosperity of the country.

**New Organization Nonpartisan and Thoroughly British.**

This general movement assumed a practical and concrete shape when, on July 20, what was probably the most representative gathering of British industry which has ever been assembled met at the Grand Hotel. This meeting, representing at a conservative estimate over £500,000,000 [approximately \$2,500,000,000] of trade capital, decided to form the Federation of British Industries, with the object of promoting the cooperation of manufacturers with labor, with the Government, and with each other in support of their common interests and for the general good of the country.

The federation is nonpartisan and thoroughly national, only British firms being eligible for membership; while the decision to ask at least 100 firms or associations to subscribe £1,000 as a preliminary guaranty, and the fact that upward of a hundred subscribed that sum, are assurances not only that the council will be in possession of ample capital but also of the intention of those who become members to take an active and continuous interest in the work. The federation, as its name implies, is primarily an association of manufacturers to support the interests of producers.

**PRICE OF HORSEHAIR IN RUSSIA.**

Consul General John H. Snodgrass, at Moscow, states that the prices of horsehair at the Irbit fair in 1916 were as follows: Horse-tail hair, \$53.72 per 100 pounds; half tails, \$18.83 per 100 pounds. These prices are corrections of those published in **COMMERCE REPORTS** for May 20, 1916 (\$0.54 and \$1.88 per 100 pounds, respectively).

**NEW INDUSTRIES IN GENEVA DISTRICT.**

[Vice Consul Louis H. Munier, Geneva, Switzerland, Aug. 12.]

Some Geneva business men desiring to avail themselves of the opportunity offered by the present period of crisis in the production, importation, and exportation of articles of necessity and luxury, have met from time to time during the past months to study the possible establishment in Geneva of certain industries not yet introduced, or the transformation of existing factories, or the revival of others.

Geneva was for a long time an important center for the making of musical boxes. The center of this industry, however, was later transferred to Ste. Croix, a small town in the Canton of Vaud, where cheaper and more regular labor could be had. The talking machine injured this industry but the manufacturers adapted themselves to the new situation and now Ste. Croix is manufacturing new instruments as well as musical boxes and metronomes.

The idea of establishing one or more factories of gramophones, phonographs, etc., in Geneva will naturally be one of the first considered.

**Museum of Industries—Pencil Factory—Activities at Lausanne.**

A temporary museum of the industrial production in Geneva has been established in one of the principal buildings in Geneva, and Mr. Paul Rudhart, an engineer, has been placed at its head.

A pencil factory has been established and it is reported that large quantities of pencils have been ordered.

A Geneva firm placed an important order for pencils, rubber erasers, etc., months ago with one of the leading American factories, but months elapsed before the goods were received owing to the obstacles encountered in the belligerent countries through which the goods were sent in transit.

Similar efforts to those made at Geneva are made at Lausanne, the second city of this district. The "Union Vaudoise du Commerce et de l'Industrie" advocates the manufacture of door and window handles, imported almost exclusively from Germany until lately, small metal articles, desk and ceiling chandeliers, wood panels, wood furniture, etc.

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**JAPANESE AUTHORITIES EXPORT STORES OF RICE.**

The Japanese authorities are now exporting rice which they purchased last year in order to regulate the price on the domestic market. The quantity purchased by the authorities last year is estimated at 1,485,000 bushels, according to a report in Commercial Japan, forwarded from Yokohama by Consul General Seidmore. Since the beginning of this year the authorities, through foreign and Japanese merchants, have exported 396,000 bushels to Seattle, San Francisco, Hawaii, European ports, and other points. Many orders have come from Europe, but on account of the scarcity of vessels it is difficult to obtain tonnage. The shipments abroad during the first half of the year were, in pounds: Great Britain, 25,937,603; France, 528,267; United States, 26,734,114; Canada, 15,113,154; Australia, 2,897,413; Hawaii, 25,654,784; Sweden, 870,982; Transvaal, 261,901; Argentina, 91,310; and other countries, 162,759.

**TRADE OF TAIWAN FOR SIX MONTHS.**

[Consul Edwin L. Neville, Taihoku, Aug. 7.]

According to the Taiwan Nichi Nichi Shinpo, a local semiofficial newspaper, the total exports of Formosa for the six months ended June 30, 1916, amounted, in round numbers, to 56,305,000 yen (\$28,039,000). Of this amount, 42,655,000 yen (\$21,242,000) represents the value of the raw sugar exports. If the value of the locally made alcohol, 4,309,000 yen, exported be added to the raw sugar the export of sugar products totaled \$23,387,000. The increase of exports amounted to 14,071,000 yen over the corresponding period of 1915, due almost entirely to the increase in sugar export values.

The paper states that since the beginning of the sugar export season last December this product was shipped to the amount of 4,677,641 piculs (1 picul=133½ pounds), of which 1,030,218 piculs were sent to countries other than Japan, nearly half of this representing Australian purchases. The remainder was sold in Canada, China, and India, with a few other minor buyers. This is a source of great satisfaction here, as the local Government has been endeavoring for many years to make Formosa a factor in the world's sugar market.

Japan, of course, which imported 3,647,423 piculs of raw sugar from Taiwan, remains the principal purchaser of local sugar produce. All the alcohol noted above was sent to Japan.

**The Import Trade—Trade with United States.**

Imports, it is reported, amounted for the first half of this year to 24,903,000 yen (\$12,401,000), against 20,824,000 yen (\$10,370,000) for the same period in 1915. The increase is general in character. Aside from fertilizers, an increase in which was to be expected in view of the prosperous local agricultural situation, the imports appear to have no noteworthy features. A slight decrease, amounting to about \$2,000, occurred in the cement imports, due, it is believed, to increased local production.

Detailed figures of the direct trade with the United States are not at hand. The declared exports of crude camphor to the United States, according to invoices certified at this consulate, amounted to 3,064,800 pounds up to June 30, 1916, against 1,774,398 pounds in the corresponding period in 1915. The price of this commodity has risen from 72.50 to 77.50 yen per picul (27 to 30 cents per pound). Oolong tea, the principal tea crop of the island and practically all of which goes to America, had not begun to move sufficiently by June 30 to form its usual place as an export, as the season has been somewhat late.

**VANCOUVER SHIPPING STATISTICS.**

[Vice Consul G. C. Woodward, Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada, Aug. 30.]

Figures compiled by the Canadian Customs Department show that during the fiscal year ended March 31, 1916, vessels of all classes entering and clearing at the port of Vancouver numbered 18,594 (foreign 2,783, coasting 15,811), with a tonnage of 9,942,197 (foreign 3,428,764, coasting 6,513,433), as contrasted with 18,478 (foreign 1,889, coasting 16,589), tonnage 10,347,563 (foreign 3,544,063, coasting 6,803,500), in the preceding year. The cargo of foreign vessels during 1915-16 amounted to 1,099,600 tons, and in 1914-15 to 971,734 tons.

**AMERICAN FIRMS DELAY IN FILLING ORDERS.**

[Commercial Attaché Phillip D. Kennedy, Melbourne, Australia, July 21.]

To-day there was handed to me by one of the largest wholesale hardware houses in Australia a list of orders, given by this firm to American manufacturers, that remained unfilled on July 18. The dates of placing these orders run back for more than a year; the items include alarm tills, apple parers, bench screws, braces, can openers, carborundum wheels, chains, chisels, chucks, clocks, cork pullers, cultivators, drills, fence ratchets, files, flint paper, forks, hammers, hand bells, handles, ink pads, lifts, line daters, mattocks, milling tools, mincers, perambulators, pipe cleaners, pipe vises, planes, plowseats, pruning shears, rakes, razor strops, rivets, rules, safety razors, saws, scissors, screw plates, shovels, spring hinges, staples, stocks and dies, tea strainers, thermometers, tool holders, tricycles, trowels, valves, wire-gauze cloth, and wrenches. The senior director of this firm told me that whereas before the war he had to count on five months' time for delivery of American orders, he now had to reckon on at least ten months' delay.

There are two main results from this situation. In the first place selling firms are unwilling to quote prices except with a proviso concerning the freight rate. The custom at present is to quote terms including a freight rate of \$40 per ton, the importer to pay anything additional required for freight. In some instances the freight rate has gone so high that the local importers have canceled their orders. The second direct effect of this situation is that the regular buying seasons for various lines of goods are being broken over. In normal years there are two indent seasons in Australia known as summer and winter purchases. Although some dealers place orders nine months or a year in advance, most retail establishments have purchased six months ahead. This routine has been broken up and many houses are purchasing both summer and winter goods whenever they have an opportunity.

While this situation is a hardship for merchants they realize that it is more or less inevitable as a result of the shipping shortage at the present time. American exporters who are able to make quick delivery will gain the good will of local merchants. It is doubtless fair to ask that American exporters exert every effort to forward orders to Australia as quickly as possible.

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**EXPERIMENTAL MINING FOR NEW BRUNSWICK WOLFRAM.**

[Consul E. Verne Richardson, Moncton, New Brunswick, Canada, Aug. 7.]

Wolfram deposits said to be of a promising character, both in quantity and quality, are now being worked, experimentally, near the banks of the Miramichi River in New Brunswick. The American consulate has been informed by the owner of the property that preliminary operations have resulted in the discovery of three veins and that one of these, 26 inches thick, is now undergoing active development. A shaft 50 feet deep has been sunk, and the face of the hill has been opened up for a distance of 200 feet. A concentrating plant of 20 tons daily capacity, and a crusher are already installed, and 50 men are at work. The portion so far treated averages 3 per cent recovery from 60 per cent metal.



**JAPANESE INDUSTRIES AFFECTED BY THE WAR.**

[Consul General George H. Seidmore, Yokohama. July 30.]

**Prices Steadily Advancing in Cement Market.**

Reviewing the cement industry in Japan, the Japan Chronicle states that it was at low ebb for a long time after 1911; that with reduced demands and increased output, prices continued on the down grade, and the situation became so hopeless that manufacturers projected sales at conference prices as a remedy. Last year, however, the market showed signs of improvement, which has developed during the current year. It was not long before all the accumulated stocks were cleared off, and prices have steadily advanced.

Present quotations, the Chronicle says, are about double those at the beginning of the year. Spot transactions have given way to forward transactions, stocks having greatly diminished. It is said that some companies have already signed forward contracts covering the whole of their output to the end of the year. That such a remarkable change has come is due to the great activity on the export market, and to the increased domestic demand.

Exports of cement during the past five years, in quantity and value, were: For 1911, 67,651 barrels (\$163,861); for 1912, 48,680 barrels (\$118,487); for 1913, 148,969 barrels (\$326,909); for 1914, 249,618 barrels (\$514,983); for 1915, 668,613 barrels (\$1,228,949). Last year's exports are more than double those for the year before last, and are nearly ten times the quantity exported four years previously. This year it is expected that exports will reach 1,000,000 barrels.

**Foreign Demand Due to Recent Conditions.**

The increase in foreign demand for Japanese cement is attributed to conditions produced by the war. Stocks of European cement on oriental and other markets have been exhausted. If this state of things continues, the requirements will be too much for manufacturers in this country to meet regularly, assuming that they devoted the whole of their output to the purpose. It is concluded that the activity on the cement market will continue as long as the war lasts.

During the term of depression, the total output amounted to about 3,000,000 barrels, while it stood at about 3,500,000 when the market was favorable. This output does not represent the maximum capacity, which is about 4,500,000 barrels. It is expected that this year, the market being so active, the total output will reach at least 4,000,000 barrels.

There are 16 cement companies in Japan, and they have 20 factories. The Asano and Onoda Co. excepted, all these are conducting operations on a small scale. Recently, however, they have come to pay closer attention to the quality of their output, and it is said there have been no samples failing to pass the test of the Department of Agriculture and Commerce.

**Great Increase in Domestic Production of Iron Expected.**

An enormous increase in Japan's domestic production of iron is anticipated by the Japan Advertiser. The iron manufactured by the Naichi Steel Tube Manufacturing Co., Kamaishi Iron Works, Kawasaki Shipbuilding Yard, Kobe Steel Works, Kishimoto Iron Manufacturing Co., and the Osaka Iron Manufacturing Co. will

appear in the market shortly, and the output of the Imperial Iron Works will be increased by 6,000 to 7,000 tons a month upon the completion of its extension work. As a result, it is predicted that there will be a drop in the quotations for iron during the latter half of this year.

The Japan Times says that since the export of iron and steel materials has been restricted by countries in the West, more strenuous efforts have been made to obtain iron ores in this country, and that the efforts have been generally successful. The total output for May presented a substantial increase by 67 per cent over the corresponding time last year. The total output for the first five months of this year represented an increase of 42 per cent over the corresponding period of last year.

The authorities in the Department of Agriculture and Commerce are quoted as saying that, in a large measure, the increase in the output of iron in this country is to be accounted for by the fact that the Kuriki and the Sennin Iron Mines in Iwate Prefecture have lately succeeded in increasing their output of pig iron by 150 per cent, while the Kamaishi Iron Mine in Miyagi Prefecture has completed the extension to its smelting plant, and there is the possibility of the annual output of pig iron at the mine being increased to 100,000 tons.

In a few years, at this rate of progress, the Times says, the country's iron and steel output will be increased by 300 to 500 per cent.

#### **Problem of Next Year's Fertilizer Needs Considered.**

At a meeting of the fertilizer dealers of the country, held at Hakone in July, the problem of the supply of phosphate for the fertilizer market next year was discussed. The Japan Advertiser says it was proposed by the meeting to import 100,000 tons of Rasa, another 100,000 tons of Anguar, and 50,000 tons of Ocean phosphate, the supply of Rasa and Ocean phosphate being in the hands of the Mitsui Bussan Kaisha and Takata & Co. The Anguar phosphate supply, however, is worked by the Navy, and therefore a petition will be presented to the Navy to obtain a supply for next year.

At the beginning of this year, there were fertilizer stocks in Japan consisting of 80,000 tons of phosphate and 120,000 tons of super-phosphate. Since then 80,000 tons of Rasa, 70,000 tons of Ocean, and 30,000 tons of Anguar phosphate have been imported. This makes a total of 380,000 tons. If 250,000 tons are consumed this year, there will still be a surplus of 130,000 tons to be carried forward to next year, and with the importation of 250,000 tons, the requirements during next year will be met, and a balance for year after next will be left.

Since last spring there has been some business with Russia and the South Pacific countries, but it is in small lots, and has had little effect upon the supply here. There was an entire stoppage of business with Australia, which was importing phosphate to the amount of 40,000 tons.

#### **American Supplies Reduce Price of Carbolio Acid.**

At the beginning of the year the price of carbolio acid was very high, but it had dropped almost 80 per cent early last month. The

Japan Chronicle states that this drop was due to a large increase in supplies, American imports from January to May amounting to about 400,000 pounds. Subsequently, about 50,000 pounds were exported to Russia, while lately there has been an increase in the demand for the acid as material for manufacturing dyes. This has affected the market and the price has again risen, but not to a very great extent compared with that ruling at the beginning of the year.

### BOLIVIAN MINERAL EXPORTS.

[Commercial Attaché William F. Montavon, Lima, Peru, Aug. 10.]

Official figures of the exports of minerals from Bolivia during the past year show a shifting of values, with tin (whose exports reached a value of \$16,300,000) as the most important metal now in place of silver (\$1,000,000), which has fallen to sixth rank. Copper (\$5,200,000) occupies second place, followed by antimony (\$5,000,000), wolfram (\$2,000,000), and bismuth (\$1,300,000). The quantities exported in the last five years have been:

Year.	Tin.	Copper.	Anti- mony.	Wol- fram.	Bismuth.	Silver.
	<i>Tons.</i>	<i>Tons.</i>	<i>Tons.</i>	<i>Tons.</i>	<i>Tons.</i>	<i>Tons.</i>
1911.....	37,073	2,950	311	297	414	127
1912.....	38,614	4,707	91	474	477	123
1913.....	44,541	4,019	62	282	422	81
1914.....	37,252	8,667	186	276	549	73
1915.....	36,492	23,812	17,923	792	662	82

The falling off in the price of wolfram and antimony has begun to be seen in the smaller production of these metals, but with lower freight rates it is expected that tin will gain in output sufficient to offset this loss.

### COAST SURVEY NAMING AND NUMBERING ITS MONUMENTS.

The United States Coast and Geodetic Survey has recently issued orders to the chief of each surveying vessel and land party to stamp into the face of the metal tablet marking a surveying monument the name or number of the particular monument.

A tablet much used is inscribed: "U. S. Coast and Geodetic Survey Triangulation Station. For information write to Superintendent, Washington, D. C. \$250 fine or imprisonment for disturbing this mark." In the center of this mark is a triangle, and in the future the name of the station will appear just below the triangle. The bench marks established in connection with the determination of the mean sea level by tidal observations and of the elevations in the interior of the country by precise leveling will be marked by tablets properly inscribed, on which the number of the bench mark will be stamped.

The name or number stamped on the tablet will enable engineers and others to ask for the geographic positions or data in regard to the bench marks, with the assurance that those at headquarters will know without the least doubt the monuments for which information is wanted.

**AMERICAN CONSULAR OFFICERS ON LEAVE OF ABSENCE.**

The following American consular officers are on leave of absence in the United States, and will be glad to confer with business men and commercial organizations relative to conditions in their respective jurisdictions. The consul's time is available primarily for personal interviews. He has limited facilities for correspondence, and except in urgent cases letters should be directed to the consulate.

Name.	Post.	Expiration of venue.	Address.
Jewell, John F.....	Chefoo, China.....	Oct. 1	Galema, Ill.
Hazeltine, Ross.....	Port Antonio, Jamaica.....	....do....	Department of State, Washington, D. C.
Laing, James Oliver.....	Karachi, India.....	Sept. 30	C/o University Club, Kansas City, Mo.
Leonard, Walter A.....	Colombo, Ceylon.....	Oct. 14	Essex, Iowa.
Osborne, John Ball.....	Havre, France.....	Oct. 21	Department of State, Washington, D. C.
Mansfield, Robert E.....	Vancouver, Canada.....	Sept. 15	Rushville, Ind.
Pike, William J.....	St. Gall, Switzerland.....	Nov. 1	Department of State, Washington, D. C.
Armstrong, John S.....	Bristol, England.....	.....	1230 Eutaw Place, Baltimore, Md.
Henry, Frank Anderson.....	Puerto Plata, Dominican Republic.....	Oct. 1	C/o Hallowell & Henry, 27 Pine Street, New York City.
Masterson, William W.....	Durban, South Africa.....	Sept. 30	.....

\* Consul Masterson informs the Bureau that he will be in New York City from Sept. 26 to 30, during which period he will be pleased to meet those interested in South African commercial matters. Communications should be sent to the Bureau's district office, Room 409, Customhouse, New York City.

**INCREASED RAILROAD RATES IN AUSTRIA-HUNGARY.**

[Consul Wallace J. Young, Carlsbad, Austria, Aug. 14.]

A 20 per cent increase in both the freight and passenger rates of the railroads of Austria-Hungary is forecasted. The press states that in order to meet the large interest due on the Austrian war loans the Government must consider new means for the raising of revenue, and that this increase in rates has been suggested. It was at first, according to reports, planned to raise rates only on the railroads owned by the State and not on the privately owned roads. The plan now being considered is, however, not only to raise the rates on the Government-owned roads but also on the privately owned roads, and that the latter will pay a tax of this additional 20 per cent to the Government. As showing what the Government would obtain from such a tax, it is pointed out that in 1914 this extra 20 per cent for freight and baggage alone, and not counting passenger fares, would have amounted to \$33,000,000.

**OFFICES OF THE BUREAU OF FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC COMMERCE.****DISTRICT OFFICES.**

NEW YORK: Room 409, Customhouse.  
 BOSTON: 1801 Customhouse.  
 CHICAGO: 504 Federal Building.  
 ST. LOUIS: 402 Third National Bank Building.  
 ATLANTA: 521 Post Office Building.  
 NEW ORLEANS: 1020 Hibernia Bank Building.  
 SAN FRANCISCO: 307 Customhouse.  
 SEATTLE: 848 Henry Building.

**COOPERATIVE OFFICES.**

CLEVELAND: Chamber of Commerce.  
 CINCINNATI: Chamber of Commerce.  
 CINCINNATI: C., N. O. & T. P. Ry. Co.  
 LOS ANGELES: Chamber of Commerce.  
 PHILADELPHIA: Chamber of Commerce.  
 CHATTANOOGA: South American Agent, Southern Ry. Co.  
 PORTLAND, OREG.: Chamber of Commerce.

## FOREIGN TRADE OPPORTUNITIES.

Reserved addresses may be obtained from the Bureau and its district offices. Request for each opportunity should be on a separate sheet and state opportunity number. The Bureau does not furnish credit ratings or assume responsibility as to the standing of foreign inquirers; the usual precautions should be taken in all cases.

*Mica*, No. 22373.—The Bureau is informed that a firm in Argentina wishes to find a market in the United States for mica. It is in position to furnish any quantity in pieces of 12 inches each. Business may be transacted through a firm in the United States. Samples of the mica may be inspected at the Bureau or its district offices. (Refer to Miscel. No. 148.)

*Herring, cod liver oil, etc.*, No. 22374.—A business man in Scotland writes the Bureau asking to be supplied with the names and addresses of American importers of pickled Iceland herring in barrels, cod-liver oil, medicine oil, seal oil, whale oil, etc.

*Sacks*, No. 22375.—An American citizen in Cuba writes that he is negotiating for the sale of sugar sacks in Cuba and wishes to receive names and addresses of firms which are in position to supply sacks.

*Drugs*, No. 22376.—A firm in the United States writes the Bureau that it desires to place an order in the United States for drugs to be shipped to one of its correspondents in Brazil. Payment will be made by draft attached to shipping documents at destination.

*Tubes*, No. 22377.—A firm in the United States writes the Bureau that a merchant in Spain wishes to form commercial relations with American manufacturers and exporters of steel tubes, charcoal iron tubes, and brass tubes. Additional information may be had on application to the firm in the United States.

*Trucks*, No. 22378.—A firm in the United States writes the Bureau that a commission merchant in Cuba desires to form commercial relations with American manufacturers and exporters of electric trucks, 1 to 3 tons capacity. The merchant wishes to act as representative. References.

*Sardines and lobsters*, No. 22379.—A firm on the west coast of the United States informs one of the commercial agents of the Bureau that it desires immediate quotations, f. o. b. steamer New York, on 300 cases of canned sardines in oil, one-quarter key cans, and 300 cases of canned lobsters. A sample can of each should be sent at once. References.

*Cable*, No. 22380.—An American consular officer in Norway writes that a man in his district desires to become agent of American manufacturers of vulcanized cable for electrical purposes. Catalogues and full information should be sent at once. The man states he can supply bank references.

*Roller skates*, No. 22381.—A business man in Canada informs an American consular officer that he desires to receive names and addresses of American manufacturers and exporters of roller skates. References.

*Machinery*, No. 22382.—An American consular officer in a British possession writes that a firm in his district would like to get information relative to machinery for making paper bags.

*Machinery, roasters, etc.*, No. 22383.—A firm in Spain informs an American consular officer that it is desirous of importing machines used in the manufacture of ice; coffee mills; coffee roasters; and various kinds of patented machines. Correspondence in English. References.

*Chinaware, cutlery, etc.*, No. 22384.—An American consular officer in East Africa reports that a firm of merchants and commission agents in his district desires to secure agencies for the introduction and sale of American goods. The firm is particularly interested in chinaware, glassware, hardware and cutlery, and toilet supplies. Correspondence in English.

*Seed pockets*, No. 22385.—A firm in South Africa writes the Bureau that it desires to purchase lithographed pockets or seed containers. Interested firms should send a complete line of samples, prices, etc.

**PROPOSALS FOR GOVERNMENT SUPPLIES AND CONSTRUCTION.**

[Correspondence should be direct with the offices named, and specifications can usually be obtained at the points where the goods are to be delivered or the work is to be performed. In cases where the time limit is too short to permit firms to submit tenders, they should ask to be placed on the mailing lists of such offices to receive notices calling for future supplies or work of a similar nature.]

**Construction work, No. 3567.**—Sealed proposals will be received by the Supervising Architect's Office, Treasury Department, Washington, D. C., until October 16, 1916, for the construction complete of the post office at Dickinson, N. Dak. Drawings and specifications may be obtained on application at the above office.

**Tents, No. 3568.**—Sealed proposals will be received at the office of the Chief Signal Officer, War Department, Washington, D. C., until September 22, 1916, for furnishing the Signal Corps with 50 tents and 50 sets of pack frames.

**Gasoline tractors, No. 3569.**—Sealed proposals will be received at the office of the Chief of Ordnance, United States Army, Washington, D. C., until September 15, 1916, for furnishing f. o. b. Honolulu, Hawaii, 27 gasoline tractors, caterpillar type, Holt 45 horsepower or equal. Specifications may be had upon application to the Chief of Ordnance, United States Army.

**Linoleum, No. 3570.**—Sealed proposals will be received by the Medical Supply Depot, United States Army, 543 Greenwich Street, New York, N. Y., until September 16, 1916, for furnishing and delivering 1,500 square yards of linoleum. Further information will be furnished on application to the above office.

**Forage, flour, and seed, No. 3571.**—Sealed proposals will be received at the office of the General Supply Committee, Treasury Department, Auditors' Building, Washington, D. C., until October 4, 1916, for furnishing the executive departments and other Government establishments during eight months of the fiscal year, from November 1, 1916, with forage, flour, and seed, class 11. Blank forms of specifications and instructions to bidders will be furnished on application to the General Supply Committee.

**Gasoline trucks, No. 3572.**—Sealed proposals will be received by the office of the Chief of Ordnance, United States Army, Washington, D. C., until September 15, 1916, for furnishing and delivering f. o. b. dock, Honolulu, Hawaii, 45 gasoline trucks. Specifications will be furnished on application to the above office.

**Levee work, No. 3573.**—Sealed proposals will be received at the Engineer Office, Mississippi River Commission, Customs House, Memphis, Tenn., until September 19, 1916, for constructing about 700,000 cubic yards of earthwork. Further information on application at above office.

**Hardware, No. 3574.**—Sealed proposals will be received at the office of the Chief Signal Officer, War Department, Washington, D. C., until September 23, 1916, for furnishing 1,000 inspectors' pocket kits, 72 wrenches, 300 heavy jackknives, 165 oil and 75 tool holders with tools. Specifications and drawings will be furnished on application to the above office.

**Microscopes, No. 3575.**—Sealed proposals will be received by the Medical Supply Depot, United States Army, 543 Greenwich Street, New York, N. Y., until September 18, 1916, for furnishing and delivering 25 Bausch & Lomb microscopes.

**Electrical supplies, No. 3576.**—Sealed proposals will be received by the office of the Chief Signal Officer, War Department, Washington, D. C., until September 23, 1916, for furnishing the Signal Corps with Frankel display clips, cable-hanger rings, insulators, connectors, voltmeters, flash lights, coils, etc. Specifications will be furnished on application to the above office.

**Medical supplies, No. 3577.**—Sealed proposals will be received by the Medical Supply Depot, United States Army, 543 Greenwich Street, New York, N. Y., until September 13, 1916, for furnishing chloroform, nitroglycerin, writing-paper pads, rubber rulers, operating cases, graduated glass irrigators, white enamel pitchers, powder sprinklers, hypodermic syringes, cocaine tubes, razors, razor strops, Mohr's pinchcocks, etc.

# PRINCETON COMMERCE REPORTS



DAILY CONSULAR AND TRADE REPORTS  
ISSUED DAILY BY THE BUREAU OF FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC COMMERCE  
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE



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No. 215 Washington, D. C., Wednesday, September 13 1916

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## JAVA TO HAVE A COMMERCIAL EXHIBITION.

Through the courtesy of the Far East Importing Co., New York, the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce has been supplied with a circular announcing a "general exhibition of agriculture, cattle breeding, fishery, commerce, and industries in Netherlands India" to be held in Soerabaya, Java, from May 1 to November 1, 1918. The circular states: "All foreign countries are invited to participate. The international section contains special sections for Indian agricultural and industrial machinery and implements. There will be an international electrotechnical exhibition and a general exhibition of imports. Full particulars can be obtained from the Secretary A. N. I. T. A. [Algemeene Nederlandsch-Indische Tentoonstelling Associate]. Soerabaya, Java."

## RESTRICTIONS ON EXPORTS TO SCANDINAVIA.

[Cablegram from American Consul General, London, England, dated Sept. 11.]

Announcement has been made that no further export licenses or other facilities will be given until October 1, or until further notice by the British Government for the shipment of the following goods to the countries named:

Denmark—Animal oils and fats, apricot kernels, borate of lime, borax and boron compounds, bristles, egg yolk and albumen, grass seeds, hair, meat, sago, starches, sulphur, talc (powdered), tapioca, tea, vegetable fibers, vegetable oils, and oil seeds (excluding soya beans); Norway—Beef casings, borax and boron compounds, cocoa, coffee, nickel, pitch, sheepskins, talc (powdered), tar, and tar oil; Sweden—Antimony, apricot kernels, binder twine, bristles, carnauba wax, casein casing, cocoa, corkwood, coffee, dried fruit, gums (except shellac), hair, honey, leather, margarine (raw materials used in manufacture of), meat, peach kernels, plum kernels, rice, rosin,

spices, starches, sisal, steel (high speed), tea, turpentine, and turpentine oil; Netherlands—Biscuits, bristles, eggs, egg yolk and egg albumen, fish oil, fruit, nuts and kernels, gums, hair, honey, matches, pitch, preserved and canned goods, sulphur, spirits, spices, starches, rubber and balata, talc (powdered), tar, vegetable fibers, and yeast.

Holders of unexhausted licenses for the shipment of goods named are directed to communicate with the War Trade Department. The foregoing restrictions have been agreed to by the allies and apply to shipments from United States. The articles mentioned are those which have been supplied to the countries concerned in quantities alleged to exceed the normal requirements of such countries. As stocks decline articles will be removed from the list of prohibitions. The Netherlands Oversea Trust has been advised to issue no further permits for goods covered by this notice. It is presumed that American goods already covered by letters of assurance will not be stopped.

### **PRODUCTION OF GRANITE IN SWEDEN.**

[Consul General Ernest L. Harris, Stockholm, July 19.]

Wages received by the workmen at the Swedish granite quarries are high on account of the difficult nature of their work. It is calculated that a paving-stone hewer ought to be able to earn 1,500 crowns (\$402) a year. The work is generally contracted for. Building and square hewers generally get 10 per cent higher wages than the paving-stone hewers.

Conditions are now poor in the granite industry, because the war has made the exportation to foreign countries almost impossible. Considerable stock has been gathered, however, chiefly in the German dimensions: 12/15 centimeters broad, 16/18 or 18/20 high, and 15/25 long (centimeter=0.39 inch). No exact statement, however, can be given concerning the size of the stock.

**American Demand is for Special Form of Stone.**

The general opinion in Swedish stone-working circles is that there can be no exportation to America on a larger scale than at present. Some firms have tried to produce paving stones in the size that is used in America, but it has been shown that the production of such a stone meets with technical difficulties, partly because the American stone is much narrower and longer than the kind of stone that the workmen are accustomed to produce here, and partly because it is especially difficult to get the Swedish granite as mellow as that in America. The workmen have therefore objected to the production of the American kind of stone. The high freights, moreover, will certainly during many years make stone exports very difficult.

### **Competition for School Building in Matanzas.**

An appropriation of \$150,000 has been made by the Congress of Cuba for the construction of a building for the Provincial Institute at Matanzas, with offices for the provincial superintendent of schools and the board of education. Designs and specifications are to be presented within six months, and \$1,000 will be awarded the competitor receiving the first prize, according to the law in the *Boletín de la Secretaria de Hacienda*, and \$500 will be given the winner of the second prize.



## CHINESE REFUGEES IN HONGKONG.

[Consul General George E. Anderson, Hongkong, British China, Aug. 7.]

In the past few weeks between 90,000 and 100,000 refugees from South China points, particularly districts in and around Canton, have come to Hongkong. They are bringing with them so far as possible all their ready money and valuables. The result has been a large increase in available cash resources in Hongkong banks, which, on the whole, now have far more funds than they can use under present conditions.

The influx of so great a number of people in a colony the size of Hongkong has serious economic results. There has been, of course, a sharp rise in rents, and the demand for tenements in the Chinese district is so great that real estate in some instances is reaching astonishing figures. The strain upon the local food supply also leads to increased prices, and in nearly all lines the cost of living, already seriously enhanced because of war conditions generally, is very materially increased. Transportation conveniences of all sorts are crowded, particularly the steamers between Hongkong and Canton.

### Large Increase in Permanent Chinese Population.

The usual result of these influxes of Chinese from up-country in times of trouble has been a notable increase in the permanent population of the colony. While the great mass of refugees return to their homes after the removal of the causes which led them to take refuge in Hongkong, there is always a large number of them who remain permanently. The troubles in South China are thus gradually increasing the Chinese population of Hongkong, and at the present time the greater portion of the residence districts on the lower levels, which formerly belonged to and were occupied by Europeans, are now owned and occupied by Chinese. In many respects the entire life of Europeans in Hongkong has been and is being changed.

A return to normal business and social conditions in Hongkong after the close of the war, together with this notable increase in population of well-to-do Chinese, will make serious changes in life in Hongkong inevitable. It seems likely now that there will be a notable increase in building, especially the construction of up-to-date residence properties. The business of supplying materials for such construction will be well worth looking into.

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## BLACK DAMP IN MINES INVESTIGATED.

The United States Bureau of Mines, in pursuing investigations looking to greater safety in mining, has analyzed samples of the air in many different coal mines in the United States and has studied the analyses. The results of one phase of this study are presented in Bulletin 105, "Black Damp in Mines." This study shows how atmospheric air, after entering a coal mine, loses oxygen and gains carbon dioxide, with resulting formation of so-called black damp. The report also discusses the effects of the constituents of black damp on men, on the burning of oil and acetylene lamps, and on the explosibility of methane. Copies of this bulletin may be obtained free of charge by addressing the Bureau of Mines, Washington, D. C.

**ITALIAN USE OF GAS AND ELECTRIC FIXTURES.**

[Consul B. Harvey Carroll, jr., Venice, July 27.]

Every hardware dealer in Venice handles electric and gas fixtures, and the same conditions probably prevail in all towns in the Veneto. Venice, for geographical and other reasons, would hardly serve as a center for Italian import trade, as the Veneto is generally supplied by wholesale dealers in Milan or Genoa. This city, however, was formerly visited at regular intervals by German and Austrian commercial travelers who, in order to obtain control over the market, quoted prices in Italian lire, including duty and carriage.

Both electricity and gas are used for illumination in Venice and the principal towns in this district, though in smaller centers electricity furnishes the only public illumination. Acetylene is still used in private houses though not to any large extent. On account of the scarcity of coal and transportation difficulties the price of gas illumination has greatly increased in some cities. In others illumination by gas has ceased entirely, and there are cities where the volume of gas furnished has been regulated and diminished.

**Increased Use of Electricity for Various Purposes.**

An attempt is being made by the gas company that serves Venice to double the price of the gas per cubic meter. For this and other reasons there is an increased use of electricity for lighting, power, and even for heating and cooking. The use of the electric light was on the increase in the country towns even before the war, on account of the abundance of water power.

While there is familiarity with English in commercial circles in Italy, it will be found to advantage if correspondence is conducted in the native language. Italian firms usually require 90 to 120 days' credit, and abandon the small discount allowed for cash payments, as cash payments would be due before the goods are landed in Italy, and owing to present conditions letters require about 30 days to reach Venice.

[Lists of dealers in electric fixtures at Venice and of dealers in gas and electric-lighting fixtures in the Venice consular district may be obtained from the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, its district or cooperative offices. Refer to file No. 79638.]

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**EXPERIMENTS IN THE REARING OF BLUE FOXES.**

An arrangement has been made between the Bureau of Fisheries of the United States Department of Commerce and the Bureau of Biological Survey, Department of Agriculture, for experimental work in the rearing of blue foxes. The Fisheries Bureau will supply the Biological Survey Bureau this season with six pairs of blue foxes from the Pribilof Islands, Alaska, for use on a fox farm in the State of New York.

The price commanded for blue-fox pelts naturally makes the question of the possibilities in the way of breeding the blue fox in captivity of considerable interest. The problem has been undertaken by various persons in different regions, but the Bureau of Fisheries is not aware that definite results have been obtained. It is hoped that the work of the Biological Survey in this respect will develop methods for successfully rearing this animal in captivity from the standpoint of a profitable fur-producing business.

**RECORD SHIPMENTS OF COFFEE FROM SANTOS.**

[Consul Carl F. Delchman, Santos, Brazil, Aug. 10.]

Exports of coffee from Santos during the 1915-16 season totaled 11,445,533 bags of 60 kilos, or 132.28 pounds, each—a figure equaled but once (in 1906-7) in the past 18 years, as the following table, compiled from the returns of the Association of Commerce, shows:

Crops.	Bags.	Crops.	Bags.	Crops.	Bags.
1886-1899.....	5,535,361	1904-1905.....	7,174,557	1910-1911.....	9,440,495
1899-1900.....	5,742,362	1905-1906.....	7,280,162	1911-1912.....	9,143,685
1900-1901.....	7,821,541	1906-1907.....	13,874,113	1912-1913.....	8,820,392
1901-1902.....	9,731,921	1907-1908.....	8,515,244	1913-1914.....	11,308,315
1902-1903.....	9,542,481	1908-1909.....	9,381,867	1914-1915.....	9,641,890
1903-1904.....	6,537,226	1909-1910.....	10,278,215	1915-1916.....	11,445,533

New York took 33 per cent of the 1915-16 shipments, and was the port's best customer. New Orleans and Havre ranked second and third, their shares being 12.6 and 11.2 per cent, respectively. The chief destinations and the quantities of coffee sent to each during the past season were:

Exported to—	Bags.	Exported to—	Bags.	Exported to—	Bags.
New York.....	3,762,330	Copenhagen.....	321,380	Bergen.....	36,127
New Orleans.....	1,439,422	Marseille.....	251,223	Seville.....	20,596
Havre.....	1,261,852	Malmö.....	221,179	Naples.....	18,245
Genoa.....	922,640	Buenos Aires.....	168,974	San Pedro.....	10,550
Stockholm.....	597,260	San Francisco.....	143,024	All other ports.....	1,199,794
Amsterdam.....	580,986	Bordeaux.....	92,638		
Göteborg.....	477,895	Alexandria.....	88,000	Total.....	11,445,533
London.....	364,182	Barcelona.....	43,671		
Christiania.....	360,192	Trondhjem.....	43,375		

\* Includes 81,445 bags exported in the coastwise trade and 1,416 bags for ships' use.

The receipts of coffee in Santos during July, 1916, amounted to 1,246,914 bags and the exports to 705,087 bags.

**SIAM IMPORTS ITS ENTIRE SUPPLY OF BUTTER.**

[Vice Consul Carl C. Hansen, Bangkok, July 8.]

There is no production of butter in Siam, or, in fact, of any other dairy product, except an insignificant amount of milk, so that all the local supplies of butter must come from abroad. The imports of this foodstuff for the fiscal year ended March 31, 1915, totaled 63,367 pounds, valued at \$23,407, compared with 91,423 pounds, valued at \$29,742 for 1914.

Australia and Denmark were the chief sources of the butter imports into this country during the fiscal year 1915. The former supplied 25,695 pounds, valued at \$8,965, and the latter 21,060 pounds, valued at \$9,063. The share of the United States was 212 pounds, valued at \$57.

According to recent price lists, selected Danish butter retails in Bangkok at \$70 per case of 200 half-pound tins, \$76 for 120 one-pound tins, and \$96 for 80 two-pound tins. The same grade of Australian butter sells at \$46 for 100 one-pound tins and \$46 for 50 two-pound tins.

The import duty on butter is 3 per cent ad valorem, and there are no restrictions on the imports of butter into this country.

**GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS FOR SALE.**

The following were among the publications received in stock for sale by the Superintendent of Documents at Washington during the week ended September 9:

*Markets for Machinery and Machine Tools in Peru, Bolivia, and Chile* (Special Agents Series 118).—Reviews the character and methods of the machine trade in the countries covered, and gives latest available statistics for imports of articles of this class. Price, 10 cents.

*Density and Expansion of American Petroleum Oils* (Standards Bureau Technologic Paper 77).—Describes method of procedure, apparatus used, reduction of observations, and tabulated results in detail applicable to all petroleum oils, both crude and refined, produced in the United States. Price, 10 cents.

*Calculation of Planck's Constant  $C_2$*  (Standards Scientific Paper 287).—A mathematical discussion showing how simply the equations for all the known methods of calculating  $C_2$  may be deduced from a general solution of Planck's equation. Price, 5 cents.

*Methods of Making Electrolysis Surveys* (Standards Bureau Technologic Paper 28).—Deals with the various types of measurements employed to determine the danger to underground pipes and cables due to the flow of stray electrical currents. Price, 20 cents.

*Commercial Laws of England, Scotland, Germany, and France* (Special Agents Series 97).—Presents practical matters pertaining to law and legal procedure in foreign countries of interest to the American manufacturer, exporter, and merchant. Reprint. Price, 15 cents.

*Cottonseed Products and Their Competitors in Northern Europe: Part II, Edible Oils* (Special Agents Series 89).—A report dealing with the export trade in American cottonseed oil and the margarin industry. Reprint. Price, 5 cents.

**ISSUE OF BRAZILIAN SECURITIES.**

The Minister of the Treasury of Brazil is authorized to issue bonds up to the amount of 25,000,000 milreis paper (paper milreis=about 25 cents), in accordance with an executive decree in the Boletim da Alfandega of July 31. The funds are to be used in the payment of loans contracted by the Government for the construction of the railways Timbo a Propria, Madeira-Mamore, S. Luiz a Caxias, extension of Sobral line, Central do Rio Grande do Norte, Passo Fundo a Uruguay, Itaqui a S. Borja, and other State lines. The bonds will be issued for the value of 1,000 milreis each, bearing 5 per cent annual interest, paper, payable semiannually. The amortization will be at the rate of one-half per cent per annum, counting from the year following the completion of the works, by purchase, should the bonds be below par, or by lot if the bonds are at par or above par.

**CHESHIRE SALT EXPORTS.**

[Consul Horace Lee Washington, Liverpool, England, Aug. 18.]

The return of Cheshire salt exports, compiled from customhouse returns by the Salt Union and published in the Liverpool Courier for August 14, 1916, shows that the shipments of salt to foreign countries during July amounted to 41,193 tons, as compared with 45,425 tons for the corresponding month of last year. A decline of over 7,000 tons was shown in the shipments to the United States, but Asiatic business was higher by more than 3,000 tons.

Coastwise shipments amounted to 2,465 tons, being 40 tons higher than a year ago.

[A report on conditions of the British salt trade was published in **COMMERCE REPORTS** for June 8, 1916.]

**FREIGHT REDUCTIONS AT HONGKONG.**

[Consul General George E. Anderson, Hongkong, British China, Aug. 5.]

There has been a sharp decline in trans-Pacific freight rates within the past few days, and at the present writing rates comparable with those obtained previous to the war have been quoted. General business slackness in the Far East, due to some extent to the high value of silver exchange, which prevents the sale of Chinese products abroad to advantage, has resulted in a marked decrease in the movement of produce.

As usual under such circumstances, the subsidized Japanese lines have cut rates. Several large tramp steamers have come into the market for cargoes, and additional tonnage has been offered from other sources. The result has been a general collapse in rates eastward, which is likely to obtain until some of the tonnage now in service on the Pacific is transferred to other routes and until a change in the silver situation permits a renewal of active export to the United States and Canada. Rates from Hongkong and China ports to the United States and Canadian overland common points at the present time are open and competitive.

The China coast freight situation is completely demoralized. Rates on rice from Saigon to Hongkong, usually counted as the basic rate for coastal freights, have fallen from \$1.20 local currency to \$0.20 local currency per picul of 133½ pounds. Chartering is slow in consequence, and it is likely that it will be some time before there will be a readjustment more in accordance with freight conditions in other parts of the world.

**COTTON EXPORTS.**

According to reports received by the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, the exports of cotton during the week ending September 9, 1916, at the 12 principal customs districts of the United States were as follows:

Districts.	Bales.	Districts.	Bales.	Districts.	Bales.
Georgia.....	20,902	Philadelphia.....	.....	San Francisco.....	.....
Massachusetts.....	497	South Carolina.....	.....	Washington.....	3,042
Maryland.....	5,982	Virginia.....	.....	Total.....	116,023
New York.....	17,779	Galveston.....	44,710		
North Carolina.....	.....	New Orleans.....	23,111		

The exports of 116,023 bales of cotton during the past week make the total since August 1, 1916, approximately 541,010 bales. Exports of cotton for the corresponding periods of the preceding year were, respectively, 46,151 bales for the week and 216,409 bales in the cotton year.

**Guatemalan Government Buys American Aeroplane.**

A New York firm has advised Consul Stuart Lupton, of Guatemala City, of the sale of one of its military aeroplanes to the Government of Guatemala. The price of the machine was \$11,900. The American builder was put in touch with the Guatemalan officials by Consul Lupton.

## COMMERCE THROUGH THE SAULT STE. MARIE CANAL.

AUGUST.

Articles.	United States canal.		Canadian canal.		Total.	
	1915	1916	1915	1916	1915	1916
<b>EASTBOUND.</b>						
Copper..... short tons.	13,952	19,682	2,012	173	15,964	19,855
Grain..... bushels.	1,064,874	3,717,589	1,177,406	5,311,716	2,262,280	9,029,305
Flour..... barrels.	507,480	965,351	303,088	435,440	810,568	1,430,791
Iron ore..... short tons.	7,383,520	8,051,430	481,509	1,740,503	7,865,029	9,791,933
Pig iron..... do.			2,550	2,604	2,550	2,604
Lumber..... M feet.	68,116	53,745	3,029	2,635	71,145	56,380
Wheat..... bushels.	577,309	12,822,181	1,980,971	12,651,746	2,438,280	25,473,927
General merchandise..... short tons.	23,788	53,038	17,122	11,666	40,910	64,704
Passengers..... number.	4,719	5,616	4,631	5,230	9,250	10,846
<b>WESTBOUND.</b>						
Coal:						
Hard..... short tons.	268,948	306,136	11,000	14,000	279,948	322,136
Soft..... do.	1,697,922	2,232,725	73,080	192,216	1,771,012	2,424,941
Flour..... barrels.		20				20
Grain..... bushels.		1,200				1,200
Manufactured iron..... short tons.	19,157	18,146	1,058	2,035	20,215	20,181
Iron ore..... do.		11,424				11,424
Salt..... barrels.	96,307	86,133	140	5,250	96,447	91,383
General merchandise..... short tons.	180,518	134,614	45,385	39,603	205,903	174,217
Passengers..... number.	4,738	5,051	4,619	6,215	9,357	11,266
<b>TOTALS.</b>						
Freight:						
Eastbound..... short tons.	7,630,980	8,786,661	618,257	2,278,012	8,249,237	11,064,673
Westbound..... do.	2,160,991	2,717,985	130,553	248,604	2,291,544	2,966,589
Total.....	9,791,971	11,504,646	748,810	2,526,616	10,540,781	14,031,262
Vessel passages..... number.	2,668	2,800	551	1,071	3,219	3,871
Registered tonnage.....	7,249,604	8,250,326	1,033,870	1,851,311	8,283,474	10,101,637

## FIVE MONTHS ENDING AUGUST.

<b>EASTBOUND.</b>						
Copper..... short tons.	71,536	61,773	7,718	2,936	79,254	64,709
Grain..... bushels.	10,267,403	26,152,588	8,783,048	26,939,982	19,050,451	52,092,570
Flour..... barrels.	2,722,057	3,107,598	1,156,548	1,749,970	3,878,605	4,857,568
Iron ore..... short tons.	24,992,586	30,253,155	970,201	7,585,480	25,962,787	37,838,635
Pig iron..... do.		19,619		2,550		19,619
Lumber..... M feet.	280,470	187,649	28,878	7,716	289,348	195,365
Wheat..... bushels.	31,046,079	86,006,155	10,018,679	65,499,066	41,064,758	141,505,221
General merchandise..... short tons.	91,161	118,217	81,678	46,879	172,829	164,596
Passengers..... number.	10,816	10,992	10,909	12,810	21,725	23,822
<b>WESTBOUND.</b>						
Coal:						
Hard..... short tons.	1,238,691	1,244,584	35,483	61,010	1,274,174	1,305,594
Soft..... do.	6,349,862	8,548,804	202,765	609,296	6,552,627	9,158,100
Flour..... barrels.	100	225		12,980	100	13,185
Grain..... bushels.	31,250	3,780			31,250	3,780
Manufactured iron..... short tons.	107,668	80,003	8,142	7,580	115,810	96,633
Iron ore..... do.		14,479		14,448		28,927
Salt..... barrels.	376,903	426,668	16,870	38,797	393,553	465,455
General merchandise..... short tons.	524,381	578,341	155,725	188,735	680,106	767,076
Passengers..... number.	11,149	10,389	10,145	13,073	21,204	23,462
<b>TOTALS.</b>						
Freight:						
Eastbound..... short tons.	27,029,671	34,156,487	1,701,298	9,962,214	28,731,967	44,121,701
Westbound..... do.	8,277,680	10,539,896	404,625	887,886	8,682,185	11,427,272
Total..... do.	35,298,351	44,696,373	2,105,923	10,850,100	37,404,152	55,548,973
Vessel passages..... number.	9,618	11,261	2,148	4,145	11,766	15,406
Registered tonnage.....	26,331,676	33,722,372	3,471,713	8,183,151	29,803,389	41,905,528

**INDUSTRIAL NOTES FROM SIBERIA.**

[Consul John K. Caldwell, Vladivostok, Asiatic Russia, July 31; translation from the Siberian press.]

**Railroad Construction.**

To facilitate the use of the northern forests of European and Asiatic Russia and to create conditions favorable to the establishment of large wood-using factories, the Forest Department recommends the construction of the following trunk railway lines: (1) Ob-Ural-White Sea line, 1,014 miles; (2) Sorokskoe-Plessetzkai-Shenkursk-Kotlas line, 472 miles; (3) Ukhta-Shenkursk-Nyandoma-Karnopol-Vitegra-Bajini line, 726 miles; (4) Ussolie-Solikamsk-Tcherdin-Troitzkaya line, 374 miles; (5) Kotlas-Tcherdin line, 366 miles; (6) Saikovo-Tobolsk-Narim-Yenisei line, 1,000 miles.

On June 14 the construction of the Kalchuginsk Railway began. This line will connect with the Altai Railroad at the station Bayanrovo.

**Information Bureau—Mineral Development.**

Large business houses of Petrograd and Moscow, in order to establish regular connections with trading and industrial firms in America, England, and Japan, intend to form a special information bureau with branches in several important points in Siberia, such as Omsk, Tomsk, Irkutsk, Tchita, Blagovyeshtchensk, and Vladivostok.

A 25,000,000-ruble company under the name of the Altai Metallurgical Joint-Stock Co. has been formed to erect in the Tomsk Government iron and steel works and machine shops and to undertake the mining of various minerals.

The Russian Government is undertaking the study of the mineral deposits along the shore line of the Maritime Province. The region from Vladivostok at St. Olga Bay is intrusted to Mr. Annert, who investigated the Saghalien oil fields in 1906-7, and the region to the north of St. Olga is in charge of Mr. Polevoy, who investigated the coal fields of Saghalien. Mr. Polevoy left for St. Olga June 27.

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**AMERICANS ARRIVE AT MAZATLAN WITHOUT PASSPORTS.**

The commanding officer of the U. S. S. *Denver*, in a report to the Navy Department, states that several Americans landing in Mazatlan, Mexico, were not supplied with passports, as required by the Mexican regulations. The matter has been brought to the attention of the State Department. The report from the commanding officer of the *Denver* was as follows:

The French consular agent reports that some of the Americans landing in Mazatlan on August 14 from the steamship *Neuport* were not supplied with the passports which the Mexican regulations require of persons visiting the country. These passports are to be obtained from Mexican consuls in the country of the passenger's origin. Mr. Claisse found himself under the necessity of intervening with the military authorities in behalf of the Americans who were without passports. It is recommended that a report of this occurrence be made to the Treasury Department that steps to prevent its recurrence may be taken.

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The taking of preliminary steps for the organization of a German Chamber of Commerce in Valparaiso, Chile, is reported by Commercial Attaché V. L. Havens under date of August 7.

**LINES TO BE DEVELOPED IN TRADE WITH CHILE.**

[Consul Thomas W. Voetter, Antofagasta, Aug. 8.]

A letter has been received from the secretary and traffic manager of the Board of Harbor Commissioners of Los Angeles, Cal., asking for information with a view to increasing trade between this part of Chile and that section of the United States.

Among the products of the Southwest which are now imported into this section, or which might be imported though now coming from other regions, may be mentioned the following: Cereal products, olives, olive oil, lard, canned fruits and vegetables, dried and evaporated fruits, kerosene, gasoline, fuel oil, canned fish, tea, iron and steel, pipe, lumber, paints and varnishes, soap, hosiery, flour, biscuits, confectionery, condensed milk, cement, chemicals, automobiles and trucks, etc. The sale of many of these will depend on prices, terms, qualities, etc., as compared with other sources of supply. Flour can be imported only when the Chilean wheat crop is short and customs duties are suspended, as in 1915.

**Principal Products of District.**

The products of this district are principally nitrate of soda, copper and copper ores, iodine, and borax. Bolivian products passing through are silver-lead ores, tin ores and bar tin, wolfram ores, antimony ores, and bismuth. Hides come from this district and Bolivia also. Some of the products, such as iodine, borax, and bismuth, are controlled by combinations and exclusive monopolies, and do not freely enter the competitive market.

Steamship service is fair. There are four lines of through boats from New York, operated, respectively, by W. R. Grace & Co., Wessel, Duval & Co., United States Steel Products Co., and Chile Exploration Co. There are also two lines of boats which make connections at Colon with steamers from New York and Europe. They are operated by Cis. Sud Americana de Vapores (Chilean & Pacific Steam Navigation Co.). Three lines which can bring products from the Pacific coast of the United States are operated by W. R. Grace & Co., Toyo Kisen Kaisha, and C. Henry Smith (Inc.). A steamer of the California South Sea Co. is now en route for this coast also. Some of the tank boats of the Union Oil Co. of California have, by special arrangement, taken cargo from this port for California ports. If American merchants could arrange to load and receive cargo at Port San Luis these boats would offer quick passage to this section, though the demand for oil here is so pressing that general cargo probably would not be received if it interfered with or hindered the operations of the vessels in the oil trade.

**Lack of Rainfall Affects Production.**

Practically all products for consumption, such as foods, clothing, industrial material, etc., must be brought in either from other parts of Chile or from foreign countries, as lack of rainfall makes production of most articles of this nature impossible. All things thus bear a transportation cost, but on account of the high local freights from the south of Chile freights from foreign countries do not seem relatively high. This will partly account for the large amount of foreign merchandise sold here in competition with similar Chilean products. The new tariff law which went into effect this year in-



creased many of the import duties, and this will tend to favor some native products more than in the past.

General financial conditions are better than last year. Nitrate plants are producing large quantities of nitrate of soda at prices which give a profit, but general business is not being done in the same optimistic spirit which is stated to have existed before the war. Credits are somewhat reduced and there is little tendency to buy merchandise beyond actual requirements.

#### **Merchandise Subject to Rough Handling.**

In packing merchandise for shipment to all ports in this district it must be remembered that steamers do not go alongside docks but discharge into lighters, sometimes when the sea is rough. The merchandise is thus subject to rough handling. Packing of valuable articles should be done to prevent as much as possible pilfering aboard vessels, on the lighters, and ashore here. As there is but little rainfall, there are very few warehouses with closed roofs, so that merchandise is stored exposed to the sun.

[A list of general importers and exporters in the Antofagasta consular district may be obtained from the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, its district or cooperative offices. Refer to file No. 79954.]

#### **AMERICAN CONSULAR OFFICERS ON LEAVE OF ABSENCE.**

The following American consular officers are on leave of absence in the United States, and will be glad to confer with business men and commercial organizations relative to conditions in their respective jurisdictions. The consul's time is available primarily for personal interviews. He has limited facilities for correspondence, and except in urgent cases letters should be directed to the consulate.

Name.	Post.	Expira- tion of venue.	Address.
Jewell, John F. ....	Chefoo, China .....	Oct. 1	Galena, Ill.
Hazeltine, Ross .....	Port Antonio, Jamaica .....	....do ...	Department of State, Washington, D. C.
Laing, James Oliver .....	Karachi, India .....	Sept. 30	C/o University Club, Kansas City, Mo.
Leonard, Walter A. ....	Colombo, Ceylon .....	Oct. 14	Essex, Iowa.
Osborne, John Ball .....	Havre, France .....	Oct. 21	Department of State, Washington, D. C.
Mansfield, Robert E. ....	Vancouver, Canada .....	Sept. 15	Rushville, Ind.
Pike, William J. ....	St. Gall, Switzerland .....	Nov. 1	Department of State, Washington, D. C.
Armstrong, John S. ....	Bristol, England .....	....do ...	1200 Eutaw Place, Baltimore, Md.
Henry, Frank Anderson .....	Puerto Plata, Do- minican Republic .....	Oct. 1	C/o Hallowell & Henry, 27 Pine Street, New York City.
Masterson, William W. ....	Durban, South Africa .....	Sept. 30	

\* Consul Masterson informs the Bureau that he will be in New York City from Sept. 26 to 30, during which period he will be pleased to meet those interested in South African commercial matters. Communications should be sent to the Bureau's district office, Room 409, Customhouse, New York City.

#### **India's Exports of Manganese Ore.**

In the three months ended with June, 1916, there were exported by sea from British India to foreign countries 153,209 long tons of manganese ore, valued at \$988,815, as against 56,072 tons, valued at \$331,938, in the corresponding quarter of 1915. Of the 1916 shipments 121,013 tons went to the United Kingdom (47,122 tons in April-June, 1915), 12,300 tons to France (4,000 tons in April-June, 1915), 7,300 tons to Italy (4,950 tons in April-June, 1915), and 12,326 tons to the United States (none in April-June, 1915).

**MERCHANDISING COTTON IN RUSSIA.**

[Commercial Attaché Henry D. Baker, Petrograd, June 13.]

In normal times cotton is by far Russia's largest import from the United States representing, in fact, over half the value of all merchandise purchased from that country. This cotton, however, is rarely purchased in the United States; the import business has been negotiated chiefly through firms in Bremen, Germany, and Liverpool, England. At present such intermediary business is arranged entirely at Liverpool. The prices of American cotton are not quoted in terms of American money, but in terms of either British or Russian currency. There are also considerable imports of Egyptian cotton.

When Liverpool firms arrange for a shipment of American cotton to Russia (usually to Moscow), their London banks open up three months' reimbursement credits for the Russian mills. To explain more fully, the American exporters, chiefly in New Orleans or New York, write out three months' bills on the London banks, which accept these drafts against the shipping documents; the shipping documents are sent out by the London banks direct to the Russian mills, which are allowed open clean credits for about two months, so that usually for three or four weeks the banks themselves have nothing in hand. Bremen and Liverpool firms have had representatives in Moscow to attend to their business in American and Egyptian cotton.

**Methods of Financing Shipments.**

In recent years, since the development of the trade in Russian Asiatic cotton, the Russian mills (mostly situated in the vicinity of Moscow) have shown an increasing tendency to buy their American cotton, as well as the Russian Asiatic cotton, in terms of rubles. This tendency has become considerably aided by facilities given by Moscow banks, which now do a great deal of the financing of the cotton imports themselves, and, in fact, may conduct the local sale of the cotton, their functions being much broader than those of American banks. The mills buy cotton of these banks in rubles, the banks arrange the necessary credits in London, receive the shipping documents, and clear the customhouse and other expenses, delivering the goods to the mills, which either pay cash or give their own Russian bills (*lettres de change*). The Russian banks, according to local statutes, have no right to discount bills without indorsements. Consequently the business led to the call for the services of agents who indorsed the bills, and who, in connection with such indorsement, received letters from the banks to the effect that if anything of an unfavorable nature occurred to the mills issuing the bills, they would not be held responsible. As the banks have found it inconvenient in many instances to transact their business with the mills through such agents, they have lately adopted the practice of organizing and financing companies to perform the necessary transactions in cotton. These companies are merely branch offices of the banks, but they have the benefit of statutes to undertake responsibilities denied to the banks themselves.

The conditions created by the war have upset, to a great extent, the normal conditions of giving credits and financing imports. American firms are now extremely particular concerning the signatures for acceptance of their bills, demand the names of the most prominent London banks, and are not satisfied with signatures of

London branches of Russian banks. Moreover, immediate payments must be made in New Orleans or in New York.

**Special Exchange Rates—Reasons for Long Credits.**

Every cotton mill in Russia has the right to import American cotton during the present war time, with Government assistance in arranging exchange and securing cars for transportation, up to certain limits considered reasonable by the cotton committee of the Moscow Exchange. The exchange is arranged through the Credit Chancellery of the Ministry of Finance at Petrograd, and at present amounts to 120 rubles to £10, equaling about 2.50 rubles to one American dollar. The prevailing rate of exchange for unfavored commodities is about 3.15 rubles to the dollar. If the mills import more cotton than is within the limits recommended by the Moscow committee, they receive no Government assistance and have to arrange the exchange themselves at much less favorable rates. Nearly all the American cotton in recent months has arrived by way of Vladivostok. If the quantities imported are not considered excessive by the Moscow committee, this committee wires its agent at Vladivostok to arrange for cars over the trans-Siberian Railroad to transport the cotton to Moscow.

The long credits incident to the merchandising of cotton in Russia have proved necessary, because the cotton mills themselves have to give even longer credits to their customers for textile goods. These customers justify their demands for long credits by the fact that as a rule a long time is required for them to get their goods. In some parts of Siberia, for instance, the goods may be seven or eight months in reaching their destination. A tremendous capital would be required by small dealers if the credit arrangements were not liberal. Improved transportation facilities may have an important bearing on the credit system of Russia, but with the existing transportation conditions the only alternative to long credits is a large number of middlemen.

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**PRODUCTION OF KARAKUL IN RUSSIA.**

[Russian-American Journal of Commerce, September.]

According to the Caucasian papers, the production of karakul in Russia this season exceeded 3,000,000 skins, an increase of 500,000 over the production of last year. Notwithstanding this plentiful supply, the demand is very great and the prices high—14 or 15 rubles (\$7.21 or \$7.73 at the normal exchange rate of \$0.515 to the ruble) per skin. The high prices may be due to the expected prohibition by the Russian Government of the production of karakul, which involves the wanton destruction of the sheep and their young, the meat of which is usually wasted.

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**Returns from Vancouver Exhibition.**

Vice Consul G. C. Woodward, at Vancouver, British Columbia, reports that the profits from the Vancouver exhibition, which was held from August 14 to 19, amounted to \$2,840, the receipts amounting to \$22,172 and the expenditures to \$19,332. The gate receipts amounted to \$12,797.

**SMALL DEMAND FOR VELVETEEN IN MARACAIBO.**

[Consul G. K. Donald, Maracaibo, Venezuela, Aug. 13.]

The principal use for velveteen, small quantities of which are imported into Maracaibo, is for dressing the images of saints in the churches. The favorite color for this purpose is a royal purple. Black velveteen is used for trimming hats; of late there has been a vogue for velveteen hatbands for men's straws. As the official statistics make no distinction between this and other cotton cloth, it is impossible to give the amount of imports, except to say that the quantity brought in is by no means large.

I am told that much the greater proportion of velveteen imported here comes from England in pieces of 10 meters (10.94 yards) in length and 17 to 24 inches in width. (Narrow widths in all textiles are preferred in this market, provided, of course, the price is correspondingly low.) Narrow velveteen ribbon is also sold.

Velveteen is No. 554 of the new tariff and is subject to the seventh class of duty, that is, 5 bolivares per kilo (\$0.438 a pound), but surtaxes increase the charges to 7.8275 bolivares per kilo or \$0.685 per pound. This duty is levied on gross shipping weight. In giving particulars of their goods, manufacturers should state the weight per meter in kilos. [Meter=1.0936 yards or 3.2808 feet; kilo=2.2046 pounds.]

[A list of importers of cotton goods in Maracaibo may be obtained from the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce or its district and cooperative offices; refer to file No. 79871. At the same offices, and under the same file number, may be seen samples of European velveteen on sale in that Venezuelan city.]

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**MINERAL OUTPUT OF SOUTHEASTERN ALASKA.**

The value of the total mineral output of southeastern Alaska for 1915 exceeded \$6,000,000, and included: Gold, \$5,400,000; copper, \$300,000; silver, marble, lead, and gypsum, \$300,000. Most of the gold came from lodes in the vicinity of Juneau. Most of the copper was obtained from lodes in the Ketchikan district. The silver was derived almost entirely from the gold ores, though silver-bearing galena occurs at several places. Most of the marble was quarried in the Ketchikan district; lodes carrying lead ores are known at a number of places, but none of them have yet made any notable production; and the gypsum was mined on Chicagof Island.

A report on "Mining development in southeastern Alaska" has been issued by the United States Geological Survey. A copy of the report (Bulletin 642-B) may be had on application to the United States Geological Survey, Washington, D. C.

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**EFFECTIVE TRADE PROMOTION WORK.**

A foreign buyer writes the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce that through the assistance rendered by the District Office of the Bureau in New York City he has placed an order for \$95,000 worth of chemicals. He states that he had been in the United States several weeks, but had not been able to make purchases of the chemicals until the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce furnished him with the names and addresses of manufacturers who were in position to supply the desired chemicals.

## A NEW PAPER-MAKING MATERIAL FROM INDIA.

[London Chamber of Commerce Journal.]

The possibilities of utilizing the kaing grass of Burma for paper making have for some years past been investigated by persons interested, in consultation with paper manufacturers in this country, and it is now announced that the conversion of this grass into pulp and subsequently into paper can be accomplished in a simple and economical manner. It is expected that arrangements will soon be completed for the collection of the grass, its conversion into pulp, and its shipment in this form to paper makers in the United Kingdom. The yield of unbleached pulp is 39 per cent, calculated on the air-dry grass. This does not compare badly with esparto grass, from which about 43 per cent of unbleached pulp is obtained. Kaing grass grows in great profusions in all parts of Burma, frequently reaching a height of 10 feet. As a paper-making material it may be classed with esparto grass, and is much cheaper, though the quality of the pulp is not quite so good as that obtained with esparto. Esparto grass is to a large extent cultivated, whereas kaing grass grows wild and is sometimes rank and coarse. By systematic cutting, however, over properly preserved areas, a finer grass of uniform quality can be obtained in a very short time.

## MARKET FOR AMERICAN POTATOES.

[Consul Felix S. S. Johnson, Kingston, Canada, Sept. 7.]

There is an opening for American potatoes at Kingston. At this writing the vegetable is selling for \$2 per bushel (60 pounds). The Canadian tariff on potatoes is 20 cents per bushel, with a war tax of  $7\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. The crop in and around Kingston has been a failure owing to the heavy spring rains and the long summer drought.

Firms desiring to make shipments to Kingston will do well to send prices and samples to this consulate.

## SPANISH ELECTRIC-TRAMWAY CONCESSIONS.

[Consular Assistant Bartley F. Yost, Barcelona, Aug. 11.]

A Spanish trade journal reports that the Direction General of Public Works at Madrid has fixed October 7 and 11 for the granting by public sale of the concessions for an electric tramway in Barcelona (known as the Ramal extension to Sans) and a line in Madrid extending from Alcalá to San Diego de León.

## OFFICES OF THE BUREAU OF FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC COMMERCE.

### DISTRICT OFFICES.

NEW YORK: Room 409, Customhouse.  
BOSTON: 1801 Customhouse.  
CHICAGO: 504 Federal Building.  
ST. LOUIS: 402 Third National Bank Building.  
ATLANTA: 521 Post Office Building.  
NEW ORLEANS: 1020 Hibernia Bank Building.  
SAN FRANCISCO: 307 Customhouse.  
SEATTLE: 848 Henry Building.

### COOPERATIVE OFFICES.

CLEVELAND: Chamber of Commerce.  
CINCINNATI: Chamber of Commerce.  
CINCINNATI: C., N. O. & T. P. Ry. Co.  
LOS ANGELES: Chamber of Commerce.  
PHILADELPHIA: Chamber of Commerce.  
CHATTANOOGA: South American Agent, Southern Ry. Co.  
PORTLAND, OREG.: Chamber of Commerce.

## FOREIGN TRADE OPPORTUNITIES.

Reserved addresses may be obtained from the **Bureau** and its **district offices**. Request for each opportunity should be on a separate sheet and **state opportunity number**. The **Bureau** does not furnish credit ratings or assume responsibility as to the standing of foreign inquirers; the usual precautions should be taken in all cases.

*Hardware, sanitary appliances, etc.*, No. 22386.—An American consular officer in France writes that a merchant in his district wishes to form commercial relations with American manufacturers and exporters of all classes of goods used for construction purposes and house fittings, including hardware, sanitary appliances, etc. The man wishes to act on a commission basis. Reference.

*Textiles*, No. 22387.—The Bureau is in receipt of a letter from a business man in the British West Indies, stating that he desires to represent American manufacturers of woolen goods.

*Cement*, No. 22388.—The commercial attaché of the Department of Commerce in Chile transmits the name and address of a man who desires to purchase colored cement for the manufacture of tiles. Correspondence in Spanish.

*Tennis gut*, No. 22389.—An import and export firm on the west coast of the United States informs one of the commercial agents of the Bureau that it desires to find a market for the sale of gut to be used in the manufacture of tennis rackets. Samples of the material may be examined at the Bureau or its district offices. Reference. (Refer to Miscellaneous No. 149.)

*Machinery and tools*, No. 22390.—An American consular officer in Switzerland writes that the owner of a woodworking establishment in his district desires to purchase woodworking machinery and tools suitable for making brushes. Correspondence should be in French or German.

*Celluloid*, No. 22391.—A business man in Italy has requested an American consular officer to supply names and addresses of American manufacturers and exporters of celluloid.

*Tubes*, No. 22392.—A merchant in a neutral European country informs an American consular officer that he desires to purchase galvanized-iron tubes. Quotations should be made f. o. b. New Orleans. Payment will be made against bill of lading or as otherwise agreed. Correspondence may be in English. Reference.

*Drugs, hardware, etc.*, No. 22393.—The Bureau is in receipt of a letter from a merchant in Cuba stating that he desires to represent American manufacturers and exporters of drugs, patent medicines, hardware, novelty goods, and tools. Reference.

*Magnetic steel and sheet metal*, No. 22394.—An American consular officer in Switzerland writes that a firm in his district desires to be put in communication with American exporters of magnetic steel and dynamo sheet metal. Correspondence should be in German.

*Machinery*, No. 22395.—The commercial attaché of the Department of Commerce in Peru writes that a firm in that country desires to receive catalogues and full information relative to looms and other necessary machinery and equipment for the weaving industry. The firm wishes to purchase on the installment plan, the account to run for a period of about three years. It is desired to make cassimere and white cotton goods.

*Thermometers*, No. 22396.—An American consular officer in Italy transmits the name and address of a business man in his district who desires to represent American manufacturers and exporters of clinical thermometers. Correspondence should be in Italian or French. References.

*Machinery*, No. 22397.—A firm in the United States transmits the name and address of its correspondent in Argentina, who is in the market for machinery for the manufacture of linen. Catalogue and full information should be sent at once.

*Paper*, No. 22398.—An American consular officer in France reports that a firm in his district would like to be placed in touch with American manufacturers and exporters of newsprint paper and wrapping and writing paper. Samples, prices, etc., should be sent. Correspondence in French.

SEP 29 1916

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No. 216 Washington, D. C., Thursday, September 14 1916

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## DENMARK'S FINANCES FOR FISCAL YEAR.

[Consul General E. D. Winslow, Copenhagen, Aug. 17.]

The fiscal year of Denmark ends on April 1. The total receipts during the period ended April 1, 1916, have just been made public and amounted to about \$35,000,000 while the expenditures for the same period were some \$47,000,000, leaving a deficit in the budget of \$12,000,000.

The extraordinary expenses of the army and the navy have caused the deficit. These branches of the Government have caused Denmark to put out some \$16,000,000, and if conditions were normal a surplus would have come to the State Treasury. The continued mobilization of the army and navy is costing more than expected.

## JAPAN'S COTTON-CLOTH EXPORTS AT HIGHEST POINT.

[Consul General George H. Seldmore, Yokohama, Aug. 11.]

Japan's exports of cotton yarn have shown a large increase since the latter part of last year. According to the Japan Chronicle's report of investigations made by the Spinning Association, exports of various cotton cloths during the first half of this year amounted in value to \$23,415,072. This figure is unprecedentedly large and shows an increase of \$4,123,467 over the amount for the preceding six months and \$10,966,488 over that of the corresponding period last year.

The highest rate of increase was seen in the exports to India, followed by Siberia, while the exports to the Philippines decreased by about one-half as compared with the preceding half year.

## Exceptions on List of Prohibited Imports into France.

Consul B. Harvey Carroll, jr., at Venice, Italy, reports that the French Government has, at the request of the Royal Ministry of Commerce, made a number of exceptions to the recent regulations forbidding the importation into France of articles of luxury. From the Venice consular district there will be admitted for the quarter ending September 30, 1916, handmade lace amounting to 100 kilos (220 pounds) and glass and glassware amounting to 2,000 quintals (440,920 pounds).

**TRANSPORTATION PROBLEMS IN SÃO PAULO.**

[Vice Consul Robert S. Keiser, São Paulo, Brazil, July 31.]

The President of São Paulo in his recent message to the legislature recommended the leasing by the State government of the principal railways of the State. This matter has been under discussion for several years, and the President regards State control as urgent, in order that the present high freight rates may be lowered. It is stated that foreign investors are inclined to acquire railways which are already in operation, rather than to construct new roads which would aid in the development of the country. In 1915 only 88 miles of railway was constructed, making a total of 3,893 miles of railway in the State. Three-fourths of the whole, or 2,700 miles of railway, is owned by private corporations, 972 miles is owned by the State, and 220 miles by the Federal Government.

**Establishment of Merchant Marine.**

A proposition for the establishment of a special coast and river navigation line in the northern part of the State of São Paulo is under consideration. The President recommends that a merchant marine be established also by the State, either directly or through a corporation to be organized under State control. The present scarcity of ships for the transportation of coffee, and the high rates of tonnage, constitute a serious problem for the coffee shipper.

[A translation of the entire message of the President of São Paulo can be consulted at the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce or its district or cooperative offices. Refer to file No. 90118.]

**SIAMESE HARDWOODS.**

[Indian (Government) Trade Journal, Aug. 4.]

In Siam the rosewoods are worked more particularly from the regions lying northeast and east of Bangkok and are exported in the form of roughly trimmed round logs, the average size of which is 12 to 24 inches in circumference and 80 to 120 inches in length. The rosewood forests have been heavily overexploited, and as the Siamese Government is now taking measures to protect this wood by requiring workers to take out permits and by fixing a minimum girth at which it may be felled, restriction in general output is likely to ensue. The ebony woods are found to the west of Bangkok in the districts of Kanburi, Petchaburi, and to the south toward the Malay Peninsula. They also are exported in the form of roughly trimmed logs 12 to 20 inches in circumference and 80 to 120 inches in length.

The exploitation of these woods is not a regular industry in Siam, but forms one of the desultory occupations of the people when they are not engaged in rice growing. The wood is bought by Chinese, who are either middlemen or agents of Bangkok Chinese firms, and, as it will not float, it is brought to Bangkok by boat or by train. It is sold by weight, the unit for export being usually 100 piculs (about 6 tons), and the average price in Bangkok ranges from \$22 10s. (\$109.50) to £37 10s. (\$182.50) for rosewoods and about £22 10s. per 100 piculs for the ebonies. The ebonies are apparently more uniform in quality than the rosewoods. None of these woods appear to be dealt with in Bangkok in the sawn form.



## RAILWAY CONSTRUCTION IN RUSSIA.

[Weekly Bulletin of Canadian Department of Trade and Commerce, Sept. 4.]

The Canadian commercial agent in Petrograd, in a communication dated July 10, gives the following notes on railway construction in that country:

In the current number of the Russian Official Gazette (Finance, Industry, and Commerce) the policy of the Imperial Government in regard to railway construction is dealt with in some detail. It is frankly recognized that the present war has shown with exceptional force the shortcomings in Russian transport facilities, and has proved the necessity for more railway lines.

On January 1, 1915, the total railway mileage in the Empire is stated to have been 59,000 kilometers (36,700 miles) in European Russia and 11,707 kilometers (7,300 miles) in Asiatic Russia, of which 47,583 kilometers (29,600 miles) are owned by the State and 23,124 kilometers (14,400 miles) by private companies.

An interesting table is provided, which contrasts the Russian mileage with that of other countries in order to show the comparative position which the country occupies in respect to its transportation facilities. Taking the United States, Canada, and Australia as countries bearing a general resemblance to Russia in extent of area and staple products, it is shown that whereas the United States in 1913 had 41.8 kilometers (26 miles) of railway per 10,000 inhabitants, Canada 58.3 kilometers (36.2 miles), and Australia 61.2 kilometers (38 miles) European Russia (including Finland) had only 4.1 kilometers (2.5 miles) and Asiatic Russia 5.8 kilometers (3.6 miles) per 10,000 inhabitants.

### Proposed Railroad Construction.

In the present year a commission was appointed by the Ministry of Ways and Communications, which has drawn up the following program for the next five years: Taking into consideration that the goods traffic of the various railway systems increase annually by nearly 70 per cent, it will be necessary to construct 5,000 versts (3,300 miles) of railway yearly in order to keep pace with this development. The commission therefore decided to recommend the construction of 6,000 versts (4,000 miles) annually in order to provide an adequate margin; of this mileage 4,000 versts (2,650 miles) are to be constructed by the State and 2,000 versts (1,300 miles) to be offered to private enterprise. According to the official estimates, the construction of the 4,000 versts will cost 600,000,000 rubles (\$309,000,000 at the normal exchange rate of \$0.515 to the ruble) on the basis of 150,000 rubles per verst (\$116,000 per mile). This program, it is stated, was confirmed at one of the recent meetings of the Council of Ministers. These new extensions of the railway system are to be commenced next year.

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### Corporation Income Tax for Chosen.

Consul General Ransford S. Miller reports from Seoul, Chosen, that an imperial ordinance of July 21, 1916, extended to Chosen the provisions of that part of the income-tax law of Japan proper imposing an income tax on corporations.

**EXPORTS FROM VANCOUVER TO UNITED STATES.**

[Vice Consul F. C. Woodward, Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada.]

The total exports to the United States, including returned American goods, invoiced at the Vancouver consulate general during the six months ended June 30, 1916, amounted to \$14,891,995, as compared with \$9,123,416 during a similar period of 1915. The returned American goods amounted to \$518,147 and \$556,632, respectively. The following were the principal articles invoiced:

Articles.	Jan.- June, 1915.	Jan.- June, 1916.	Articles.	Jan.- June, 1915.	Jan.- June, 1916.
Animals.....	\$19,858	\$34,106	Junk.....	\$44,591	\$234,413
Animal products.....	300,134	229,426	Liquors.....	2,646	16,917
Brewers' rice grits.....	82,643	92,604	Minerals.....	2,195,821	2,539,595
Bonds.....	100,033	51,830	Wood manufactures.....	3,691,815	3,511,328
Building material.....	27,112	56,041	Steel manufactures, machin- ery, hardware, etc.....	8,855	42,264
Explosives.....	7,323	42,921	Other articles.....	721,009	67,912
Fish, fresh and preserved, and products.....	174,770	243,424	Total.....	8,606,784	14,373,948
Food products.....	248,494	193,664			
Grain and feed.....		24,630			
Household goods and per- sonal effects.....	131,716	111,848			

The returned American goods, with their value, are given below:

Articles.	Jan.- June, 1915.	Jan.- June, 1916.	Articles.	Jan.- June, 1915.	Jan.- June, 1916.
Automobiles and accessories..	\$84,506	\$33,827	Junk.....	\$12,123	\$16,574
Empties.....	11,910	26,471	Steel manufactures, machin- ery, hardware, etc.....	65,310	148,557
Explosives.....	175,001	11,928	Other.....	52,302	55,048
Fish, fresh.....	142,520	188,221	Total returned Ameri- can goods.....	556,632	518,147
Food products.....	7,545	33,887			
Household goods, and person- al effects.....	5,615	3,634			

Of the exports under animals, cattle amounted to \$30,362, the place of origin being either British Columbia or the Prairie Provinces.

**Principal Items of Animal Products—Brewers' Rice Grits, etc.**

The principal items under animal products are furs, hides, and wool, amounting, respectively, to \$57,915, \$130,551, and \$29,116 in the 1916 period, and \$31,982, \$211,717, and \$34,251 in the 1915 period, the remaining items comprising blood, casings, fertilizer, glue stock, horns, hoofs, and bones, and tallow and greases, all products of British Columbia.

The item "brewers' rice grits" is the product of a local milling company, the rice being imported from Japan.

The items under building material are chiefly fire brick and clay and lime and limerock, manufactured locally from British Columbia products.

**American Purchases of Fish—Food Products.**

The total fresh fish, including returned American goods and manifested, amounted to \$360,977 in the first six months of 1916 and \$260,666 in 1915, while the preserved fish amounted to \$51,624 and \$56,624, respectively. With fresh fish the larger items are halibut

and salmon, the smaller comprising cod, herring, and sturgeon, while the preserved fish are herring and salmon. A large proportion of the fresh fish are exported by a prominent American fishing company, operating fishing vessels, under both American and Canadian register, in Alaskan, Canadian, and international waters, a market for the majority of the catch being found in the eastern cities of the United States.

Under food products the exports of breadstuffs amounted to \$91,548 in 1916, as compared with \$162,903 in 1915, a decrease of \$71,355. Of these totals, flour, a local product, in 1916 amounted to \$27,453, and in 1915 \$4,595, while rice, which is imported from Japan and cleaned in Vancouver, amounted to \$64,095 in 1916 and \$157,198 in 1915.

Another item is vegetables, amounting to \$28,430 for the first six months of 1916 and \$31,020 in 1915. The total food products amounted to \$227,551 and \$255,299, respectively. Of the returned American goods in 1916, \$28,537, comprising damaged canned pineapple, and \$4,126 fresh fruits returned on account of failure to pass inspection of Dominion officials.

#### **Household Goods Certified—Junk and Minerals.**

Household goods show a decrease for the 1916 period of \$21,849, amounting in that year to \$115,482, and \$137,331 in 1915. While a large percentage of the household goods exported originated in the United States, they were invoiced as foreign goods in all cases where they have been in use abroad for over one year, in order to facilitate the entry of shipments.

The exports under junk show a heavy increase over the previous year, amounting in 1916 to \$140,986, as against \$56,714 in 1915. This increased demand for junk is caused by the present war, and the exports would have been much greater had it not been for the Dominion laws prohibiting the exportation of certain classes of this commodity.

Minerals which are all products of British Columbia are by far the largest item of export invoiced, amounting to \$9,520,565 during the first six months of 1916 and \$3,195,821 in the 1915 period, the increase being largely caused by the closing of the agency at Nelson last year, through which office the ores of that section of the Province were invoiced. The principal items are gold and silver bullion, copper blister and matte, and gold concentrates.

#### **Shipments of Wood, Steel, and Other Manufactures.**

Wood manufactures include \$230,501 worth of logs in the 1916 period and \$325,318 in 1915; \$711,617 worth of lumber in 1916 and \$858,687 in 1915; \$569,171 worth of paper in 1916 and \$419,910 in 1915; \$89,828 worth of pulp in 1916 and \$90,665 in 1915; and \$1,850,525 worth of shingles in 1916 and \$1,743,274 in 1915. All wood manufactures are products of this Province.

The articles under the heading of steel manufactures, machinery, hardware, etc., are made up principally of railway contracting outfits returned to the United States on the completion of contracts in British Columbia and amounted in the first six months of 1916 to \$190,811, and in the 1915 period to \$74,165.

**JAPANESE SERVICE TO PHILIPPINES AND DUTCH INDIES.**

[Consul B. S. Bairden, Batavia, Java, June 24.]

The Japanese line, Osaka Shosen Kaisha, started a new monthly service the beginning of April between Japanese and Formosan ports and Manila, other ports in the Philippine Islands, Menado, Macassar, and Java.

The first steamer of the new line, the *Niitaka Maru*, arrived at Soerabaya about May 15, and had on board a party of some 60 Japanese, among them several influential men, who visited Java and other parts of the colony to study trade conditions and to endeavor to increase trade between Japan and the Dutch East Indies. The party was in the charge of Dr. Nitobe, professor of agriculture in the Tokio Imperial University. Former Japanese Consul Ukita, of Batavia, was one of the leaders.

The principal members of the party landed at Soerabaya and traveled overland by rail to Samarang and Batavia, studying the industries of Java on their trip. They were received by the governor general and were entertained at Batavia by the chamber of commerce. They were shown every courtesy throughout their trip to the Dutch East Indies.

**Expects Results in Increased Trade.**

Mr. Ukita, with a few of the party, proceeded on to Australia. He called at the American consulate in Batavia and expressed satisfaction at the manner in which the visitors had been received by the officials and the mercantile community. He said he fully believed it would lead to an increase of trade between the Dutch East Indies and Japan.

The *Niitaka Maru* arrived at Batavia May 29, leaving again on the 31st with most of the Japanese party for Singapore, French Indo-China, Hongkong, and Japanese ports.

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**USE OF DYE IN BUTTER.**

[Consul Wesley Frost, Cork, Ireland, Aug. 17.]

There are two industries in the Cork district that might consume considerable quantities of yellow dye. Cork is one of the leading butter markets of the world and has latterly become a margarin-producing center. These manufacturers have had difficulty in securing dyes of a sufficiently concentrated and powerful character. Their chief sources have been Scandinavia, and American dyes have been found uneconomical in quality as related to price, even now that war conditions have increased the price of the north European dyes. The Danish and Swedish exporters also have been willing to grant the usual terms of credit here, namely, payment after 30 or 60 days from receipt of goods, with a discount of 5 per cent for payment in 30 days and 2½ per cent for payment in 60 days. These exporters have satisfied themselves as to the financial standing of Cork firms and have conducted their transactions accordingly. They quote prices c. i. f. Cork. Most of the dyes are secured through Belfast and Dublin importers, but there are some direct purchasers in this district.

[A list of margarin manufacturers in Cork can be obtained at the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, its district or cooperative offices. Refer to file No. 80089.]

**MOLASSES DISTILLATE AS A MOTOR FUEL.**

[Louisiana Planter and Sugar Manufacturer, Sept. 9.]

There has been organized in Natal, South Africa, a company under the title of South African Natalite Motor Spirit Co. It has a capital of £75,000, or \$375,000, and it is expected to build a complete plant, including all the necessary buildings required to make in the aggregate 2,000,000 gallons of natalite per annum and to do this at the rate of 6,000 gallons per day. The recently rising prices of gasoline are doubtless what have led to these efforts to make a distillate at a sufficiently low cost to become a direct competitor of gasoline.

Experiments were made in Natal with a 22-horsepower car weighing some 3,600 pounds. The car was tested over several routes, the total distance covered being slightly more than 500 miles. The roads were said to have been heavy during two days and fine during the rest of the time. In this case the amount of this new motor fluid or spirit used was 30.59 gallons, or an average of 16.4 miles per gallon, or 26.2 ton-miles per gallon. The engine on all occasions started easily, whether cold or warm. The valve caps and valve heads were found to be very clean after the trial. The rest of the engine was not dismantled.

Alcohol has been experimented with for a long time, and experimented with in direct competition with gasoline, but in the United States gasoline has been thought to be the cheaper of the two products, all things considered. In the present instance, however, better results have been obtained there than elsewhere. A large percentage of the alcohol is said to be converted into ether, thereby reducing the density and increasing the volatility. Corrosion was overcome by the use of an alkali, which during the process of combustion neutralized the acids produced by the alcohol and ether. The distillate is apparently quite promising, and we shall doubtless hear more of it later on.

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**OUTPUT OF MINERALS IN THE URALS.**

[British (Government) Board of Trade Journal.]

The British vice consul at Ekaterinburg, Russia, reports that the outlook for platinum mining in the Urals would seem to foreshadow an even smaller production this year than in 1915. The abnormal scarcity of the mineral habitually brought in and sold by the small holders at Ekaterinburg has tended to make these people (remembering last year's rapid price fluctuations) very cautious, and most of them now prefer to pledge their mineral with the banks with the idea of waiting for higher prices. The prices ruling at present (June, 1916) are 67,500 rubles per pood (\$963 per pound at the normal exchange rate of \$0.515 to the ruble) for quantities up to 10 pounds. Larger quantities—1 pood (36.11 pounds) and over—are unobtainable under 68,000 to 68,500 rubles per pood (\$970 to \$977 per pound). Future prices are largely dependent on the quantities allowed by the Government to be exported, for the internal consumption in Russia is not sufficient to influence prices.

The production of asbestos in the Urals in 1915 amounted to 8,689 short tons, or about half of the output in 1914. The sulphuric pyrites mined in the Urals in 1915 amounted to 39,400 tons, the district of Ekaterinburg being responsible for the whole production.

**PANAMA CANAL COALING STATION AT CRISTOBAL.**

[Consul Julius D. Dreher, Colon, Aug. 31.]

The contract for building the Panama Canal Coaling Station at Cristobal, Canal Zone, was awarded about three years ago to a New Jersey contractor. The various parts of the plant and equipment manufactured in the United States were brought to Cristobal a year later and the work of building the station was begun. The station, which is now practically completed, has so far stood satisfactorily the several official tests required, and it is nearly ready to be formally turned over to the Panama Canal authorities who have already been using it to some extent.

**Covers Large Area—Coal Handling Facilities.**

This coaling station is said to be the largest single coal receiving and distributing plant in the world. It is 1,800 feet long by 460 feet wide, and covers nearly 20 acres. The area set apart for the coal pile is 1,700 feet long by 307 feet wide. The offshore end is excavated to the depth of 27 feet below the water line for a distance of 500 feet for the wet storage of 100,000 tons of coal. Over this wet-storage space coal will be piled to the depth of 35 feet, and over the remaining 1,200 feet coal will be stacked to the depth of 33 feet. The dry-storage capacity of the station is 385,000 tons and the wet-storage 100,000 tons, making a total of 485,000 tons of coal, exclusive of a 1,500-ton wharf bunker.

This large station is intended to receive and store water-borne run-of-mine coal and deliver it to colliers, barges, railway cars, and into the deck hatches of all types of steamships using the canal. For conveying the coal there is built all around the pile a steel viaduct 29 feet high, on which are two separate loops of electric railway 3 feet wide. To operate the plant to its full capacity of 2,000 tons an hour 88 steel conveyer cars are required for use on this viaduct.

For unloading coal there are four steel towers of skeleton steeple type, each having a grab bucket of 2½ tons capacity operated by a hoisting and a trolley engine, supported on 16 wheels running on two 3-foot gauge tracks 34 feet 6 inches from center to center. These four unloaders dig coal from colliers and other vessels at a combined rate of 1,000 tons an hour and discharge it into the conveyer cars.

The coal pile is spanned by two steel duplex stocking and reclaiming bridges, each having a stocking capacity of 1,000 tons an hour and an equal reclaiming capacity, making a joint capacity of 2,000 tons an hour. The bridges are 315 feet long and weigh, with equipment, 1,400 tons each. These bridges, which have tracks for receiving cars from and delivering them to the viaduct tracks, are supported at each end on thirty-two 33-inch steel car wheels, on which the bridges may be moved along the entire length of the storage space in order to enable the cars to discharge coal on any part of the storage pile. Coal is reclaimed from storage by means of one or more of four bridge diggers, two of which are mounted on each of the stocking and reclaiming bridges, and so arranged as to move along the upper chord of the bridges and reclaim coal from any part of the storage pile by means of 5-ton grab buckets operated by a two-motor hoist, which discharges the coal into the conveyer cars. The normal capacity of each digger is 500 tons.

**Reloaders or Delivery Machines—Electric Power.**

The four reloaders or delivery machines are pyramidal steel towers supported on 16 wheels running on two 3-foot gauge tracks 26 feet from center to center. Each delivery machine has an inclined belt conveyer parallel to the quay wall and leading up from a trailing hopper truck which receives coal from the cars dumping through the viaduct. This inclined belt feeds another belt conveyer carried in a hinged boom which extends out at a right angle to the wharf about 30 feet over the water and discharges over the end through a telescopic chute into the vessel. By means of electric motors the operator in charge moves the tower along the wharf and controls the position of the conveyer boom and the telescopic chute. The rubber conveyer belts, 42 inches wide, run upward supported on wooden rollers so arranged as to shape the belt into a concave form in order to hold the coal. The feeder can be regulated to operate at six different speeds, giving a capacity of from 50 to 600 tons an hour for each reloader.

With the exception of the unloading towers, which are operated by steam, the station uses electric power to operate all its machinery, conveyer cars, etc. The transformer station receives the current at 2,300 volts, 3-phase, 25 cycles, from the Gatun Spillway hydro-electric power station, about 6 miles south, and transforms it to 440 volts for power and 110 volts for lighting.

**Cost of Coaling Station—Limited Supplies of Coal.**

The cost of building the coaling station at Cristobal is estimated to be \$3,000,000. The Balboa station, which is being built by the same contractor, will be completed in a few months. It will have about one-half the capacity of the Cristobal plant.

Although in the last two months ships have been receiving coal from the Cristobal station by means of lighters, the *Otaki*, a freight ship of 12,000 tons, of the New Zealand Shipping Co., on its way from Liverpool, via Norfolk, Va., to Auckland, which was coaled on August 30, was the first vessel to receive coal directly from the reloaders at the wharf of the station. It was interesting to watch with what ease and precision all the machinery worked in coaling this ship, which took 500 tons of coal. By a strange coincidence on that day the Governor of Panama issued a notice to the effect that owing to the difficulty of obtaining coal in sufficiently large quantities to meet all demands ships would be furnished at present with only enough coal to meet the actual needs in each case.

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**PRIBILOF ISLANDS SEAL HERD COUNTED.**

The United States Bureau of Fisheries, which has taken a census of the fur seals on the Pribilof Islands by the counting of the pups, has announced the following figures as showing the result of the enumeration: St. Paul Island—Harems, 2,948; breeding females, 98,855; idle bulls, 2,278; live pups, 96,685; dead pups, 2,170. St. George Island—Harems, 552; breeding females, 18,122; idle bulls, 354; live pups, 17,810; dead pups, 312.

The number of pups born, which is equivalent to the number of breeding females, was 13,450 more than in the previous season.

## IMPORTS AND EXPORTS BY COUNTRIES.

The total values of merchandise imported from and exported to each of the principal countries during July and the seven months ended with July, 1916, compared with corresponding periods of the preceding year, have just been made public by the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce of the Department of Commerce. They are as follows:

Grand divisions and countries.	Month of July—		7 months ended July—	
	1916	1915	1916	1915
<b>IMPORTS FROM—</b>				
Grand divisions:				
Europe.....	\$44,229,415	\$38,578,238	\$388,798,538	\$313,247,179
North America.....	59,797,375	47,281,316	403,246,099	308,292,778
South America.....	29,830,873	21,125,472	255,153,433	177,168,203
Asia.....	42,497,845	25,355,687	301,378,698	152,579,064
Oceania.....	3,725,585	7,268,023	68,565,016	36,222,622
Africa.....	2,641,845	3,636,001	50,677,790	21,544,692
Total.....	182,722,938	143,244,737	1,467,819,574	1,000,064,438
Principal countries:				
Austria-Hungary.....	38,048	75,132	496,308	4,427,107
Belgium.....	228,020	11,176	764,049	1,095,006
France.....	7,472,056	5,315,185	65,771,164	39,455,431
Germany.....	407,933	681,638	4,813,452	36,094,699
Italy.....	4,542,087	3,492,406	38,724,073	31,801,721
Netherlands.....	2,565,928	2,199,804	25,846,937	15,440,148
Norway.....	344,386	600,205	3,571,538	3,957,792
Russia in Europe.....	342,722	141,056	1,854,679	472,249
Spain.....	2,350,327	2,175,629	18,781,398	9,434,192
Sweden.....	1,242,466	971,403	7,090,183	6,345,918
Switzerland.....	1,522,261	1,854,544	12,737,738	10,604,945
United Kingdom.....	21,553,130	20,383,051	194,519,365	143,201,770
Canada.....	19,509,508	14,739,062	116,700,232	85,506,359
Mexico.....	6,375,256	9,439,636	61,268,295	50,207,521
Cuba.....	24,758,466	19,037,349	175,914,509	138,763,971
Argentina.....	7,557,261	5,667,182	74,763,582	65,038,677
Brazil.....	5,435,864	5,607,497	72,951,960	60,558,904
Chile.....	7,916,662	4,566,229	50,728,364	20,477,115
China.....	6,614,063	4,376,577	48,860,401	27,905,393
British East Indies.....	17,722,543	10,194,681	125,472,778	50,918,676
Japan.....	12,249,472	9,409,549	94,858,776	52,689,788
Australia and New Zealand.....	1,216,869	3,973,007	49,485,662	22,733,443
Philippine Islands.....	2,278,391	2,944,289	17,144,617	12,437,979
Egypt.....	541,069	1,717,929	24,968,322	13,740,432
<b>EXPORTS TO—</b>				
Grand divisions:				
Europe.....	313,194,352	180,070,714	2,020,441,297	1,461,565,308
North America.....	73,291,448	48,646,824	482,749,621	284,022,081
South America.....	21,168,796	12,544,496	117,070,090	73,117,935
Asia.....	24,464,119	12,858,062	220,345,205	79,978,561
Oceania.....	9,621,234	11,629,549	58,465,156	52,723,638
Africa.....	3,732,528	2,719,067	26,249,994	18,864,664
Total.....	445,472,467	268,468,702	2,926,221,372	1,970,277,207
Principal countries:				
Austria-Hungary.....		16,842	68,385	36,636
Belgium.....	1,806,996	735,623	12,097,530	12,566,506
Denmark.....	3,185,224	3,800,009	30,866,756	49,326,129
France.....	80,918,252	42,638,147	472,285,081	304,128,720
Germany.....	1,053,321	96,348	1,118,233	11,649,767
Greece.....	1,261,735	1,611,262	20,863,456	16,902,731
Italy.....	15,960,686	13,853,651	137,542,339	134,639,573
Netherlands.....	7,317,543	4,574,172	60,960,653	101,957,438
Norway.....	4,700,624	2,636,626	35,732,550	26,221,686
Russia in Europe.....	36,818,963	18,548,175	124,661,904	48,926,665
Spain.....	3,136,711	2,881,390	33,326,618	26,000,107
Sweden.....	2,103,853	3,208,897	23,047,992	57,445,267
United Kingdom.....	152,742,105	84,123,364	1,048,520,721	660,279,440
Canada.....	56,087,367	29,494,175	316,853,796	174,422,195
Central America.....	3,488,885	3,805,264	25,244,541	20,509,631
Mexico.....	3,069,330	3,863,624	38,039,573	21,577,939
Cuba.....	12,783,839	8,010,790	82,410,096	46,333,954
Argentina.....	7,808,484	4,755,212	42,862,347	26,566,429
Brazil.....	4,220,625	2,188,253	26,382,803	17,022,029



Grand divisions and countries.	Month of July—		6 months ended July—	
	1916	1915	1916	1915
<b>EXPORTS TO—continued.</b>				
<b>Principal countries—Continued.</b>				
Chile.....	\$3,493,724	\$1,971,557	\$16,457,484	\$8,461,779
China.....	2,224,846	2,038,717	16,763,313	11,808,180
British East Indies.....	2,877,028	2,647,901	15,391,709	11,525,030
Japan.....	7,394,937	4,812,646	57,537,202	25,538,626
Russia in Asia.....	9,537,457	1,385,931	114,069,162	19,380,827
Australia and New Zealand.....	8,305,410	8,918,091	45,034,269	35,273,362
Philippine Islands.....	1,211,547	2,602,326	12,513,276	16,322,429
British Africa.....	2,536,508	1,974,699	17,151,535	12,904,084

### PROPOSED PERUVIAN BUDGET FOR 1917.

The Congress of Peru has under consideration the proposed budget for the fiscal year 1917, which was presented by the executive through the Ministry of the Treasury. In preparing the budget, an effort was made to reduce expenditures in all departments as much as practicable. The proposed appropriations for the various branches of the Government are as follows, the amounts being in Peruvian pounds, which are now quoted at par, \$4.8665: Ministry of Fomento, £198,736; Foreign Relations, £58,667; Government, £553,749; Justice, £554,565; Legislative, £108,322; Treasury, £1,296,589; War and Marine, £641,609; total expenditures, £3,412,237.

The estimated revenues are based on the actual receipts during the first half of the present fiscal year, with the exception of revenues provided for in recent laws, such as the taxes on inheritances and mineral export duties. No revenue is estimated from the opium monopoly this year, as it is the desire of the Executive to prohibit the sale of this drug except for medicinal purposes. The estimated revenues are as follows: Maritime customs duties, £852,680; fluvial duties, £66,000; export duties on agricultural and mineral products, £296,890; taxes, £812,587; monopolies, £774,500; post office, £105,100; telegraph, £32,000; wireless, £1,500; impost on circular checks, £23,000; education funds, £161,500; various revenues, £286,480; total revenues, £3,412,237.

### DELAY IN COLLECTING FISH FROM OVERFLOWED LANDS.

The collection of fish from the overflowed lands along the Mississippi and Illinois Rivers by the United States Bureau of Fisheries this season has been greatly delayed by the unusually prolonged hot weather as well as by the high water encountered during the same period. Seining operations were not undertaken until August 15, and since then it has been found difficult to successfully transfer fish from the seining grounds to points where the Bureau's cars could be loaded. Great numbers of desirable fishes are stranded on the overflowed lands and are being transferred to the main channels of the rivers as rapidly as the operating crews can handle them, but distributions to distant points will be considerably delayed over former years until the weather cools sufficiently for hardening the fish.

**FOREIGN TARIFFS.****ARGENTINA.**

[Consul General W. H. Robertson, Buenos Aires, Apr. 28.]

**Duties on Petroleum Products.**

It was provided by an Argentine decree of February 19, 1916, that the tariff classifications established for petroleum products by the decree of July 17, 1915 (see Foreign Tariff Notes No. 19, p. 45) should come into effect March 1, 1916, and certain changes were made in the duties applicable to a number of these products. The official valuation prescribed under tariff No. 3183 (ligroin and similar products and unrectified benzine) is reduced from 0.10 to 0.05 peso per kilo, the rate of duty remaining 27 per cent, including surtax. Gas oils not entitled to free admission (formerly classified under No. 3270) are to be dutiable at 5 per cent ad valorem. The official valuation of naphtha or crude petroleum (tariff No. 45) is reduced from 0.10 to 0.03 peso per kilo, and residues of crude petroleum imported exclusively for use as fuel are assimilated to the foregoing. Products dutiable under No. 45 are exempt from duty.

[Consul General W. H. Robertson, Buenos Aires, May 31.]

**Further Changes in Classification of Petroleum Products.**

The provisions of the decree of July 17, 1915, reclassifying petroleum products have been amended by a decree dated March 27, 1916. Free admission is now authorized in the case of gas and shale oils imported by gas companies for carbureting purposes, distilling not more than 20 per cent of their volume up to 300° C. (Engler process), and those distilling more than 20 per cent, the products of which have a greater density than 0.83 at 15°. The classification under tariff No. 3270 of gas and shale oils not imported as above described has been discontinued. Under the heading, "Ligroin and similar products" (No. 3183) are to be classified hydrocarbons of a density not exceeding 0.78 and distilling not less than 90 per cent of their volume up to 180° C. (Engler process).

**CANADA.**

[Vice Consul G. C. Woodward, Vancouver, B. C., Aug. 11.]

**Reduction in Percentage of Moisture in Evaporated Apples.**

Under section 26 of the Adulteration Act, Department of Inland Revenue, establishing the standards of quality for fruit and fruit products admitted to Canada, it is provided that evaporated apples shall not contain more than 27 per cent of moisture. This has been amended under date of March 20, 1916, providing that evaporated apples shall not contain more than 25 per cent of moisture. This will probably be of interest to American exporters, as a considerable quantity of dried fruits are imported from the United States, and in some cases it has been necessary to return shipments on account of noncompliance with the requirements of this act.

I am informed by the local collector of customs that no allowance will be made for absorption en route, and that while in some cases a fraction of 1 per cent over the amount stated has been allowed, in future the act will be rigidly adhered to.

[For other regulations governing standards for fruit and fruit products, see Foreign Tariff Notes No. 9, p. 54.]

PANAMA.

[Gaceta Oficial, June 2.]

Regulations for Reimported Goods.

A presidential decree of April 1, 1916, prescribes the manner in which foreign goods may be reimported into Panama without the payment of import duty after being returned to the country of origin for repairs or for substitution. Those desiring to send abroad imported articles to be repaired or replaced by similar goods of the same value should obtain from the customs authorities of the port of shipment a permit containing the following data: Kind of merchandise, value, origin, quantity, condition, name of consignee, and of the vessel by which shipment is made. This certificate should be signed by the consignee and viséed by a consular officer of Panama at the port of destination and upon the return of the goods must be presented by the importer before the free admission of the articles will be allowed. The decree states that these regulations shall be also applicable to containers of exported products, which are to be reimported into Panama.

UNION OF SOUTH AFRICA.

[Union Gazette Extraordinary, June 15.]

Tariff and Excise Changes.

The tariff changes in the Union of South Africa enacted in 1915 (see COMMERCE REPORTS, July 10, 1916, and Foreign Tariff Notes No. 17, p. 127) have been continued in force and certain other changes in customs and internal-revenue duties have been made, according to the terms of act 37 of 1916. The present act is limited in duration to June 30, 1917, unless extended within that period. As previously stated, the general rate of 20 per cent ad valorem on articles not specified in the tariff is continued, and there is a horizontal increase of 2 shillings 6 pence per gallon in the duties on spirits of all kinds specified in tariff No. 44. There is also an additional internal tax of 2 shillings 6 pence per gallon on spirits, and previous increases in other excise taxes are continued.

The following new items have been added to the schedule of import duties:

Tariff No.	Articles.	Rate of duty.	
		General.	British preferential.
8a	Calcium carbide.....per 100 pounds..	£02s. 6d.	£0 2s.
26a	Fuse (except electric).....per pound..	£00s. 1½d.	£0 0s. 1½d.
98a	Ferrosilicon, in bulk.....ad valorem..	3 per cent.	Free.
135a	Tar and tar oil, creosote and creosote oil, in bulk.....do.....	3 per cent.	Do.
178a	Oil seeds and nuts, namely, palm nuts, groundnuts, mafeura beans, soya beans, and cotton seed, for the manufacture of oil.....	Free.....	Do.

Most of these articles were previously not specified in the tariff and were dutiable at 20 per cent ad valorem, with a reduction of 3 per cent ad valorem on the products of the United Kingdom and reciprocating British colonies.

A number of changes in tariff classification have also been made. Detonators, formerly dutiable at 20 per cent ad valorem as articles

not specified, are now assimilated to blasting compounds, dutiable at 2½ pence per pound. Certain changes have been made in the classification of printed matter and stationery. Scrap metal is added to No. 117 and is subject to a duty of 3 per cent, and partly manufactured iron and steel to be completed or further manufactured in the Union have also been classified under this item. To the free list have been added, in addition to the articles mentioned above, whale oil (No. 178) and osiers (No. 184).

### AMERICAN CONSULAR OFFICERS ON LEAVE OF ABSENCE.

The following American consular officers are on leave of absence in the United States, and will be glad to confer with business men and commercial organizations relative to conditions in their respective jurisdictions. The consul's time is available primarily for personal interviews. He has limited facilities for correspondence, and except in urgent cases letters should be directed to the consulate.

Name.	Post.	Expiration of leave.	Address.
Jewell, John F.....	Chefoo, China.....	Oct. 1	Galena, Ill.
Hazeltine, Ross.....	Port Antonio, Jamaica.....	do	Department of State, Washington, D. C.
Laing, James Oliver.....	Karachi, India.....	Sept. 30	C/o University Club, Kansas City, Mo.
Leonard, Walter A.....	Colombo, Ceylon.....	Oct. 14	Essex, Iowa.
Osborne, John Ball.....	Havre, France.....	Oct. 21	Department of State, Washington, D. C.
Mansfield, Robert E.....	Vancouver, Canada.....	Sept. 15	Rushville, Ind.
Pike, William J.....	St. Gall, Switzerland.....	Nov. 1	Department of State, Washington, D. C.
Armstrong, John S.....	Bristol, England.....	do	1200 Eutaw Place, Baltimore, Md.
Henry, Frank Anderson.....	Puerto Plata, Dominican Republic.....	Oct. 1	C/o Hallowell & Henry, 27 Pine Street, New York City.
Masterson, William W.....	Durban, South Africa.....	Sept. 30	

\* Consul Masterson informs the Bureau that he will be in New York City from Sept. 26 to 30, during which period he will be pleased to meet those interested in South African commercial matters. Communications should be sent to the Bureau's district office, Room 409, Customhouse, New York City.

### HAITIAN PRODUCTION OF SISAL.

[Special Agent Garrard Harris.]

There is some distribution of the *Agave sisalana* in Haiti, the plants having come originally from the Bahamas. The fiber is utilized to some extent by the natives in the making of cordage, rope, hammocks, and mats and, tightly twisted together and sewed, as soles for the alpagatas, as the cloth-topped sandals are called. In the Port de Paix district and about St. Marc small quantities of sisal fibers are bought from the natives and exported to Europe in ordinary times.

There is no attempt to produce these fibers commercially in Haiti as yet, although one man in Port au Prince, who has recently acquired considerable areas of semiarid limestone and coral rock land on the south side of the island, has under consideration the setting out of several hundred acres of sisal as an experiment.

Vice Consul G. C. Woodward reports that Vancouver's building permits for the month of August totaled \$620,879, as compared with \$156,455 in July, 1916, and \$55,320 in August, 1915.

**PROPOSALS FOR GOVERNMENT SUPPLIES AND CONSTRUCTION.**

[Correspondence should be direct with the offices named, and specifications can usually be obtained at the points where the goods are to be delivered or the work is to be performed. In cases where the time limit is too short to permit firms to submit tenders, they should ask to be placed on the mailing lists of such offices to receive notices calling for future supplies or work of a similar nature.]

**Books, No. 3578.**—Sealed proposals will be received at the Medical Supply Depot, United States Army, 543 Greenwich Street, New York, N. Y., until September 18, 1916, for furnishing and delivering a number of medical and scientific textbooks. Further information may be had on application to the above office.

**Riprap, No. 3579.**—Sealed proposals will be received by the lighthouse inspector, Tompkinsville, N. Y., until September 29, 1916, for furnishing and placing riprap for foundation for Hunts Point Light, Hunts Point, N. Y. Information will be furnished on application to above office.

**Construction of dock, No. 3580.**—Sealed proposals will be received at the Bureau of Yards and Docks, Navy Department, Washington, D. C., until October 21, 1916, for constructing a concrete dry dock at the navy yard, Norfolk, Va. Plans and specifications may be obtained on application to the Bureau of Yards and Docks.

**Construction of canals, No. 3581.**—Sealed proposals will be received at the office of the United States Reclamation Service, St. Ignatius, Mont., until October 10, 1916, for the construction of canals and structures on the Flathead project, Montana. For particulars address the Reclamation Service, Washington, D. C.; Denver, Colo.; or St. Ignatius, Mont.

**Excavators, No. 3582.**—Sealed proposals will be received at the office of the United States Reclamation Service, Denver, Colo., until October 2, 1916, for furnishing drag-line excavators. For particulars address the above office.

**Repair of light vessel, No. 3583.**—Sealed proposals will be received by the lighthouse inspector, Portland, Oreg., until September 22, 1916, for docking, cleaning, painting, and repairing relief light vessel No. 92. Information will be furnished on application to above office.

**Cartridges, No. 3584.**—Sealed proposals will be received at the office of the Chief of Ordnance, United States Army, Washington, D. C., until October 11, 1916, for furnishing and delivering 50,000,000 rounds of ball cartridges. Specifications may be had on application to the above office.

**Medical supplies, No. 3585.**—Sealed proposals will be received at the Medical Supply Depot, United States Army, 543 Greenwich Street, New York, N. Y., until September 18, 1916, for furnishing and delivering Aiken's tonic pills, Copaiba balsam, solution basins, dressing forceps, test glasses, mattresses, silver probes, eye spuds, and test tubes. Specifications may be had on application to the above office.

**Light vessel chain, No. 3586.**—Sealed proposals will be received by the lighthouse inspector, Tompkinsville, N. Y., until September 28, 1916, for furnishing six 15-fathom pieces 1½-inch stud link light vessel chains. Information may be had on application to the above office.

**Aeroplanes, No. 3587.**—Sealed proposals will be received at the office of the Chief Signal Officer, War Department, Washington, D. C., for furnishing military training (primary) aeroplanes. Specifications may be obtained by applying to the above office.

**Gun carriages, No. 3588.**—Sealed proposals will be received at the office of the Chief of Ordnance, United States Army, Washington, D. C., until October 9, 1916, for furnishing and delivering f. o. b. train, contractor's works, eighteen 12-inch barbette carriages, model of 1917. Specifications may be obtained by applying to the above office.

**Hardware, No. 3589.**—Sealed proposals will be received at the office of the Chief Signal Officer, War Department, Washington, D. C., until September 27, 1916, for furnishing the Signal Corps with brake shoes, singletrees, bolts, clutch rings, terminal blocks, doubletrees, and wrenches. Specifications and drawings may be had on application to the above office.

**Gun carriages, No. 3590.**—Sealed proposals will be received at the office of the Chief of Ordnance, United States Army, Washington, D. C., until October 9, 1916, for furnishing and delivering f. o. b. train, contractor's works, twenty-one 8-inch antiaircraft mounts, model of 1917. Specifications may be had on application to above office.

## FOREIGN TRADE OPPORTUNITIES.

Reserved addresses may be obtained from the Bureau and its district offices. Request for each opportunity should be on a separate sheet and state opportunity number. The Bureau does not furnish credit ratings or assume responsibility as to the standing of foreign inquirers; the usual precautions should be taken in all cases.

*Cotton goods, hosiery*, No. 22399.—A firm in the United States desires to secure, for transmittal to its correspondents in Cuba, quotations and literature on cotton goods, hosiery, etc.

*Carriage covers, etc.*, No. 22400.—An American consular officer in Switzerland reports that a firm in his district is in the market for fabrics for awnings, carriage covers, etc. The firm desires about 4,000 yards per annum of material similar to samples, which may be examined at the Bureau or its district offices. (Refer to file No. 79549.) Correspondence should be in French. The firm will furnish references.

*Machinery*, No. 22401.—A business man in the Netherlands writes the Bureau that he desires to receive the name and address of an American manufacturer of machines for compressing bouillon cubes or tablets, etc. It is desired to secure a machine with a capacity of from 20,000 to 30,000 tablets in 10 hours. Catalogues and full information as to prices, time of delivery, etc., should be sent at once.

*Hardware, novelties, etc.*, No. 22402.—An American consular officer in Denmark reports that a merchant in his district is anxious to represent American manufacturers and exporters of household goods, hardware, and novelties. The man claims to have resided in America for a number of years.

*Textiles, drugs, etc.*, No. 22403.—The Bureau is in receipt of a letter from a business man in India who desires to represent American manufacturers and exporters, on a commission basis, of all kinds of textiles, suit cases, pharmaceutical products, drugs, stationery, post cards, novelties, etc. Samples and c. i. f. prices are desired.

*Hardware, etc.*, No. 22404.—An American consular officer in South Africa reports that a man in his district desires to represent on a commission basis American manufacturers and exporters of hardware and sundries. Correspondence in English. References.

*Food products, etc.*, No. 22405.—The commercial attaché of the Department of Commerce in Chile has transmitted a report from a firm in that country which desires to ascertain whether there is a market in the United States for oat, pea, chick-pea, vetch, and lentil flour and fig coffee. Detailed information may be had on application, and samples of the commodities may be inspected at the Bureau or its district offices. (Referred to file No. 1772.)

*Automobiles, mining machinery, and belting*, No. 22406.—The commercial agent of the Bureau in New York City reports that a business man from Spain is now in the United States for the purpose of establishing commercial relations with American manufacturers and exporters of automobiles, mining machinery, and leather belting. The man desires to represent on a commission basis. References.

*Machinery, etc.*, No. 22407.—One of the commercial agents of the Bureau, who has recently returned from a trip through South American countries, reports that a firm in Argentina, which owns and cultivates a large prune plantation, wishes to receive complete information in regard to the best method of drying and preparing prunes for the market, with plans and estimates for all machinery and apparatus necessary for drying, sorting, grading, and packing.

## OFFICES OF THE BUREAU OF FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC COMMERCE.

## DISTRICT OFFICES.

NEW YORK: Room 409, Customhouse.  
BOSTON: 1801 Customhouse.  
CHICAGO: 504 Federal Building.  
ST. LOUIS: 402 Laird National Bank Building.  
ATLANTA: 521 Post Office Building.  
NEW ORLEANS: 1020 Hibernia Bank Building.  
SAN FRANCISCO: 307 Customhouse.  
SEATTLE: 848 Henry Building.

## COOPERATIVE OFFICES.

CLEVELAND: Chamber of Commerce.  
CINCINNATI: Chamber of Commerce.  
CINCINNATI: C., N. O. & T. P. Ry. Co.  
LOS ANGELES: Chamber of Commerce.  
PHILADELPHIA: Chamber of Commerce.  
CHATTANOOGA: South American Agent, Southern Ry. Co.  
PORTLAND, OREG.: Chamber of Commerce.

# SEP 29 1916 COMMERCE REPORTS

PRINCETON, N. J.

DAILY CONSULAR AND TRADE REPORTS

ISSUED DAILY BY THE BUREAU OF FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC COMMERCE

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

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No. 217

Washington, D. C., Friday, September 15

1916

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## RESTRICTIONS ON SCANDINAVIAN IMPORTS.

[Cablegram from American consul general, London, Sept. 14.]

No further export licenses or other facilities will be given until further notice for the importation of clover seeds into Norway, of hides, tanning materials, and linen thread into Sweden, or of nickel into Holland. The importation of fresh apples into the Scandinavian countries and Holland has been restricted. Negotiations respecting fresh fruit are proceeding. [A list of other products which for the present may not be shipped to the Scandinavian countries and the Netherlands was published in COMMERCE REPORTS for Sept. 13, 1916.]

## RUSSIA OFFERS RULES TO AID AMERICANS IN CABLEING.

Commercial Attaché W. C. Huntington, of the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, has received from the Russian war censor of telegraphs a statement containing instructions to Americans who wish to avoid trouble and delays in cabling to Russia. These instructions are:

1. Make your messages absolutely clear, so that a perfect stranger can make sense of them.
2. Do not use too many figures in comparison with the amount of text. A cipher story can be told in figures.
3. Do not send anonymous telegrams. Sign your full name or the name of your firm.
4. Do not be laconic. Short messages sound very mysterious to the censor. Spend a little more money and make the story complete.
5. Do not use highly technical terms, i. e., words not generally known or which can not be readily found in the dictionary.

Telegraphic advices from the agent of the United States Bureau of Fisheries at Nushagak, Alaska, indicate that the number of salmon which ascended Wood River (Lake Aleknagik) this season for spawning was 551,959. This total is an increase of more than 100 per cent over 1915.

**CANARY ISLANDS SEEK AMERICAN FLOUR.**

[Consul George K. Stiles, Teneriffe, Aug. 2.]

If proper attention is paid to sacking and routing shipments, and terms similar to those now granted by British milling interests are offered, American flour exporters should completely dominate the Canary Islands market, dealers in this district declare. With absolutely no American mill directly represented in the islands, and without a dollar of American capital invested in the trade, American flour shipments in 1915 amounted to \$181,460, compared with only \$94,170 in 1914. When it is realized, however, that flour imports here totaled \$702,184 during 1915, it will be seen that the American share of this business is much smaller than actual conditions seem to warrant. Of the total amount approximately two-thirds came from Liverpool.

There are three main factors in Liverpool's control of the bulk of the Canary Islands flour trade. These are a clearer comprehension of market conditions, closer selling, and prompt and frequent deliveries.

**Market Usually Has Small Supply.**

This flour market is noted for short buying. At no time is there in stock more than two weeks' supply. All bread is from bakeries, and the bakers rarely carry over two weeks' raw material. Liverpool frequently equals and occasionally beats New York quotations by being content with smaller profits. Liverpool also sends c. i. f. shipments, while New York, so far as it has been possible to ascertain, requires f. o. b.

It is essential to note that direct shipment means a \$40 ocean rate, single sacking, and one set of port charges. Shipments to this market via Cadiz mean \$46 per ton freight and double sacking, as single-sacked flour shipments will not stand transshipment.

The chief question is how may American millers offset the Liverpool advantage of weekly steamers. Any large producer of American flour may undersell the English market by placing an agency in the islands with credit facilities that will make possible the establishment here of fairly large stocks of American flour. These stocks could be obtained here only through financial arrangements afforded by large American producers, which would enable the agency to take on surplus supplies during periods of low prices. Previous to the war British firms granted 90 days or 5 per cent discount for cash, six days' sight being considered cash.

**Various Kinds of Packages for Shipment.**

Liverpool flour comes in 122-kilo (268-pound) sacks (single). Argentine flour, which since the war has made certain gains in this market, comes in 60-kilo (132-pounds) sacks (double). American flour usually arrives in 200-pound sacks and is almost invariably single sacked. The latter feature has caused serious losses when shipped by other than direct route, as the double handling affords a considerable percentage of torn sacks.

American flour possesses here a reputation for quality which has enabled it to sell at slightly higher prices than the British product. Certain large bakeries buy an American brand for mixing with the cheaper British flour. It would be a mistake, according to local



flour handlers, to introduce any but the best American flour into this market, as its reputation for quality is considered its best selling point.

[A list of commission dealers in the Canary Islands who have expressed a desire to establish connections with American flour producers may be obtained from the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, its district or cooperative offices. Refer to file No. 79950.]

### CANADIAN EXHIBIT OF GERMAN AND AUSTRIAN GOODS.

[Consul O. Gaylord Marsh, detailed as vice consul, Ottawa, Sept. 7.]

It is reported that a collection of 8,000 samples of German and Austrian industrial products, collected in 70 different world markets, will arrive in Canada about September 20. The collection was made and exhibited in England by the Commercial Intelligence Branch of the British Board of Trade and has been loaned, for a limited period, to the Canadian Department of Trade and Commerce to be exhibited in Montreal and Toronto.

The exhibit will be opened in Montreal during the latter part of September and will be on view for about two weeks in each of the cities named.

According to press announcement, the purpose in bringing the exhibit to Canada is to ascertain whether Canadian manufacturers are making or can make articles of the kinds and at the prices shown, either for foreign or the home markets, it being the desire to enable Canada to capture as large a share of world trade as possible.

This exhibit, while temporary, is part of a plan now being worked out by the Commercial Intelligence Branch of the Canadian Department of Trade and Commerce to establish in Canada a permanent commercial and industrial museum.

### EXPORTS FROM LONDON TO UNITED STATES.

[Consul General Robert P. Skinner, London, England, Sept. 1.]

The total value of declared exports from London to the United States during the eight months ended August 31, 1916, amounted to \$111,241,898, as compared with \$92,339,361 during the first eight months of 1915. The following are the values of the principal items comprising the above amounts:

Articles.	1915	1916	Articles.	1915	1916
Rubber.....	\$40,071,767	\$26,900,307	Tea.....	\$2,364,441	\$3,431,966
Precious stones.....	4,856,183	13,527,945	Indigo.....	306,036	2,483,401
Tin.....	6,802,772	7,537,629	Crocoate oil.....	1,816,911	2,104,363
Art.....	2,534,938	4,576,630	Platinum.....	282,083	1,367,585
Hides.....	4,084,049	4,312,606	Wool.....	5,884,060	1,251,508
Furs.....	1,613,625	4,270,859	Copper.....	251,190	652,397

During August alone the totals were \$10,449,044 for 1916 and \$10,704,442 for 1915.

For the first time since war commenced the value of precious stones exported from London to the United States during any one month exceeded that of any other article, the two highest totals showing in August were: Precious stones, \$1,654,869; and rubber, \$1,039,272.

**PRODUCTION OF NUX VOMICA IN MADRAS PRESIDENCY.**

[Consul Lucien Memminger, Madras, India, July 14.]

Among the products exported from the Madras district to the United States in the first half of the current year [see **COMMERCE REPORTS** for Aug. 24, 1916] nux vomica ranked seventh, following skins, coconut oil, pepper, coir yarn, indigo, and sandalwood, and amounted to 2,666,118 pounds, valued at \$134,097. In the calendar year 1915 they totaled 1,470,180 pounds, valued at \$52,489.

Nux vomica is shipped in the form either of seeds or of "pickings," the latter being husks or shells washed from the seeds. The product is of commercial value as being the source of the alkaloids strychnine and brucine. With the exception of Ceylon, which exports a limited amount of nux vomica, British India is said to supply the world. In addition to the alkaloids just mentioned the seeds yield a dye, which produces light-brown shades on cotton cloth, and an oil employed medicinally by native practitioners in India.

**Producing Centers—Characteristics of Seeds.**

The snakewood, nux vomica, or strychnine tree (*Strychnos nux-vomica*, Linn) grows wild in the forests and is also cultivated to a limited extent in gardens in India. It is a moderate-sized deciduous tree of the Gorakhpur forests in Southern India, Bengal, Orissa, the Deccan, and Karnatak, moist forests in the Bombay Presidency, and deciduous forests all over India. The producing centers in the Madras Presidency are Tanjore, Trichinopoly, Pudukotah, Calicut, Rajahmundry, and Nellore. Shipments go mainly to London and New York; formerly Hamburg was an important mart. The average yearly production throughout India is estimated at 40,000 hundredweights (hundredweight=112 pounds). Production is under the control of the Forest Department of the Government of India. The seed is included in the general items of minor forest produce, and the right to collect is usually sold to the highest bidder.

Nux vomica seeds and pickings are obtained from the plum-like fruits of the tree. The fruit is collected and the seeds washed out and dried in the sun, or the seeds are simply gathered from the ground, but in the latter case they have little commercial value. They are roundish, flat, or concavo-convex in shape and silvery in color. The best seeds are known in the trade as fine, bold, and fresh. Their appearance should be "bright," that is, clean and silvery. Each nut contains about a half dozen seeds.

**Handling the Output—Prices.**

In the forests of Nellore, where the tree is common, the seeds are washed out by a forest tribe, the Yanadis, and a good price is obtained for them. Cochin nux vomica is collected in the dry deciduous forests at the foot of the Travancore hills and is sold at a low figure to small native dealers, who send it to the merchants. The nux vomica of the eastern coast finds an outlet at Cocanada, and shipments bear the name of Cocanada nux vomica. The Madras seeds come from Nellore and several other parts of the Presidency. Madras, Bombay, and Cochin are the ports in India from which nux vomica is chiefly exported.

The current quotation for nux vomica in Madras at the end of June was 1 anna 3 pies (\$0.025) per pound. Nux vomica is packed

in robbins or bags usually of 164 pounds when exported, the shipping ton being 14 to 16 hundredweights net.

[An earlier account of the production of *nux vomica* in India appeared in Daily Consular and Trade Reports for Apr. 22, 1912.]

### **BRITISH COLUMBIA MAKES FIRST FARM LOANS.**

[Consul R. B. Mosher, Victoria, Aug. 7.]

Under the provisions of the agricultural credits act, passed by the British Columbia Legislature in 1915, a commission was appointed for the purpose of loaning money to the farmers of this Province. This board made the first loans on August 1, 1916. The first day 19 advances were obtained by farmers, aggregating \$25,000. The amounts were: One of \$250, one of \$300, four of \$500, five of \$1,000, one of \$1,250, two of \$1,500, two of \$2,000, one of \$2,500, one of \$3,000, and one of \$4,000.

About 630 applications for loans have been received from farmers in all sections of the Province. These are for amounts ranging from \$250 to \$20,000. It is the policy of the commission to deal as yet only with applications for moderate amounts. The applications already in total \$1,250,000. The money will be advanced to the farmers at a rate of not more than 6½ per cent, a most favorable rate under existing financial conditions.

[The sale by the Province, on most favorable terms, of bonds to the amount of \$1,000,000, to run for 25 years, was the subject of an article in *COMMERCE REPORTS* for May 17, 1916. The provisions of the agricultural credits act were given in the issue of May 10, 1916.]

### **INCREASED CUBAN CUSTOMS COLLECTIONS.**

[Consul Henry M. Wolcott, detailed as vice consul, Habana, Sept. 1.]

The customs collections at the port of Habana during August, 1916, amounted to \$2,588,672, reflecting the large increase in importations of machinery and apparatus for use in the sugar industry of the Republic, and an increase of \$3,062 over the previous month's collections.

In the first half of the calendar year 1916 the customs collections for the entire Republic were \$17,119,808, an increase of \$4,685,740 over the same period in 1915.

The collector of the port of Habana estimates that the collections for the current month of September will reach the unprecedented figure of \$3,000,000 for this port.

### **CONCRETE SHIPS IN SERVICE.**

Apropos of the statement in recent press dispatches that Norway has just put into operation the first stone vessel ever built, resembling a barge, the ribs of steel and the hull of concrete, the Bureau of Navigation, Department of Commerce, says that it may be worth noting that the scows A. S. and G. Company *No. 33* and *No. 66* were built of concrete at Fairfield, Md., in 1912 and 1913, respectively, by the Arundel Sand & Gravel Co., of Baltimore, Md. These vessels measure approximately 112 feet in length and 28 feet in beam, and it is believed they are the first vessels ever built of concrete. The *No. 66* was abandoned as unfit for service in the early part of the current year and the *No. 33* is still in commission.

**BRITISH WOOL NOTES.**

[Consul Augustus E. Ingram, Bradford, Aug. 24.]

**Advisory Committees Appointed.**

The War Office has appointed a Central Advisory Committee for England and Wales to advise the War Department on matters arising out of the purchase and distribution of English wool, the membership of the committee comprising representatives of sheep raisers, wool buyers, and spinners and manufacturers. Local advisory committees composed of wool merchants and farmers have been appointed for each of the 13 areas into which England and Wales have been divided, and a considerable quantity of wool has already been purchased.

Similar committees are in existence in Scotland and Ireland.

**"Condition" Will Govern Price.**

In regard to the price to be paid for the domestic wool clip, it is of interest to note that "condition" will be an important factor with the authorized buyers, and this may have important results in demonstrating to the farmers more forcibly than ever before the benefit of delivering the wool in a clean condition.

The Government also announces that wool will at present be allocated for other than Government purposes only if special circumstances or hardship can be shown. It is stated for the information of the trade that wool will be issued for future War Office contracts at fixed prices, and the price to be paid by the department for yarn and cloth will be based directly on the price at which the wool has been supplied.

**Russian Government Khaki Order.**

The Russian Government has just placed orders for about 2,000,000 yards of army cloth (worsted to be manufactured into khaki uniforms) with West Riding firms, with the stipulation that the cloth must be delivered before the end of next spring. These orders are to be carried out under the new scheme of Government control, which will insist that all firms with suitable and sufficient machinery must do their fair share of this and the British Government work. A system of cost accounting will insure prices being kept as low as possible.

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**COTTON CONSUMPTION AND SUPPLIES.**

According to preliminary statistics prepared by the United States Bureau of the Census, the cotton consumed in the United States during August, 1916, amounted to 558,717 running bales (counting round as half bales) compared with 464,392 bales in the corresponding month of 1915. The quantity for 12 months ending July 31, 1916, was 6,397,613 bales compared with 5,597,362 for the corresponding period last year. Cotton on hand August 31 in the United States in consuming establishments amounted to 1,359,380 bales, compared with 1,165,681 a year ago; and in public storage and at compresses, 969,304 bales compared with 1,712,504 bales a year ago. Cotton spindles active during August were 32,299,406, compared with 31,064,419 in August, 1915.

**CHINESE AND AMERICAN FLOUR AT HONGKONG.**

[Consul General George E. Anderson, Hongkong, British China, Aug. 5.]

The flour market of Hongkong for the current half of 1916 has many uncertain elements, and at present it is somewhat doubtful as to exactly what American flour manufacturers and exporters may expect. The unfavorable turn of the trade with respect to American flour noted in the opening months of the year as a result of high prices in the United States and exceedingly high trans-Pacific freight rates as well as a large crop of wheat in North China has been greatly modified, although as a matter of fact there is more promise than realization in the situation up to the present time. The probabilities are, however, that American flour will again come into the market in considerable quantities.

**Held-Over Stocks of Native Flour.**

It is doubtful if Chinese flour will cut as much figure in the immediate future as it did during the winter season of 1915-16. The great influx of Chinese flour not only into the Chinese ports usually tributary to Hongkong's flour market, but into the flour markets of the Malay States and East Indies generally where Hongkong dealers customarily operate, was made possible by an unusually large crop of wheat in North China. About 200,000 bags of Shanghai flour came into this market, and of this stock some 110,000 bags remain. The flour is not of good quality, and as it is now getting old much of it must be disposed of at a loss.

It is understood by Hongkong flour men that the Government at Peking has issued a permit for the exportation of 100,000 bags of flour during the current season, but because of the large stock of native flour now in Hongkong and because of the higher price of the native product little or none of it is moving, nor is any of it likely to move during the several months required to dispose of the old stock on hand. Some of the Shanghai flour is reported by dealers here as moving direct to Singapore, Java, and other markets usually served by Hongkong, but, in a general way, it appears that the chief effect of Chinese flour in this and subsidiary markets has been to keep down the price of Canadian and American flours.

**Factors Favoring Chinese Flour.**

The hold of the Chinese flour on the market under normal conditions represents a considerable margin of cost in favor of the native product. While the Government imposes an export tax upon it of about 40 cents Mexican a bag, the likin charge is 2 cents Mexican a bag less than on the foreign flour. Also, the Chinese flour is packed 50 pounds to the bag instead of the 49 pounds of American and Canadian flour—which weight, in the case of American flour and under the terms of the pure-food law in the United States, must be stamped on the bag itself. For these reasons Chinese flour in the same market is valued at 7 cents Mexican per bag more than the lower grades of American flours, although the quality is inferior.

Incidentally it may be added that some of the Shanghai mills are mixing hard Manchurian wheat with wheat from the Yangtze Valley and are thus improving the quality of their product. This is important in their efforts to get into the Java market, since that market demands a better grade of flour than the usual Chinese product. The Shanghai flours are better milled and are superior in color and well

dressed in comparison with the Manchurian products, the export grades of which come only from Harbin and its immediate vicinity. Current Wheat Crop Unsatisfactory.

The Chinese wheat crop is reported at only 70 per cent of that of last year, and in view of wet weather conditions in the wheat country its quality is likely to be unusually poor. Chinese flour, therefore, will probably be no serious competitor in the Hongkong market if ocean freight rates become more normal and American prices fall, but present stocks will interfere with the trade for some time to come. The flour market in Hongkong in general at the present time is lifeless, with a stock of about 400,000 bags on hand. Prices are below replacing costs and have remained unchanged for some weeks.

### MANUFACTURE OF MISCELLANEOUS CHEMICAL PRODUCTS.

In the preparation of the 1914 census of manufactures with respect to miscellaneous chemical products of this country figures are given for potash and potassium salts, fine chemicals, coal-tar products, and general chemicals. The aggregate value of these classes for 1914 was \$71,047,223, compared with \$57,216,072 in 1909, the last previous census year. Various branches of production of chemicals and allied products have been subjects of previous reports. These were acids, alums, bleaching materials, cyanides, plastics, sodas and sodium products, compressed or liquefied gases, chemicals produced with the aid of electricity, dyestuffs and extracts, essential oils, explosives, fertilizers, paints and varnishes, petroleum refining, soap, and wood distillation.

The United States Bureau of the Census, in its review of the miscellaneous chemical production of the country, gives detailed figures for each of the four classes mentioned as making up the total value of \$71,047,223 for 1914. Compared with similar figures for 1909, these are:

Products.	1909	1914	Products.	1909	1914
<b>POTASH AND POTASSIUM SALTS.</b>			<b>FINE CHEMICALS—contd.</b>		
Products, total value.....	(e)	\$4,064,927	Gold salts.....	\$430,944	\$291,658
Crude potash.....		30,644	Silver salts.....	727,428	846,089
Potassium carbonate (unrefined and refined).....	\$88,940	19,007	Platinum salts.....	19,123	6,998
Potassium nitrate (salt-peter).....	(e)	1,244,051	Thorium compounds, radium, uranium, and vanadium.....		1,368,477
Caustic potash and potassium salts—bichromate, chlorate, iodide, citrate, acetate, silicate, etc.....	(e)	2,801,225	Vanillin.....		528,219
<b>COAL-TAR PRODUCTS.</b>			Chemically pure (C. P.) preparations, including C. P. acids, alcohol, etc.....		530,476
Value of products.....	4,286,119	8,839,506	Chemicals used in the manufacture of photographic materials, not otherwise specified.....		
Coal-tar distillery products.....	4,057,591	8,065,156	Other specified fine chemicals—refined camphor, synthetic oils and perfumery bases, refined fusel oil, hypophosphites, ethyl chloride, sulphon-methane, and sulphon-ethyl-methane, nicotine, and butric ether (named in order of value).....	4,839,637	121,660
Chemicals and medicinal preparations from coal tar.....	228,528	774,350	All other fine chemicals, not reported separately.....		912,780
<b>FINE CHEMICALS.</b>					
Alkaloids.....	3,188,914	7,835			
Amyl acetate.....	412,771	468,604			
Chloroform.....	477,538	296,317			
Ether <sup>a</sup> .....	190,164	278,816			

<sup>a</sup> Figures not available.

<sup>b</sup> Not including value of 109,901,315 gallons of tar, \$2,867,274, produced by by-product coke ovens; of 126,938,607 gallons of tar, \$3,252,756, produced by gas plants; and of coal-tar dyes and intermediates, \$4,652,947, made largely from stock of foreign origin.

<sup>c</sup> In addition, alkaloids and derivatives valued at \$11,493,168 were reported by manufacturers of druggists' preparations and patent medicines.

<sup>d</sup> Not including ether made and consumed in the explosive industry.

Products.	1909	1914	Products.	1909	1914
<b>GENERAL CHEMICALS.</b>			<b>GENERAL CHEMICALS—CON.</b>		
Acetone.....	\$812,978	\$1,099,585	Iron salts:		
Acetate of lime.....	2,118,443	2,133,909	Sulphate (copperas).....	\$78,467	\$352,772
Ammonium salts:			Other salts and com-		
Chloride.....	(a)	641,040	pounds—iron liquor (fer-		
Sulphate.....	(a)	211,314	rous acetate), chloride,		
Other—Acetate, bifluoride,			nitrate, oxide, ferrotung-		
carbonate, phosphate, phos-			sten, vanadate of iron, etc.	(a)	838,993
phate, etc.....	(a)	260,801	Lead salts:		
Aqua ammonia <sup>b</sup> .....	839,820	1,412,236	Arsenate.....	(a)	511,688
Barium salts:			Other.....	(a)	323,883
Sulphate (blanc fixe).....	86,986	257,415	Mercurial salts.....	(a)	518,023
Other—Carbonate, chloride,			Nickel salts.....	(a)	157,149
etc.....	(a)	103,204	Niter cake for sale.....	53,693	31,590
Copper salts:			Sugar of milk.....	(d)	400,613
Sulphate (blue vitriol).....	1,531,574	1,568,944	Sulphur, refined.....	861,501	1,141,000
Other.....	(a)	14,333	Tin salts.....	1,535,350	2,028,511
Cream of tartar.....	2,925,883	3,124,958	Zinc salts.....	472,302	1,190,959
Epsom salts (magnesium sul-			Other specified chemicals <sup>c</sup> .....	18,871,427	13,055,314
phate).....	189,791	296,909	Unclassified chemicals.....		11,766,596
Formaldehyde.....	363,717	655,174			
Glycerin: <sup>c</sup>					
Crude, for sale.....		2,278,526			
Refined, for sale.....		10,779,204			

<sup>a</sup> Figures not available.

<sup>b</sup> Production of anhydrous ammonia (reported with "compressed or liquefied gases"): 1914—16,659,789 pounds, valued at \$3,140,848; 1909—11,969,846 pounds, valued at \$2,544,238.

<sup>c</sup> Figures not available for total production of crude glycerin in 1914, as that made and consumed in the manufacture of a large portion of the refined product was not reported.

<sup>d</sup> No reliable data are available, since the production of sugar of milk as reported included a large amount of powdered milk.

<sup>e</sup> Comprises: Acetanilid, acetone oil, acid calcium phosphate and calcium salts, aluminum chloride, antimony salts, arsenic, bismuth salts, cadmium salts, carbon bisulphide, cerium salts and alloys, chrome salts, crown filler, ethers (not ethyl oxide), glyco-phosphates, hexamethylene-titramine, iodine resublimed and salts of iodine, iodoform, ketones, lithia and lithium salts, salts of magnesium and manganese, molybdenum, Paris green, sesquisulphite of phosphorus, strontium salts, sulphur chloride, titanium salts, trioxymethylene, and tungsten.

## NORTHERN BRAZIL'S EXPORTS DURING FISCAL YEAR.

[Consul George H. Pickerell, Para, Aug. 17.]

The value of the leading three articles exported from Para during the fiscal year ended June 30, 1916, drafts for which were drawn and negotiated in this city, was \$25,275,000. The amounts for separate products were: Rubber, \$23,615,000; cocoa, \$976,250; Brazil nuts, \$688,750.

The value of drafts drawn against shipments of these articles to the United States for that period was \$16,891,781. The separate amounts were: For rubber, \$16,286,665; cocoa, \$260,681; Brazil nuts, \$344,435.

These figures show the importance of the transactions carried on by the local banks. There is no doubt that if a branch of an American bank were established here it would obtain a good share of this business and facilitate materially the interchange of commodities between the United States and northern Brazil.

## OFFICES OF THE BUREAU OF FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC COMMERCE.

### DISTRICT OFFICES.

NEW YORK: Room 409, Customhouse.  
BOSTON: 1801 Customhouse.  
CHICAGO: 504 Federal Building.  
ST. LOUIS: 402 Third National Bank Building.  
ATLANTA: 521 Post Office Building.  
NEW ORLEANS: 1020 Hibernia Bank Building.  
SAN FRANCISCO: 807 Customhouse.  
SEATTLE: 848 Henry Building.

### COOPERATIVE OFFICES.

CLEVELAND: Chamber of Commerce.  
CINCINNATI: Chamber of Commerce.  
CINCINNATI: C., N. O. & T. P. Ry. Co.  
LOS ANGELES: Chamber of Commerce.  
PHILADELPHIA: Chamber of Commerce.  
CHATTANOOGA: South American Agent, Southern Ry. Co.  
PORTLAND, OREG.: Chamber of Commerce.

**NEW ZEALAND WANTS NEW IDEAS IN WORKMEN'S HOUSES.**

[Consul General Alfred A. Winslow, Auckland, Aug. 2; see also *COMMERCE REPORTS* for Sept. 6, 1910.]

The increasing cost of building materials and labor in New Zealand has led the Workers' Dwellings Board to seek either substitutes for the materials now used or new methods of construction that effect substantial economies, and to this end the deputy superintendent addressed the following letter to the Auckland consulate general:

In consequence of the increased cost of building materials and labor, the Workers' Dwellings Board is desirous of obtaining information concerning new materials and methods with a view to counteracting to some degree the present upward tendency in the cost of erection. Inclosed is a booklet giving particulars of the act which is administered by the Workers' Dwellings Board. From these particulars you will be able to judge as to what information will be useful to us in the erection of these dwellings, either in respect of materials or methods.

Up to the present the policy of the board has been to give each applicant the privilege of selecting his own design from a number of standard designs already drawn up by the architect, but as the cost of erection is now so high the board is considering the question of erecting a number of dwellings from the same design. We believe that Edison has brought out a new system by which molds are used whereby the house can be built at a much smaller cost than by the methods now in use, but we are not able to find out if this method has been adopted to any extent with success. We should be pleased if you could give us any information about this system or any other system of standardized building that would reduce the cost.

I would be glad if this matter could be called to the attention of persons in the United States in position to give the desired information, for I believe it might lead to some business, and it will be doing the people of this country a kindness at least. The information can be addressed to the Auckland consulate general to be forwarded or direct to the Department of Labor, Wellington, as may seem best.

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**TYPICAL DESIGNS OF WORKERS' DWELLINGS.**

In connection with the foregoing letter and request the following extracts from an article on the New Zealand workers' dwellings act of 1910 that appeared in *Daily Consular and Trade Reports* for September 21, 1911, should be of interest:

The new houses, whether of wood, concrete, or brick, are intended to be substantial, comfortable, and inexpensive, but not without ornamentation of a quiet character. The following is a description of five types of houses as planned by the Government architect:

1. A dwelling of four rooms with conveniences, a scullery 7 by 12 feet being counted among the latter. There are two front rooms about 12 feet square, a living room 16 feet 4 inches by 15 feet 4 inches, which contains the range fitted with hot-water apparatus, a bedroom 12 feet by 9 feet 6 inches, and a reasonably large bathroom. The front door leads to a hall 4 feet wide, and at the back is a lobby containing a coal bunker under shelter. The washhouse, with copper, has two fixed tubs. Price, \$1,380 to \$1,825.

2. Five rooms, planned similarly to the first type, but with an additional bedroom at the back 8 by 9 feet, and slightly more generous proportions. The front elevation is made attractive with a gabled porch and ornamental glass door. There is a corner fireplace in the front room. Price, \$1,450 to \$1,900.

3. Four rooms: this is distinctive in having a veranda along the whole front, and it will probably be popular because it is of the familiar "square" type of architecture beloved in the colonies. Three bedrooms (one with a fireplace and suitable for a sitting room) are 12 feet square, while the dining room is 12 feet by 11 feet 4 inches. Price, \$1,350 to \$1,700.



4. Six rooms; this is the most elaborate of the set, but there is no waste room or overornamentation. Most of the money will go to provide actual accommodation. The front elevation shows the bay window of a sitting room 12 by 12 feet, having a corner fireplace, and a veranda 4 feet 6 inches by 16 feet. The hall, 5 feet wide, leads past an arch and then narrows to 3 feet, ending in a glazed door at the kitchen. The living room is 12 feet 6 inches by 15 feet, and has a broad window, V-shaped, standing out from the side wall about 2 feet. The three bedrooms are 12 feet 6 inches by 12 feet 6 inches, 12 by 11 feet, and 12 feet 6 inches by 11 feet, respectively. The kitchen is 10 feet by 9 feet 6 inches, and around it are grouped the washhouse, scullery, and coal bunker. Price, \$1,825 to \$2,200.

5. Three rooms with provision for extension of two rooms if required, at a cost of \$365. A recessed corner of the house 3 by 7 feet serves as a modest porch for the front door, and there is a tiny hall 4 by 6 feet. The rooms comprise bedrooms 10 by 12 feet and 7 feet 2 inches by 9 feet 6 inches, and a living room 14 feet 4 inches by 11 feet. Hot water and a bath are provided. Price, \$850 to \$1,075.

[A copy of the regulations under the workers' dwellings act, 1910, as amended, and an application blank for the purchase of a worker's dwelling, forwarded by Consul General Winslow, may be inspected at the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce or its district and cooperative offices. Refer to file No. 79880.]

### INCREASE IN JAPANESE SULPHUR EXPORTS.

[Weekly Bulletin, Canadian Department of Trade and Commerce, Aug. 14.]

According to the Japan Advertiser, the output of sulphur in Japan has recently made a remarkable increase. According to the latest report of the Department of Agriculture and Commerce, the output in April reached 2,667,031 kin (3,527,876 pounds), an increase of 50.8 per cent over the output in the corresponding month of last year. The output for the first four months of this year showed an increase of 45.3 per cent over the corresponding period of last year. As to the cause of the notable increase, an expert official of that department explains that the biggest markets for Japanese sulphur were, before the war, the United States and Australia. But the exports fell after the outbreak of war, owing to the scarcity of vessels and other causes, and the price showed a remarkable decline, so that the miners were compelled to curtail the production to minimize their economic loss. But this situation has changed since Italy entered the war. The participation of Italy in the war, since Italy is an important sulphur-mining country, must have curtailed its output of sulphur, and this had caused the supply to be short and the demand correspondingly keen in the world's market. Moreover, there has arisen a new demand for Japanese sulphur for war use in Russia, and this has caused the increase in the exports.

#### Exports of Sulphur, by Countries of Destination.

The following table shows the exports of sulphur from Japan last year and the year before, classified according to destination:

Countries of destination.	1914	1915	Countries of destination.	1914	1915
	<i>Pounds.</i>	<i>Pounds.</i>		<i>Pounds.</i>	<i>Pounds.</i>
Australia.....	52,204,636	63,355,168	Russia .....	734,815	11,819,997
Canada.....	3,975,658	11,586,428	United States.....	41,609,098	60,655,333
India.....	2,111,068	10,524,868			

**SWISS ASPHALT TRADE UNDER WAR CONDITIONS.**

[Consul Walter H. Schulz, Berne, Aug. 11.]

As Switzerland is an exporter of considerable quantities of asphalt, the introduction of the American article on any large scale seems a difficult undertaking. In normal times the exports amount to about \$200,000 annually, one-fourth of which goes to Germany. Imports are valued at \$50,000, chiefly from Central America and France. Most of these imports consist of a kind of tar flour, which is mixed with the product of the Swiss asphalt mines to produce certain varieties peculiar to the country.

Asphalt was sold at \$6.75 per metric ton (2,204.6 pounds) before the war, while now the price has gone up to about \$7.70. These prices are f. o. b. Swiss asphalt mines, of which the most important two are in this consular district. One is owned by the Neuchâtel Asphalt Co., and the other by the Val-de-Travers Asphalt Co., both at Travers, Switzerland.

**Demand Below Normal Since Beginning of War.**

Since the beginning of the war exports have decreased, and the local demand is far below normal. Very insignificant quantities of asphalt are used for roofing purposes. Sometimes so-called bitumen, carbolineum, or tar is used. For street paving tar, delivered by the city gas works, is employed. The city of Berne has many miles of streets covered by this dust-binding material. There are but a few hundred yards of asphalt streets, and these were put down by Swiss concerns using Swiss asphalt. For the time being little or no effort is being made to extend asphalt paving in this section. A decided preference is shown for smooth-surface stone and wooden-blocked streets in the business sections, and macadamized streets and pavements in the residential section. I am informed that at Zurich the business section is largely asphalted.

The duty on asphalt and asphalt products, according to the Swiss customs tariff, is as follows per 220 pounds: Asphalt, any kind, raw, \$0.0579; asphalt, in plates for floors, \$0.193; asphalt, in tubes, \$0.2895; asphalt cardboard, roofing felt, \$0.386.

**Various Materials Now in Use Here.**

Tiles are most commonly used for roofing material. A class of covering which seems to have met with success is the so-called "Eternit shade," produced near Zurich, Switzerland. It is an asbestos and cement mixture. A third kind of covering material is the ordinary roofing slate, partly imported from Belgium and France, as well as of home production. Slate roofs, however, are not popular, owing to expensive upkeep.

The building regulations of the city of Berne stipulate that every section of the city must maintain its characteristic aspect. Thus, tiling is uniform in each section.

An article which might be of some interest to Swiss contractors is the so-called roofing felt, now manufactured in Switzerland and enjoying an export market. Under war conditions, however, stocks have accumulated in the country and are now being sold for home consumption. A very substantial roofing felt which was on the

market before the war, called "Rubroid," was manufactured by a German firm at Frankfort on the Main.

**American Offers Would Be Welcomed.**

Offers and catalogues, if possible in German, from American firms handling metal-roofing articles, such as snow-slide catchers and other metal fixing material, would be appreciated by local dealers. Since the beginning of the war the supply from former sources has been reduced, and American offers have good prospects. Continental goods were formerly very low on account of small freight charges, but the situation is somewhat changed. These goods now cost about 40 per cent more than they did before the war.

The duty on common metal roofing material, according to the Swiss customs tariff, No. 787, is \$2.895 per 220 pounds.

**EXPORTS OF IRON AND STEEL PRODUCTS FROM SWANSEA.**

[Consul M. K. Moorhead, Swansea, Wales, Aug. 14.]

The exports of tin plates from Swansea during July amounted to 17,384 tons, of which 8,166 tons went to France, 3,044 tons to Scandinavia (Norway, Sweden, and Denmark), 2,343 tons to Japan, 1,658 tons to the Netherlands, 855 tons to Italy, 695 tons to Portugal, 492 tons to China, Hongkong, Strait Settlements, and Siberia, and 137 tons to Chile. Since the outbreak of war the tinplate trade of Swansea has shown a steady decline. The exports during July of each of the past four years, in tons, were as follows: 1913, 27,031; 1914, 26,100; 1915, 19,470; and 1916, 17,384.

**Black Plates, Galvanized Sheets, etc.**

There were 8,581 tons of black plates exported from Swansea during July, 1916, of which France took 3,618 tons; Scandinavia, 2,297 tons; Japan, 1,825 tons; Italy, 554 tons; Netherlands, 275 tons; Portugal, 9 tons; and Siberia, 3 tons. On account of large demands in France the exports of black plates in July, 1916, were larger than in the corresponding month of the pre-war year of 1913 and in July of 1914 and 1915. The exports in tons during July of the past four years were as follows: 1913, 5,237; 1914, 5,915; 1915, 3,826; 1916, 8,581.

Since the outbreak of war the export trade in galvanized sheets has rapidly declined. In July, 1913, 6,955 tons were exported from Swansea; in July, 1914, these exports had declined to 3,978 tons, and July, 1915 and 1916, to 468 and 157 tons, respectively.

In July, 1916, 1,694 tons of iron and steel billets, sheets, bars, tubes, and hoops were exported from Swansea to France; 50 tons to China; and 20 tons to Japan.

The exports of tin plates, black plates, and galvanized sheets from Swansea to foreign countries during the years ended December 31, 1913, 1914, and 1915 are given in the following table:

Articles.	1913	1914	1915
Tin plates.....	261,646	221,670	201,712
Black plates.....	57,861	17,211	42,096
Galvanized sheets.....	49,417	27,598	9,851

### PROGRESS MADE IN EXTENDING USE OF GRAYFISH.

A wider knowledge of the grayfish and the development of its use as food are resulting from the campaign being conducted by the United States Bureau of Fisheries, which has made substantial progress since the middle of the present summer season. Three of the most prominent canners in Maine and Massachusetts are actively engaged in packing the fish. They express themselves as highly pleased with the excellent quality of the fish and the economy with which it can be handled. The value of the by-products is an important factor in making it possible to provide a high-grade food product at a low price.

The destructiveness of the grayfish and the extent to which it had interfered with heretofore more profitable fisheries had caused the fishermen to regard it with prejudice and aversion. An interesting feature of the recent campaign is the complete change in the fishermen's attitude after they have had some experience in the fishery and the interest which they exhibit in the bureau's plans respecting it.

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### MANUFACTURE OF WOOD-PULP BAGS.

[Commercial Attaché V. L. Havens, Santiago, Chile.]

There has been much discussion in Chile regarding the desirability of establishing the wood-pulp industry. There seems to be an ample supply of wood and power, but the market is limited.

If it is found possible to make a substitute for jute sacking from wood pulp, the industry would undoubtedly flourish, as there are about 30,000,000 jute bags used annually in Chile for nitrate of soda, apart from that used for grains, minerals, cement, and other purposes.

The import duty on jute sacks is one-half cent United States gold per pound and on Osnaburgs it is  $4\frac{1}{2}$  cents United States gold per pound gross weight. The jute sacks of 200-pound capacity are nominally worth about 9 cents on shore in Antofagasta.

Any information available on the substitution of cellulose for jute would be highly appreciated and might lead to profitable American investments.

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### NEW JAPANESE IRON FOUNDRY TO BE ESTABLISHED.

Prominent business men of Tokio held a meeting on August 8, 1916, to discuss the organization of the Toyo Seitetsu Kaisha (Oriental Iron Foundry). It was decided that the Government be approached for special protective measures, such as exemption from taxes, according to a report in the Japan Advertiser which has been forwarded from Yokohama by Consul General Scidmore.

About 300 business men from all parts of Japan will be invited to become the promoters of the company, and out of that number 30 will be selected to form a promotion committee. The first meeting of the promotion committee will be held September 15, 1916. It is planned to complete the plants in six years. The new company proposes to refine the ore of the Tao-Chung iron mines, which are estimated to contain 45,000,000 tons.

**AMERICAN CONSULAR OFFICERS ON LEAVE OF ABSENCE.**

The following American consular officers are on leave of absence in the United States, and will be glad to confer with business men and commercial organizations relative to conditions in their respective jurisdictions. The consul's time is available primarily for personal interviews. He has limited facilities for correspondence, and except in urgent cases letters should be directed to the consulate.

Name.	Post.	Expiration of leave.	Address.
Jewell, John F. ....	Chefoo, China .....	Oct. 1	Galena, Ill.
Hazeltine, Ross .....	Port Antonio, Jamaica .....	...do ...	Department of State, Washington, D. C.
Leing, James Oliver .....	Karachi, India .....	Sept. 30	C/o University Club, Kansas City, Mo.
Leonard, Walter A. ....	Colombo, Ceylon .....	Oct. 14	Essex, Iowa.
Cabonne, John Ball .....	Havre, France .....	Oct. 21	Department of State, Washington, D. C.
Mansfield, Robert E. ....	Vancouver, Canada .....	Sept. 15	Rushville, Ind.
Pike, William J. ....	St. Gall, Switzerland .....	Nov. 1	Department of State, Washington, D. C.
Armstrong, John S. ....	Bristol, England .....	Oct. 1	1200 Eutaw Place, Baltimore, Md.
Henry, Frank Anderson....	Puerto Plata, Dominican Republic .....	Oct. 1	C/o Hallowell & Henry, 27 Pine Street, New York City.
Masterson, William W. ....	Durban, South Africa .....	Sept. 30	

\* Consul Masterson informs the Bureau that he will be in New York City from Sept. 26 to 30, during which period he will be pleased to meet those interested in South African commercial matters. Communications should be sent to the Bureau's district office, Room 409, Customhouse, New York City.

**CONSULAR INVOICES FOR PARCELS BY POST TO CHILE.**

[Commercial Attaché V. L. Havens, Santiago.]

When packages are sent to Chile by parcel post their value must be declared, and a consular invoice secured if that value is more than 120 francs (\$23). When two packages are forwarded on the same mail, postal authorities assume they comprise one shipment. The extra charge for the invoice is about \$2, but the failure to furnish this document may subject the Chilean importer to a heavy fine.

Samples should not be sent by parcel post, but should be transmitted in the open mail and marked "Muestras sin valor." If sent by parcel post certain forms must be complied with and certain stamps purchased, and because of this Chilean firms doing much business often refuse to accept the packages.

**SIX MONTHS' PRODUCTION OF LOCOMOTIVES IN GERMANY.**

[Consul General Julius G. Lay, Berlin.]

A notice concerning the delivery of locomotives to the German State railways during the present war was published on July 24, 1916, in the Berliner Tageblatt. The statement was:

From various sources we have been informed that the annual total number of orders placed by the German railroad administration amounts to about 1,600 to 1,800 locomotives. Another source which is especially well informed concerning the deliveries of all German locomotive works reports that 750 locomotives were furnished from German factories to the State railway authorities during the first half of 1916. Locomotives for field service, etc., of which naturally a considerable amount was furnished, are not included in the figure given.

A buoy list for the eighth lighthouse district, from Cedar Keys to the Rio Grande on the Gulf Coast, corrected to September 1, 1916, has been issued by the United States Lighthouse Service. The list includes all aids to navigation in those waters.

## FOREIGN TRADE OPPORTUNITIES.

Reserved addresses may be obtained from the Bureau and its district offices. Request for each opportunity should be on a separate sheet and state opportunity number. The Bureau does not furnish credit ratings or assume responsibility as to the standing of foreign inquirers; the usual precautions should be taken in all cases.

*Electrical supplies, machinery, tools, etc.*, No. 22408.—The commercial agent of the bureau in New York City reports a return visit to the United States of a Portuguese merchant, who desires to purchase and pay cash in New York City for the following goods: Electric cables, seamless tubes for boilers, steel plates for shipbuilding, tin plates in sheets for cans, engine lathes, gap lathes, planers, shapers, milling and drilling machines, bolt and nut machinery, woodworking machinery, wood and metal saws, tools, compressed air and steam hammers, electric and gasoline motors, cement, oak staves, superphosphate of soda, and dried cod fish.

*Rice*, No. 22409.—A business man in the Danish West Indies writes the bureau that he wishes to place orders in the United States for rice. The man states that he has agencies in Venezuela, Colombia, Santo Domingo, and Haiti. References.

*Textiles, etc.*, No. 22410.—An American consular officer in South Africa writes that a manufacturer's representative in his district wishes to represent American manufacturers and exporters of fleece, astrakhan, and velour cloths, cottonades, galateas, and stripped drills. Samples, prices, etc., should be sent to the American consulate.

*Hosiery, art furnishings, etc.*, No. 22411.—The bureau is in receipt of a letter from a firm in New Zealand stating that it desires to communicate with American manufacturers and exporters of all kinds of hosiery, under-clothing for women, art furnishings, cotton and piece goods, printed sateens, and cretonnes.

*Flavors and colors*, No. 22412.—A business man in Canada writes the bureau that he desires to receive names and addresses of manufacturers and exporters of flavors and coloring material to be used in the manufacture of cider.

*Waste paper and bones*, No. 22413.—The bureau is in receipt of a letter from a commission merchant in the British West Indies asking for a list of importers of waste paper and bones.

*General representation*, No. 22414.—The Bureau is in receipt of a letter from a merchant in Brazil stating that he desires to represent American manufacturers and exporters. He does not specify any particular line.

*Electrical supplies*, No. 22415.—The Bureau is in receipt of a communication from a business man in Java stating that he desires to communicate with American manufacturers and exporters of general electrical supplies and devices. Catalogues, price list, and full information should be sent.

*General representation*, No. 22416.—A firm in the United States writes the Bureau that one of its correspondents in Mexico desires to represent American manufacturers and exporters. No particular line is designated.

*Nails*, No. 22417.—A merchant in Egypt writes the Bureau that he desires to receive names and addresses of American manufacturers of nails, especially nails for shoemakers.

*Excavating machinery*, No. 22418.—An American consular officer in Switzerland writes that a firm in his district wishes to receive offers for excavating and other machinery to be used in construction work. Correspondence in French or German.

*Stationery and office equipment*, No. 22419.—A business man in England informs an American consular officer that he wishes to get into communication with American manufacturers and exporters of stationery and office equipment, with a view to making sales in India.

# SEP 29 1916 COMMERCE REPORTS

PRINCETON, N. J.

DAILY CONSULAR AND TRADE REPORTS

ISSUED DAILY BY THE BUREAU OF FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC COMMERCE

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

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**PROHIBITED IMPORT IN GREAT BRITAIN AND FRANCE.**

[Cablegram from American consul general, London, Sept. 11.]

The French Government has opened a special office in London for the granting of licenses for the importation into France and Algeria of British goods under import prohibition in those countries. Arrangements have been made whereby French exporters of goods on British prohibited list may apply to the French Ministry of Commerce for approval of applications which will then be transmitted to British Board of Trade import-restrictions department in Paris, thus enabling French exporters to overcome existing British restrictions.

**WOOL SALES IN THE PROVINCE OF ALBERTA.**

[Consul Harold D. Clum, Calgary, Alberta, Canada, Sept. 5.]

According to unofficial figures now available, the Province of Alberta produced approximately 1,870,000 pounds of wool during the current year. Southern Alberta is reported to have shipped, in all, about 1,318,000 pounds, the district centering on Calgary about 285,000 pounds, and the remainder of the Province approximately 267,000 pounds.

At the annual wool sale of the Alberta Sheep Breeders' Association, held at Calgary early in August, 280,515 pounds of wool were disposed of for \$83,867, while the South Alberta Wool Growers' Association handled 413,209 pounds at its sale held at Lethbridge in July, realizing \$134,930. This is understood to have been the record sale not only of Alberta but of the Dominion. The members of this association also disposed of 118,464 pounds through their office for \$35,539, making a total of 531,673 pounds, worth \$170,469, handled by the association. The average wool return per head of sheep owned by the members of this association was \$2.02.

The average price realized at the Calgary sale was 29.9 cents per pound, while the average price obtained at the Lethbridge sale was 32.65 cents per pound, which is believed to have been the best price ever realized for such a large quantity of wool in Canada. It is estimated that the entire clip of the Province brought in the neighborhood of \$561,000. By far the greater part of the shipments went to Boston, Mass.

**SALE OF TYPEWRITER SUPPLIES IN NOVA SCOTIA.**

[Consul Charles M. Freeman, Sydney, Nova Scotia, Canada, Sept. 1.]

The sale of carbon paper and typewriter ribbons in the city of Sydney and vicinity is fairly large, comparing favorably with sections of equal population in the United States. It is estimated that there are 20,000 inhabitants, and within a 15-mile radius there are 60,000.

In this market the competition is wholly from Canadian houses; in fact, it is believed that all the local firms handling typewriter ribbons and carbon papers, even though the goods are of American manufacture, procure their supplies from the large wholesale and importing firms in the more important commercial centers of Canada. This is true of nearly all goods of American origin handled by the local dealers, and for this reason it may be advisable for an American manufacturer to secure some Canadian house as agent for this territory. Firms located in Halifax, Nova Scotia, or St. John, New Brunswick, usually cover the Maritime Provinces, but several of the larger houses in Montreal and Toronto have local branches in Halifax, St. John, and in some lines, in Sydney.

For those who wish to do business direct, a list of dealers handling goods of the class mentioned, some of whom might be interested, is forwarded, and I would advise writing to them.

**Canadian Duty on Carbon Paper and Ribbons.**

Carbon paper coming from the United States into Canada pays according to Item No. 197 of Schedule A, of the Canadian customs tariff, an ad valorem duty of 35 per cent, and a special duty added since the commencement of the present war of  $7\frac{1}{2}$  per cent, or, in all, a duty of  $42\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. Typewriter ribbons by Item 582 of Schedule A of the customs tariff also pay a duty of 35 per cent, to which must be added the  $7\frac{1}{2}$  per cent, making a total of  $42\frac{1}{2}$  per cent ad valorem duty on those coming into Canada from the United States.

[The list of dealers in the Sydney district selling carbon paper and typewriter ribbons may be obtained from the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, its district or cooperative offices. Refer to file No. 79970.]

**SWISS FRUIT CROP PROSPECTS.**

[Consul General Francis B. Keene, Zurich, Aug. 18.]

According to inquiries instituted toward the end of June by the Swiss Journal for the Cultivation of Fruits and Grapes, the approximate yield for the whole of Switzerland of dessert or table cherries, when considering 1 as very bad and 5 as very good, will be 2.69, while of the distillery cherries the average yield will be 2.54. Of dessert plums it will be 2.22, of distillery plums 2.07, other plums 2.65, peaches 2.55, apricots 2.53, dessert apples 3.61, cider apples 3.60, dessert pears 2.14, cider pears 2.35, English walnuts 2.89, and quinces 3.40. In comparison with 1914 and 1915 the apple crop will be considerably better this year, while the crop of cider pears will be somewhat poorer.

The United States Geological Survey has available for distribution its annual statement on salt, bromine, and calcium chloride in 1915. Increases are recorded in the production of all three of these substances during the year.



**CARTRIDGES AND SHELLS IN NORTHERN BRAZIL.**

[Consul George H. Pickereil, Para, Aug. 3.]

The Para market consumes annually a large quantity of cartridges of a type suitable for the Winchester rifle. These are received in strong wooden boxes containing each 2,000 cartridges, put up in heavy paper packages of 50 each. The leading source of supply prior to the war was Germany, the United States following.

The imports of cartridges, lead bullets, shot, and fuses into Para for 1913, 1914, and 1915 were: For 1913, \$142,003; for 1914, \$116,486; for 1915, \$128,230. A large proportion of the imports is sent to the interior for the use of the rubber cutters. The distribution is made by the individual dealers.

**Tariff Charges on Cartridges and Shells.**

The duty on loaded cartridges and shells is paid under article 781 of the tariff at the rate of 1 milreis a kilo, 40 per cent of which is payable in gold at the exchange of the day, making the actual duty about 18 cents per pound.

The terms of the New York exporting houses handling these goods vary with the financial standing of the different local firms as furnished by the banks. The factories' terms are cash against documents.

There are no rifle clubs in this part of Brazil, and as hunting opportunities are limited and seldom agreeable, they are sought only by the native, who hunts for the purpose of supplying himself with food or ridding himself of obnoxious or dangerous animals.

[A list of importers of cartridges and shells at Para may be obtained from the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, its district or cooperative offices. Refer to file No. 79042.]

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**PEARL INDUSTRY IN AUSTRALASIA.**

[Consul General Alfred A. Winslow, Auckland, New Zealand, Aug. 4.]

The extensive pearling grounds in this part of the world are being worked to only a limited extent during these times because of the lack of men and the heavy expense of operation at this time, a large proportion of the fleet being laid up.

The industry has been quite remunerative in this part of the world, and some fine specimens have been found, but the real profits have been derived from the high-grade shell pearl, of which Australasia produces about four-fifths of the world's output. London has controlled the pearl market in the past, but at present most of the products are sent to the United States.

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**OUTLOOK FOR SPRING OLIVE CROP IN RIVIERA.**

[Vice Consul Harry A. Lyons, Nice, France, Aug. 23.]

I learn from personal inquiry that the present outlook for next spring's olive crop is good, although the dry and hot weather of the past month has caused the premature fall of young fruit, especially in those orchards situated in the lower parts of the Nice district. The appearance of insect pests has been reported from several localities in this territory, but up to the present the cases noted seem to be only of local importance and have not affected the general outlook.

**THE METALLURGICAL QUESTION IN SPAIN.**

[Consular Assistant Bartley F. Yost, Barcelona, Aug. 12.]

The metal industries of Spain, which of recent years have undergone important developments in the Province of Cataluña, as well as in other parts of Spain, are at present menaced with a crisis, according to an article appearing recently in a local daily newspaper. The cause of this preoccupation appears to be due to the existing shortage of sheet iron, the basis of the metallurgical industries. It is feared that this situation, unless remedied, may cause the closing down of many metal industries and at the same time throwing thousands of workmen out of employment.

**Large Quantities of Iron Exported—Combination of Interests.**

It is claimed by the users of metals that upon the outbreak of the war the iron mills and smelters in the north of Spain exported large quantities of iron and thereby left the home markets unprovided for. As an example of this claim, official statistics are cited showing that the exports of ingots rose from 7,000 tons in 1913 to 75,000 tons in 1915. As a natural consequence the prices of pig iron reached such a high level that it endangered several industries. It is held that in spite of the high freight rates the iron imported from the United States sold for less in Spain than the products of the smelters at Vizcaya.

The metal manufacturers also argue that, due to their being organized into effective syndicates, the milling industries were able to reap large profits and thus had a decided advantage over the metal users who, though more numerous, lacked the cohesion and centralization of the former.

In view of the difficulties against which the metallurgical concerns had to struggle and the fear of a crisis, they finally united their efforts and created a union known as "Union Española de Transformadores Metalurgicos," representing the interests of similar industries established in all parts of the country and having its center in Barcelona. This consolidation enabled the metal industries of all the important centers of production to undertake an active campaign in defense of their common interests, even to induce the Government to adopt measures of relief.

**Commission Appointed to Study Disputes.**

The Spanish Government eventually named a technical commission composed of the directors of the five superior schools of engineering to study the whole dispute. After a thorough study the commission recognized the justice of the demands of the metal concerns, their report being used as a basis for the issuance by the Minister of Finance of a royal decree granting the metallurgical industries of the country the right to be provided with materials before any might be shipped abroad, and recognizing the necessity of revising and fixing the prices of iron in proportion to the justified increase in the cost of production from the beginning of the war to the present time. To attain this end there was established a division of the Direction General of Commerce, charged with the monthly annotation of all the orders of the metallurgical concerns, indicating that in case orders could not be filled the exportation of iron would be prohibited.

The same royal decree ordered that a commission should be named, composed of representatives of both the siderurgical and metallurgical groups, to regulate prices.

It appears that hardly had this commission entered upon its functions and had suggested a lowering in the price of iron when the mills refused to fill any more orders, holding that the supplies in their warehouses were about exhausted and that they were swamped with orders, and declaring that as long as they were not allowed the liberty of raising the prices of their products they would admit no more orders, and, as a last resort, would cease manufacturing entirely. They claim that the elements entering into the manufacture of iron have experienced such a rise in price that present sale prices of iron are ruinous.

#### Comparative Cost Prices of Pig Iron.

On the other hand, the representatives of the metallurgical industries, basing their claims upon technical reports, insist that the cost price effective is materially less than the mills claim, and cite as proof that in England and the United States the prices of pig iron are about \$21.60 and \$25.75, respectively, per ton of 2,204 pounds, while at Bilbao they are at present \$43.10 per ton, when the maximum should not exceed \$32.40.

The fear is expressed that the stand adopted by the iron mills may create a grave situation. The available stock of pig iron and sheet iron is being rapidly exhausted, and if not replenished shortly the industries may be forced to close down. The metal users maintain that only an energetic intervention on the part of the Government, in fixing an equitable scale of prices and prohibiting the exportation of iron until the home demand is supplied, will be able to avert a conflict.

#### AMERICAN CONSULAR OFFICERS ON LEAVE OF ABSENCE.

The following American consular officers are on leave of absence in the United States, and will be glad to confer with business men and commercial organizations relative to conditions in their respective jurisdictions. The consul's time is available primarily for personal interviews. He has limited facilities for correspondence, and except in urgent cases letters should be directed to the consulate.

Name.	Post.	Expiration of leave.	Address.
Jewell, John F.....	Chefoo, China.....	Oct. 1	Galena, Ill.
Hazeltine, Ross.....	Port Antonio, Jamaica.....	do do	Department of State, Washington, D. C.
Linz, James Oliver.....	Karachi, India.....	Sept. 30	C/o University Club, Kansas City, Mo.
Leonard, Walter A.....	Colombo, Ceylon.....	Oct. 14	Essex, Iowa.
Osborne, John Ball.....	Havre, France.....	Oct. 21	Department of State, Washington, D. C.
Pike, William J.....	St. Gall, Switzerland.....	Nov. 1	do
Armstrong, John S.....	Bristol, England.....	.....	1200 Eutaw Place, Baltimore, Md.
Henry, Frank Anderson....	Puerto Plata, Dominican Republic.....	Oct. 1	C/o Halliwell & Henry, 27 Pine Street, New York City.
Masterson, William W.....	Durban, South Africa.....	Sept. 30	

\* Consul Masterson informs the Bureau that he will be in New York City from Sept. 26 to 30, during which period he will be pleased to meet those interested in South African commercial matters. Communications should be sent to the Bureau's district office, Room 409, Customhouse, New York City.

**OLIVE-OIL REFINING IN FRANCE.**

[Consul General A. Gaulin, Marseille.]

The refining of crude inedible olive oil is of recent origin in the Marseille district. The Marseille oil manufacturers have for many years received olive oil from Spain, Italy, North Africa, and the Near East; and used these oils for mixing purposes, after decantation and filtering; but the transformation of crude inedible oils into edible products has been undertaken industrially only during the past few years. There are three Marseille firms engaged in this industry. It is claimed, however, that since the outbreak of the war, the prices of crude olive oil for lubricating purposes have been so high that it was found unprofitable to refine this oil.

The French crude inedible oil, which has been converted to the greatest extent into edible oil, is known as the "ressence," and is produced in the Var Department. The "ressence" is obtained from the pulp remaining after production of lamp oil, and by the pressing of this oil mixed with hot water.

**Affected by Prices of Lubricating Oils.**

An important quantity of Levant oil was also used formerly for this purpose, but on account of the war no imports of this oil have been made during the past year. Spanish and Tunisian crude oils were also refined, but to a smaller and decreasing extent, as the oil-manufacturing processes employed in these countries are steadily improving. If the prices of lubricating oils remain at the present levels, the refining of the inedible grades will be curtailed.

In order to render these crude oils edible, three processes are used: (1) Neutralization; (2) bleaching; (3) deodorization.

Neutralization is obtained through the treatment of the oils by means of alkaline lyes.

Fullers' earth is used for bleaching purposes, and, in special cases, either sulphuric acid or bone black.

The deodorization process consists theoretically in stirring the oil, lightly heated (between 31 and 45 degrees centigrade), with a current of steam obtained in vacuum, at a low temperature. The steam distills and removes all the volatile elements.

The cost of deodorization varies between 9.65 and 19.3 cents per 100 kilos (220.46 pounds); the loss is about 1 per cent.

**Total Cost of Three Processes.**

The total cost of neutralization, bleaching, and deodorization varies from 3 to 5 francs (58 to 96 cents), according to the quantity of fatty acids to be removed. These oils are sold by the refiners in normal times at 8 to 25 francs per 100 kilos (\$1.54 to \$4.82 per 220.46 pounds) more than is paid for them in their crude state, the highest profits being usually made on the Var and Sousse (Tunis) oils.

It can not be said that these refined products are entirely satisfactory. They still retain an unsatisfactory taste, at least for people who are accustomed to the unrefined oils, and the sale is dependent upon low prices.

The French olive growers are strongly opposed to this industry, and it is likely that it will be regulated shortly after normal conditions are restored in the country.

The only extraction process of importance in this district consists in treating oil cake with bisulphide of carbon, and the product is an industrial oil which is not subject to further treatment.

**HONDURAN CENSUS TO BE TAKEN THIS YEAR.**

[Consul E. M. Lawton, Tegucigalpa, Aug. 23.]

The laws of Honduras provide for a general census of the population every five years. The last census was taken in 1910, so that 1915 was the regular census year; but, owing to the unfavorable economic conditions, the census was postponed and will be taken on December 17, 1916. From various estimates, official enumerations, and calculations the population of Honduras at sundry dates has been reckoned as:

Year.	Inhabit- ants.	Year.	Inhabit- ants.
1791.....	93,501	1887.....	381,983
1801.....	130,000	1895.....	398,877
1826.....	200,000	1901.....	489,367
1850.....	250,000	1905.....	500,135
1881.....	307,289	1910.....	583,446

The earlier figures are taken from church records; those for 1826 and 1850 are estimates of Spanish and American explorers and travelers; since 1881 the totals are the actual Government census returns.

**Educational Campaign to Secure Greater Accuracy.**

Even under the most favorable conditions it is doubtful if the totals are much more than approximate, as no successful census has ever been taken of the native tribes in the Mosquitia Reservation. These are left entirely out of the census of 1910, and in many other sections the registration is frankly acknowledged as being more or less superficial.

The Government of Honduras proposes at the next census to secure the fullest possible accuracy by a campaign of education in advance. However, the measures passed at the last session of Congress for a free port and the opening up of the Mosquitia district will hardly have been sufficiently developed to warrant a full census of the wild tribes this year. The latest reports on the schools which are beginning to be established show valuable and interesting progress, slow but certain of final results.

**AGRICULTURAL CONDITIONS IN DENMARK.**

[Consul General E. D. Winslow, Copenhagen, Aug. 23.]

The harvest of Denmark is now about complete, and while official figures as regards the output have not been issued, it is admitted that the yield of small grains and hay are about the best known. While the quality is not of the best the result of the harvest is satisfactory.

On account of the maximum prices fixed for rye and wheat, some concern is felt regarding the acreage that is to be put into these grains for the crop of 1917. The area sown to rye is steadily decreasing and other grains and pastures are taking the place of former rye fields. In 1895 some 720,000 acres were sown to rye, while in 1915 the acreage was only about 510,000. The sowing time for rye is at hand and the Royal Danish Agricultural Board has addressed an open note to the farmers to increase their acreage in this product.

The "Brattingborg rye" is recommended for light sandy soils and "Petkers rye" for heavy earth.

**CONSTRUCTION WORK.****CANARY ISLANDS.**

[Consul George K. Stiles, Tenerife, Aug. 11.]

**Tenerife Completes Irrigation Project.**

On August 10, 1916, was completed the juncture of the two great water tunnels, the Catalanes and the Roque-Negro, which the municipality of Santa Cruz de Tenerife has had under construction since 1898. These tunnels have been cut 1,700 meters (5,578 feet) through solid basalt rock at a cost of approximately \$200,000.

The joining of these two tunnels has completed the irrigation scheme of the city of Santa Cruz de Tenerife by which the municipality will have available 10,000 cubic meters of water every 24 hours.

**Open Cut and Canals—Banana Lands.**

In addition to the two tunnels joined an open cut of 13,000 meters has been constructed and \$600,000 has been expended in the creation of irrigation canals which will distribute the newly acquired water and in the erection of a large dam.

The city engineers calculate that nearly 5,000 acres of banana-bearing lands will be added to the Santa Cruz section of Tenerife Island. This land has hitherto been sterile through lack of water, while irrigated soil near by has sold as high as \$5,000 per acre.

There is no probability of these new lands being turned into banana production before at least three years' of preparation, planting, and growth. Large quantities of fertilizer must be employed to create good banana-bearing soil, and it is not thought possible to obtain fertilizers until after peace conditions are resumed.

The water, which will enable so important an improvement to municipal and agricultural conditions in the Santa Cruz de Tenerife district, falls on the mountainous district to the north and west of the city. In the city itself hardly more than 10 inches of rain fall per annum. In the high mountains the rainfall is over 100 inches, as the rain clouds are swept in from the Atlantic and precipitate their contents on coming in contact with the sierras of North Tenerife.

**CUBA.****Road Construction, Bridges, Aqueduct, and Sewer.**

The Cuban Congress has recently made provision for road construction on an extensive scale, and official authorization for the expenditure of stated sums in this work appears in late numbers of the Boletín Oficial de la Secretaría de Hacienda. The amounts and routes designated are as follows: \$200,000 for the construction of a road from Santa Clara to Manicaragua; \$50,000, Sabanilla del Encomendador to Union de Reyes, in the Province of Matanzas; \$20,000, Bolondron to Union, passing through Alacranes; \$25,000, Alacranes to Vieja Bermeja; \$30,000, Sabanilla to Cabezas; \$50,000, Santo Domingo to Sitiecito; \$25,000, Estacion de Bacunagua to the central highway; \$60,000, San Miguel de los Baños to the road of Limonar; \$55,000 to complete the road from San Antonio de las Vegas to Guara; \$35,000 for a road from Banes to Embarcadero de Torrontera; \$250,000 for the repair and completion of the road from

Cienfuegos to Manicaragua; \$40,000 for a road from Quivicán to the road from Habana to Batabano.

A credit of \$60,000 is granted for the construction of a bridge over the River San Miguel; \$7,000 for a bridge over the River Jiguani, in the town of Jiguani; \$150,000 for the completion of the aqueduct of Santa Clara; and \$171,000 for paving and sewer system in the city of Manzanillo.

#### ECUADOR.

[Consul Frederic W. Goding, Guayaquil, Aug. 14.]

#### Railway Improvements in 1916.

The grading of the Ambato-Curaray railway is completed for 19 miles, or but 1.5 miles from the town of Pelileo. Since August 5, 1914, trains have been passing over 12 miles of the route to the town of Chiguiche. More than a mile of side track has been completed at Ambato for yards and connections with the Guayaquil & Quito Railway. The drainage of the railway has been provided for by the construction of 9,492 cubic feet of stonework, consisting of 27 large arches, 7 small arches, 16 culverts, and a steel bridge resting on masonry spanning the Pachanlica River. Only temporary buildings have been erected. The total cost to date is \$735,928. All of the materials used were purchased in the United States.

Preliminary studies on the Sibambe-Cuenca Railway were begun in April, 1915, since which time 4.5 miles have been graded and nearly 2 miles of rails laid. The bridges over the Chanchan and Azogues Rivers, and the administration building at Sibambe, are being constructed and 600 tons of rails and 1,500 barrels of cement are on hand. Before the end of the year two locomotives and six open freight cars will be in commission.

Scarcity of funds has stopped work on the surveys for the trans-Amazon line, which is to connect the isolated Province of Loja with the seacoast. 200 miles having been completed, at a cost of \$90,000. It is expected that the present Congress will arrange for the continuance of the surveys, and for actual work on the railway.

A portion of the Quito-Esmeraldas line has been studied, some grading has been done, and more than a half mile of track laid, with \$46,827 in cash on hand.

The grading for 43 miles of A La Costa is completed, at a cost of \$333,575 for studies, materials, and labor.

Nearly 16 miles of the Babahoyo-Guaranda line have been graded, at a cost of \$147,202, including all expenses.

The Manta-Santa Ana line, formerly 16 miles in length, has been extended a similar distance, at a cost of \$30,913.

Although in operation for several years, all traffic has ceased for months on the Bahía de Caraquez, owing to its poor state. About \$10,000 has been appropriated for urgent repairs.

#### VENEZUELA.

[Consul Homer Brett, La Guaira, Aug. 24.]

#### New Basilica in Caracas.

The existing chapel of the Corazón de Jesús in Caracas is to be remodeled and enlarged into a basilica. Señor Alejandro Sosa Báez is president of the board having charge of the construction and Dr. Luis Muñoz Tébar will be the architect and builder.

**LEATHER BELTING IN EUROPEAN COUNTRIES.****NORWAY.**

[Consul Charles Forman, Bergen, May 25.]

Most of the leather belting now sold in Bergen is manufactured in Christiania. Belting from England and Germany is no longer imported, though shipped prior to the war. The only available statistics are those for the whole of Norway during 1914, when 155,690 pounds of belting, valued at \$94,631, were imported into the Kingdom. The exports for the same year amounted to 262,901 pounds, valued at \$95,890.

There should be a good opportunity for American firms to develop business in this market, although dealers complain of the slowness and difficulty of getting American goods on account of war conditions. It is advisable for American exporters who seek a share of the trade to conform to local requirements in quoting prices. They should quote them in crowns per millimeter, not in dollars per foot (crown=\$0.268; millimeter=0.039 inch). A Christiania firm in this business extends a credit of 4 months, 2½ per cent being allowed for cash or payment in 30 days. An effort should be made to quote c. i. f. prices, if possible.

**Rate Under Import Tariff—Appointment of Agents.**

Leather belting is classified under No. 394 of the Norwegian import tariff, and pays a duty of 8 per cent ad valorem. The rate applies to all countries.

The best method of obtaining business in this market is to appoint an agent in Bergen to sell the goods, giving him exclusive rights within a certain territory. Should an agent be selected at Christiania to cover the whole of Norway, it would be advisable to have a subagent at Bergen; otherwise the Bergen field may be neglected.

Information concerning the standing of agents and dealers handling this class of goods, whose names are forwarded, may be obtained from Bonnevie Angells Bureau in Bergen, which does a business similar to that of Dun and Bradstreet. The leading banks in Bergen are the Kreditbank and the Privatbank. Persons and firms may be addressed simply Bergen, Norway; street and number are unnecessary. English may be used in correspondence.

[Lists of agents and dealers in leather belting at Bergen, Norway, may be obtained from the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, its district or cooperative offices. Refer to file No. 77401.]

**SWITZERLAND.**

[Consul Walter H. Schulz, Berne, June 15.]

**Stocks Accumulated Before War Greatly Reduced.**

The demand for leather belting in Berne has been met during the war period by the big stocks that existed before the outbreak of hostilities. These consist chiefly of Belgian and German products. They are now greatly depleted.

Since the beginning of the war no leather belting has been imported by Switzerland, and Swiss consumers are now buying inferior products.

There are 27 tanneries in this consular district. Swiss leather holds high rank, but local tanners were not leather-belting specialists



and are experiencing the difficulties that usually attend transition periods. The principal difficulty of the Swiss tanneries since 1914 seems to have been a lack of those necessary chemicals which add so much to the excellence of foreign leather belting. Prices have gone up about 100 to 120 per cent since July, 1914. The tanneries are no longer laying up stocks.

**American Trade Possible if Delivery is Prompt.**

A local dealer states that some time ago he placed a trial order for leather belting in America and that the quality of the belting was good, but that he was disappointed with the time required to execute the order. Regarding further orders, he expressed the fear that those placed now probably would not be delivered before Christmas. American houses should be able to place some orders if they can give assurance of an early delivery. Buyers should be addressed in German and dimensions and sizes should be given in the metric system.

The duty on leather belting, according to the Swiss customs tariff No. 185, is \$6.75 per 220 pounds.

[A list of dealers in and consumers of leather belting in the Berne (Switzerland) consular district may be obtained from the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, its district or cooperative offices. Refer to file No. 78082.]

**ATTEMPT TO REVIVE BRITISH FLAX INDUSTRY.**

[Weekly Bulletin, Canadian Department of Trade and Commerce, Aug. 21.]

At one time a considerable acreage of flax was cultivated in England, but the industry has practically died out there, though flax is still produced in Ireland. Farmers were not only in the habit of cultivating and gathering the crops themselves but of preparing the fiber, which was of an inferior quality. They were, however, driven out of the market by the importing of large quantities of Russian flax of a similar quality at a cheaper rate.

The National Development Commission has taken an interest in the matter, and hopes by building small factories, in which flax can be treated by the latest methods, to secure crops which shall be converted into fiber of the finest quality at a considerable profit to the farmers. If these experiments are successful, it will mean keeping many more men on the land and will pave the way to the revival of this branch of the farming industry.

**School Boys to Pull Flax.**

Out of this scheme of the commission has developed the need for the services of the grammar school boys. Flax is being cultivated in the neighborhood of South Petherton and of Yeovil, and at the latter place a factory for treating the fiber has been provided. Arrangements have been under consideration for getting in the crop. This is done by pulling the plant up by the roots when the time for operation is indicated by the bottom of the stalk turning yellow and the color of the seeds changing from green to pale brown. It is helpful in subsequent processes if the plants when pulled out are graded so that those of about the same length are brought together.

This flax pulling is to be done by selected grammar school boys, who will be paid, not by the farmers, but out of the treasury. In this way an attempt is being made to revive this important agricultural industry.

**EXPORTS OF NEW ZEALAND FARM PRODUCTS.**

[Consul General Alfred A. Winslow, Auckland, Aug. 3.]

The farming industry in New Zealand is receiving the closest attention, with the result that the exports of farm products, including returns from grazing and dairying interests, amounted in the year ended March 31, 1916, to \$149,088,726 out of a total export of \$161,353,635, which seems a large amount for a country with a population of a little less than 1,200,000.

At the last meeting of the New Zealand Farmers' Union, held at Wellington, the question of land tax and other important matters were discussed, including the irrigation of land, and the adoption of more effective measures for preventing the increase of larger holdings of land, it being considered detrimental to the development of the country in general.

**Land-Law Amendment.**

The New Zealand land-law amendment act of 1913 provides that privately owned land may be taken (not within the borough or town district) in cases where, in the opinion of the board of the land-purchase commissioners, such land has been acquired by way of aggregation and where such aggregation is contrary to the public interests, a fair compensation being paid for all such land taken as provided by law, the owner having the option of either subdividing the land and putting it in shape for settlement and putting it up at auction by himself, or allowing it to be taken by the Government at a rate fixed by appraisal according to the laws provided therefor. This law has been made use of in many cases to break up large holdings to the decided advantage of certain sections of the country.

There is also an urgent move on foot urging the New England authorities to enact a law forbidding unnaturalized aliens from holding real estate in this Dominion.

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**SUCCESSFUL CONSULAR WORK IN SPANISH PORT.**

[Consul Wilbur T. Gracey, Seville, Aug. 2.]

A prominent mining company of Spain which has its main workshops at Huelva, a port on the Atlantic Ocean some 50 miles from Seville, has during the past year purchased from American manufacturers a turret lathe, valued at \$3,000; a 72-horsepower air compressor, valued at \$2,300; a universal miller, \$1,750; screw-cutting lathes, \$3,500; tool grinders, \$1,350; 15-ton press, \$250; double bolt cutter, \$1,000; 4-spindle nut tapper, \$700; bolt pointer, \$400; turret lathe, \$1,000; drilling machines, \$200; shaping machine, \$500; and a universal grinder valued at \$1,500—a total for this one company of machinery orders approximating \$17,450. The American consular agent at Huelva was primarily instrumental in turning this business to the United States.

Another Huelva company has sold nine American player pianos and has sent orders for other musical instruments, while an optician has ordered several lots of optical supplies and expects to get his entire supply from American manufacturers in the future.

# EUROPEAN MARKETS FOR PIANOS AND PHONOGRAPHS.

## SWITZERLAND.

[Consul Walter H. Schula, Berne, June 15.]

The piano market of Switzerland is now virtually in the hands of Swiss manufacturers, a natural result of war conditions and the excellence of the Swiss product. Since the beginning of the war, the demand for pianos has been very limited, and this small demand is covered almost entirely by the domestic product. The few instruments now sold are chiefly stock goods.

Of the 12 piano factories in Switzerland, the leading three are in this consular district. These factories produce about 2,000 pianos annually. The total production of Switzerland is variously estimated as from 3,000 to 3,500. Swiss pianos are about 10 per cent higher than those from Germany. German pianos have been sold in the past because of their cheapness, and the heavy advertising campaigns of the Germans. But in quality the Swiss article is of the same standard. The principal German makes sold in this market are the Blüttner, Lipp & Son, and Zimmerman, of Leipzig, Saxony. Piano dealers' profits in Switzerland run from 20 to 35 per cent.

### Freight Charges Handicap American Pianos.

Local firms state that American pianos enjoy a good reputation here, but freight charges make the American article too expensive to compete successfully with the Swiss and German products.

The prices of German pianos range from \$130 to \$390; Swiss, from \$160 to \$310. A famous high-priced American piano also is on the market and is manufactured at a branch factory in Germany. Prices have gone up 10 to 15 per cent since the beginning of the war.

The trade prefers black and brown cases in natural-wood finishes. Highly-polished cases are seldom seen. Music teachers and clergymen usually receive 10 per cent commission on sales transacted at their instance. Swiss piano actions and keys are of German origin. The duty on pianos, according to the Swiss Customs Tariff No. 957, is \$7.72 per 220 pounds.

The Swiss exports and imports of pianos in 1914, the latest year for which statistics are available, were:

Countries.	Imports.		Exports.	
	Weight.	Value.	Weight.	Value.
	<i>Pounds.</i>		<i>Pounds.</i>	
Germany.....	576,728	\$184,294	3,086	\$1,423
France.....	32,628	12,985	14,109	5,278
Italy.....	6,613	3,195	2,864	1,447
United Kingdom.....	2,204	1,486	3,527	462
United States.....	1,643	659		
Others.....	5,291	1,686	5,291	1,660
Total, 1914.....	625,007	204,205	28,879	10,675
Total, 1913.....	1,116,419	347,445	44,533	14,845

### German Products Have Very Large Sale.

There are some very strong Swiss concerns producing phonographs, but German products have a very large sale. Phonograph parts are manufactured extensively in and near Geneva. The greatest concern is the Deutsche Gramophon Gesellschaft, at Berlin,

represented in this district by Kaiser & Co., Marktgasse, Berne. No disks are manufactured in Switzerland. All come from France and Germany.

Current prices are: German (American) makes, from \$32 to \$350; German, \$8 to \$120; Swiss, \$7 to \$100; French, \$10 to \$110. German, French, and Belgian disks are on the market at \$0.40 to \$1.50. Since the war started prices have increased 15 per cent.

The German Gramophone Co., of Berlin, and Pathé, of Paris, have the largest share of the trade. The German imports, including German-made American machines, amounted in 1914 to \$47,828, and French imports to \$15,488, while the direct American imports were valued at \$1,752.

Phonographs without horns have the widest sale, but the demand has been reduced by the war. Orders are regularly executed by Germany, however. Twenty to thirty-five per cent is granted to dealers on phonographs and disks. France is a keen competitor in musical disks.

The exports and imports of phonographs, graphophones, cinematographs, and similar machines in 1914 were:

Countries.	Imports.		Exports.	
	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.
	<i>Pounds.</i>		<i>Pounds.</i>	
Germany.....	87,743	\$47,828	51,803	\$25,588
France.....	30,423	15,488	35,274	13,072
Italy.....	3,066	3,111	22,046	7,822
United Kingdom.....	881	788	296,741	92,912
Russia.....	441	99	271,388	95,098
United States.....	1,984	1,752	126,545	41,322
Others.....	3,968	1,689	305,662	108,159
Total 1914.....	128,536	70,755	1,110,464	384,573
Total 1913.....	237,216	129,228	1,565,281	518,510

The duty on phonographs, according to the Swiss customs tariff No. 955, is \$3.86 per 220 pounds.

[Lists of dealers in pianos and phonographs, and manufacturers of pianos, in the Berne consular district may be obtained from the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, its district or cooperative offices. Refer to file No. 78168.]

#### NORWAY.

[Consul Charles Forman, Bergen, June 20.]

#### Talking Machines Very Popular Among Norwegians.

Phonographs are very popular in Norway. The value of talking machines imported into the Kingdom annually averages about \$100,000. They are received from Germany, France, and the United States, but statistics showing the amounts from each of these countries into Norway are not available. Most of those sold in Bergen are imported by agents at Christiania. The most popular machines here retail at \$26.80 (100 crowns). Better machines are also sold, retailing at 300 and 400 crowns. The retail prices of records vary from \$0.80 to \$4.34. Those sold for \$0.80, \$1.07, \$1.61, and \$2.14 are the most popular.

Phonographs are classified under No. 257b of the Norwegian import tariff and pay an import duty of 0.50 crown per kilo net weight

(0.06 per pound). The rate of duty is applicable to phonographs from all countries entitled to most-favored-nation treatment. The tare for packing cases is 12 per cent.

**Usually Sold Through Agents in Christiania.**

The usual method of selling phonographs and disk records is through agents in Christiania who have a sole agency for Norway. Newcomers into the field may adopt this method, or, if they prefer, may appoint an agent for Bergen, who should have exclusive rights for a certain well-defined territory. When possible, it is preferable to quote prices c. i. f. destination. Prices may be quoted in dollars.

The usual terms of sale are 2 per cent for cash. A credit of three months is extended if desired. Dealers make a profit of 50 per cent on phonographs and 33 per cent on disc records.

A list of dealers is transmitted. Credit information may be obtained through a credit agency or bank. Bonnevie Angells Bureau, Bergen, does a business similar to Dun and Bradstreet. The leading banks in Bergen are the Kreditbank and Privathank. In corresponding with the persons whose names are given the English language may be used. The use of Norwegian is to be preferred, but is by no means necessary.

[The list of dealers mentioned may be obtained from the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, its district or cooperative offices. Refer to file No. 78506.]

### **GOLD MINING IN THE BOISE BASIN OF WESTERN IDAHO.**

The Boise Basin of western Idaho has always been primarily a gold placer region, and for a decade after the discovery of gold there, late in 1862, it is credited with an annual placer production of \$1,000,000 to \$5,000,000. In later years the yield has fluctuated greatly, but in 1912, 1913, and 1914 it still amounted approximately to \$500,000 annually. Many of the veins from which the placers derived their gold were located in the early days, and in recent years they have received increasing attention. To meet the many demands for information concerning these lodes, the United States Geological Survey has just published a reconnaissance report on the region as Bulletin 640-E, which is obtainable on request from the Geological Survey, Washington, D. C.

### **Proposed Salt Industry in São Paulo.**

The President of the State of São Paulo, in his message to the legislature, a translated copy of which was transmitted by Vice Consul Robert S. Keiser, recommends the establishment of a salt plant to meet the great demand for salt in the cattle industry.

### **OFFICES OF THE BUREAU OF FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC COMMERCE.**

#### **DISTRICT OFFICES.**

NEW YORK: Room 409, Customhouse.  
BOSTON: 1801 Customhouse.  
CHICAGO: 504 Federal Building.  
ST. LOUIS: 402 Third National Bank Building.  
ATLANTA: 621 Post Office Building.  
NEW ORLEANS: 1020 Hibernia Bank Building.  
SAN FRANCISCO: 307 Customhouse.  
SEATTLE: 848 Harry Building.

#### **COOPERATIVE OFFICES.**

CLEVELAND: Chamber of Commerce.  
CINCINNATI: Chamber of Commerce.  
CINCINNATI: C. N. O. & T. P. Ry. Co.  
LOS ANGELES: Chamber of Commerce.  
PHILADELPHIA: Chamber of Commerce.  
CHATTANOOGA: South American Agent, Southern Ry. Co.  
PORTLAND, OREG.: Chamber of Commerce.

## FOREIGN TRADE OPPORTUNITIES.

Reserved addresses may be obtained from the Bureau and its district offices. Request for each opportunity should be on a separate sheet and state opportunity number. The Bureau does not furnish credit ratings or assume responsibility as to the standing of foreign inquirers; the usual precautions should be taken in all cases.

*Aerial tramways*, No. 22420.—An American consular officer in Chile writes that a firm in his district wishes to communicate with American manufacturers and constructors of aerial tramways. It is proposed to install a steam-driven plant capable of handling from 50 to 200 tons of coal per day of 12 hours. It is to be a double tramway on towers, about 3 miles long. Literature, etc., should be in Spanish.

*Sponges*, No. 22421.—A sponge exporter in the West Indies has solicited the aid of an American consular officer in locating a market for the sale of about \$18,000 worth of sponges.

*Machinery*, No. 22422.—The Bureau is in receipt of a letter from a firm in the United States stating that one of its customers in Australia desires quotations, advertising literature, etc., describing machinery and equipment for the manufacture of incandescent mantles; also materials to be used in making the mantles.

*Paints, flags and bunting*, No. 22423.—An American consular officer in New Zealand transmits the name and address of a firm in his district, which is desirous of communicating with American manufacturers and exporters of paints, flags and bunting. Samples, price lists, etc., should be sent. If possible, c. l. f. prices should be given, otherwise f. o. b. steamer at port of shipment. Reference.

*Notions, etc.*, No. 22424.—A member of a firm of wholesale notion dealers in Brazil has informed an American consular officer that he is desirous of establishing business connections with an American manufacturer with the idea of forming a corporation to handle American commodities in Brazil.

*Awnings, shades, and machinery*, No. 22425.—An American consular officer in France writes that a firm in his district wishes to receive catalogues, price lists, etc., in French, from American manufacturers and exporters of material for making awnings and shades and the machinery for manufacturing same.

*Rubber goods and hosiery*, No. 22426.—An American consular officer in the Netherlands reports that a firm desires to communicate with American manufacturers and exporters of fancy rubber articles (hard rubber); also manufacturers of cotton, silk, and mercerized hosiery for women. Exclusive agencies for the Netherlands are desired. The firm buys on its own account for cash and sells through its own agents and travelers. References. Correspondence may be in English.

*Tractors*, No. 22427.—A company in China writes an American consular officer that it is desirous of purchasing tractors for agricultural purposes.

*Twist drill grinders*, No. 22428.—An American consular officer in Spain wishes to receive catalogues and full information relative to a heavy twist drill grinder, costing about \$730.50 to \$974, to grind drills of from  $\frac{1}{4}$  to 2 $\frac{1}{2}$  inches in diameter.

*Boots, shoes, and hosiery*, No. 22429.—An American consular officer in New Zealand writes that a firm of indent agents and imports desires to represent American manufacturers and exporters of high-grade and medium boots and shoes for boys, girls, and women, also hosiery. The firm proposes to take orders on commission, with arrangements for payment of goods to be made by the purchaser against shipping documents at port of shipment. Reference.

*Advertising agency*, No. 22430.—The manager of a semi-monthly Spanish periodical devoted to Spanish-American propaganda informs an American consular officer that he would like to get into communication with some one in the United States who is willing to solicit advertisers interested in South American and Spanish markets. Correspondence in English. References.

SEP 29 1916

**COMMERCE REPORTS**

PRINCETON, N. J.

DAILY CONSULAR AND TRADE REPORTS

ISSUED DAILY BY THE BUREAU OF FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC COMMERCE  
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

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**IMPORTATION OF FRUIT INTO GREAT BRITAIN.**

[Cablegram from American consul general, London, Sept. 15.]

The requirement that importations of canned, bottled, preserved, and dried fruits during 1916 must be forwarded by overland route to United States port on Atlantic seaboard for shipment to Great Britain is suspended.

**FRENCH EMBARGO ON SODIUM BICHROMATE.**

[Cablegram from American consul general, Paris, Sept. 14.]

An order of September 13 completely prohibits the exportation of sodium bichromate.

**RAISING OF EMBARGO ON FREIGHT FROM VERA CRUZ.**

[Cablegram from American consul, Vera Cruz, Mexico, Sept. 12.]

The embargo which has been in effect since August 16 on all freight out of Vera Cruz to the interior was raised on September 9.

**CHEAPER CABLE RATES TO NEW ZEALAND.**

[Consul General Alfred A. Winslow, Auckland, Aug. 10.]

The question of cheaper cable rates between New Zealand and the United States and the United Kingdom has been under discussion in Parliament, and it seems quite probable that something may be done to induce the Pacific Cable Board to materially reduce its rates. It is claimed that a sixpence (12 cents) per word rate could be made to pay reasonably well.

It is claimed that if this rate be established the cable lines would be busy most of the 24 hours, and by so doing would be even as remunerative as the present rate, and at the same time would be of great advantage to the people in general.

### **COTTON GOODS IN THE DUTCH EAST INDIES.**

Of the \$40,000,000 worth of cotton goods that are imported annually by the Dutch East Indies, the Netherlands and Great Britain normally supply about three-quarters. Their respective shares are about equal. Special Agent Ralph M. Odell of the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce who has made a study and a report dealing with the cotton-goods trade of these colonies, states that he made a diligent search in numerous bazaars and shops for American goods, but without success.

In his comment on the conditions that he found, Mr. Odell states: "The Dutch East Indies are the third largest market in the world for cotton goods and one of our best future fields, in spite of the fact that we have done practically no business there heretofore." The American share in this great trade amounts to only a few thousand dollars. It is practically negligible, and this fact is attributed in part to the indifference of American exporters.

Small orders for khaki and white drills have recently been placed in the United States, and future business in these lines will depend entirely on whether the goods prove satisfactory.

The policy of trusting to exclusive agencies is very strongly recommended for this part of the East. It is not a policy always followed by American manufacturers, but it is practiced very generally by the countries that do the business in the Dutch East Indies, and seems almost necessary if success is to be achieved in the market. Otherwise the salesmen cut prices until shortly there is no profit in handling the goods and the importers give up the line in disgust. There is no doubt some disadvantage in giving an exclusive agency, but the trouble can usually be traced to a lack of care in selecting an agent.

The new report is entitled "Cotton Goods in the Dutch East Indies," Special Agent Series No. 120, and contains a careful analysis of the cotton-goods trade in the Dutch colonies. There are also chapters devoted to practical information and helpful suggestions to the American manufacturer. Samples collected by Mr. Odell are being exhibited to manufacturers and exporters in the United States, and a list is given in the report. In all there are 57 pages in the book. Copies may be obtained for the nominal sum of 10 cents from the Superintendent of Documents, Washington, or from the nearest district office of the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce.

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### **INCREASED TOTAL OF AMERICAN BUILDING OPERATIONS.**

Building operations in many of the larger cities of the country increased in 1915, according to the United States Geological Survey. In 48 selected cities the total cost of building operations was \$641,769,199, an increase of \$22,016,845, or nearly 4 per cent over 1914. Twenty-eight of these cities showed increase and 20 showed decrease. New York was the leading city in cost of building operations, with \$103,023,800, an increase of \$28,993,559 over 1914. Chicago, which was the leading city in 1914, was second in 1915, with building operations costing \$97,291,400, an increase of \$14,029,090. Brooklyn was third, with a total of \$45,601,851, an increase of \$3,729,544 over 1914. The average cost per operation was \$3,190 in 1915, compared with \$3,042 in 1914.



**AMERICAN FLOUR-MILL MACHINERY FOR CHINA.**

[Consul C. E. Gauss, Tientsin, Aug. 14.]

The first flour mill in Chihli Province is now nearing completion in the Italian concession at Tientsin, and is being equipped with American machinery supplied through an American firm at Shanghai. It is understood that the mill is erected by Japanese for Chinese capitalists, and will be known as the Shaohsing Flour Mill. The value of the American machinery provided for it is reported to be about \$70,000 United States currency.

The operations of the mill will be watched with considerable interest, since it will draw its supply of wheat from the northern part of the Province of Shantung. This wheat is understood to be of a particularly high quality, and by proper management the Tientsin mill can put out a high grade of flour which should compete successfully with the products of the mills in the Shanghai and Yangtze Valley sections, where it is understood the indiscriminate use of wheat from various sections under the same mill trade-mark has resulted in uncertain flour standards.

**American and Chinese Flours.**

The inroads of Chinese milled flour on the flour importations from the United States has been the subject of repeated comment in the American consular reports from the Far East, but it is believed that the lack of uniform standard of grade of flour put out under the "chop" or trade-mark of each mill has been something of a drawback to the Chinese product.

It is expected that the Tientsin mill, drawing its wheat supply from a near-by district where the quality is high, will be able to establish a standard-grade flour of high quality under its "chop," which should be highly profitable.

**COTTON CONGRESS IN RIO DE JANEIRO.**

[Vice Consul Robert S. Kelsner, São Paulo, Brazil, July 31.]

Under the auspices of the National Society of Agriculture, a cotton congress was held in Rio de Janeiro from June 1 to 15. A delegation of experts from the São Paulo Agricultural Department represented that State, whose exhibit was a marked success. The State of São Paulo received 36 first prizes and 39 lesser awards. All the cotton products and by-products were displayed in a way that aroused the greatest interest. Demonstrations were given of the experiments made with cotton in the Agronomic Institute; a statistical review showed the economic situation of the cotton industry during recent years, and with the exhibits of raw and ginned cotton were vegetable dyes for coloring the fiber. The Government has given much attention to cotton growing since 1911, seeds having been distributed and methods of cultivation demonstrated through the Department of Agriculture.

**AMERICAN SHIPPING DOUBLES IN TWO YEARS.**

American shipping in the foreign trade has increased from 2,405 vessels of 1,076,152 gross tons on June 30, 1914, to 3,135 vessels of 2,194,470 gross tons on June 30, 1916. Nearly half of this tonnage, 320 vessels of 1,074,679 gross tons, hails from New York City.

**ORGANIZATION OF LLOYD ROYAL BELGE**

[Consul General Ethelbert Watts, Brussels, Aug. 17.]

There has just been founded, under the auspices of the Belgian Government, a national Belgian shipping company called the Lloyd Royal Belge, with a capital of 50,000,000 francs (\$9,650,000), which has already been subscribed. Something over 48,500,000 francs of this money was supplied by three persons residing at present in London; and of the three, two are shipowners.

As stated in the *Moniteur Belge*, the official organ of the Belgian Government, this company is authorized to issue 4 per cent bonds to the value of 100,000,000 francs (\$19,300,000). The Belgian Government has already taken 25,000,000 francs (\$4,825,000) of these bonds at par and has promised to take up later at par the remaining 75,000,000 francs (\$14,475,000). The company also has the right to negotiate a loan at once up to the amount of 75,000,000 francs for the purchase of ships, the loan to be secured by the vessels.

In case of an increase of the capital stock, the Belgian Government reserves the right to subscribe for the one-half. Every increase of the bonded debt, which may be made at any time, must be immediately followed by an increase of the capital stock equal to half of the amount of the issue of the bonds.

**National Character of Company to be Preserved.**

According to the statutes of the company all the officers must be Belgians born in Belgium. All of the capital stock must belong only to Belgians, and the stockholders can not in any way be partners or members of the board of directors of other companies of which the majority is not composed of Belgians born in Belgium. The board of directors of the Lloyd Royal Belge has the right to require the owners of the stock to bring proof that they have complied with the statutes of the company. The Belgian Government exercises an unusually severe control of the company, and in consequence of this two commissioners of the Government are joined to the board of directors.

The formation of the Lloyd Royal Belge has aroused much interest, and certain shipping firms in Antwerp, fearing their business would be injured, have protested against its organization. In general, however, there is a feeling that this has been a very wise move on the part of the Belgian Government and that it will do a great deal toward the building up of a strong Belgian merchant marine and the promotion of Belgian commerce.

**OFFICES OF THE BUREAU OF FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC COMMERCE.****DISTRICT OFFICES.**

NEW YORK: Room 409, Customhouse.  
 BOSTON: 1801 Customhouse.  
 CHICAGO: 504 Federal Building.  
 ST. LOUIS: 402 Third National Bank Building.  
 ATLANTA: 521 Post Office Building.  
 NEW ORLEANS: 1020 Mercantile Bank Building.  
 SAN FRANCISCO: 307 Customhouse.  
 SEATTLE: 848 Henry Building.

**COOPERATIVE OFFICES.**

CLEVELAND: Chamber of Commerce.  
 CINCINNATI: Chamber of Commerce.  
 CINCINNATI: C., N. O. & T. P. Ry. Co.  
 LOS ANGELES: Chamber of Commerce.  
 PHILADELPHIA: Chamber of Commerce.  
 CHATTANOOGA: South American Agent, Southern Ry. Co.  
 PORTLAND, OREG.: Chamber of Commerce.  
 DAYTON: Greater Dayton Association.

## HAWAII'S SHIPPING FACILITIES AND DIVIDENDS.

[A. P. Taylor, correspondent, Honolulu, Sept. 1.]

Excellent progress is being made by contractors in the building of Piers 8, 9, and 10 for Honolulu Harbor. The three piers are practically consolidated into one, of the bulkhead class, and constitute the most extensive wharf ever built in the Hawaiian Islands. With the completion of this work, Honolulu Harbor will have 19 principal wharves, three-fourths of them with a capacity for the largest passenger and freight steamers plying the Pacific.

Tests have been given to the floating dry dock of the Inter-Island Steam Navigation Co. Its capacity for vessels of the size of the *Wilhelmina* is shown to be ample. With the completion of new wharves, and the addition of vessels of larger type calling at Honolulu, the Inter-Island Co. has in contemplation the construction of two to four more units, giving the floating dry dock a much greater capacity.

The Kuhio Wharf, newly constructed in Kuhio Bay, an arm of Hilo Bay (island of Hawaii), which to some extent is an open roadstead, but which will be protected with the completion of the great Federal breakwater, has been utilized in the past few weeks by large vessels. It has demonstrated its fitness in capacity and safety. The wharf is equipped with the most up-to-date automatic sugar-conveying equipment, while the Hawaii Consolidated Railway Co.'s tracks are laid there, giving direct connection with sections along the Hamakua coast and through the Hilo and Puna districts, where extensive sugar plantations are tapped.

### Dividend Payments Show Prosperity—Public Improvements.

There is evidence of the prosperity of the islands in the dividends now being paid. Eight corporations yesterday paid dividends totaling \$305,750. This brought the August disbursement of 30 companies up to \$1,869,000. Counting the plantations privately owned, total dividends exceed \$3,000,000 for the month. The total dividends paid in July amounted to \$1,471,500.

The municipal government of Honolulu has requested the chamber of commerce and other civic organizations to discuss the proposed loan plan, whereby the government would bond the city for \$1,000,000 for certain public improvements, including sewer and water systems, new roads, and a city hall. The waterworks department has recommended out of this fund the following items: The sum of \$150,000 for a filtration plant for Nuuanu Valley reservoirs, \$150,000 for sewer system for Waikiki district, and \$80,000 for water meters. The mayor has proposed \$100,000 for the purchase of a lot and construction of a city hall and \$100,000 for roads.

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### Chilean Finances.

The Chilean Ambassador, in behalf of the Chilean Government, has forwarded to the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce a copy of a recent statistical publication entitled, "Summary of the Finances of Chile from 1833 to 1914." It is announced that copies of this publication may be obtained upon application to the embassy, 1424 K Street NW., Washington.

## DECREASED TRADE OF SWATOW.

[Consul G. C. Hanson, Swatow, China, July 29.]

The Chinese Maritime Customs returns for the first six months of 1916 show that the trade of Swatow fell off considerably compared with the corresponding period in 1915.

The revenue collected by the Chinese Maritime Customs at Swatow for the first six months of 1914, 1915, and 1916 amounted to \$470,945, \$416,881, and \$368,837, respectively, a gradual decline, which is partially explained by the reduction of revenue received from opium imports due to the gradual abolition of the traffic in the drug, and by the falling off of trade due to the war in Europe, and, lately, due to the state of political unrest existing at Swatow.

**The Cotton Goods Trade—Other Imports.**

The imports of foreign cotton goods, which comprises the most valuable item of Swatow's foreign import trade, fell off considerably, practically the only line showing an increase being dyed goods, a result of the impossibility of securing dyes except at exorbitant prices at Swatow, where heretofore much dyeing of cotton has been done. The import of towels increased. The cotton yarn trade has suffered, for during the first six months of 1915 about 11,000,000 pounds were imported, while during the corresponding period of 1916 only 6,000,000 pounds were brought in. The importation of cotton thread increased. Chinese cotton goods and yarn show decreases. Woolen and cotton mixtures declined, and the arrival of woolen goods, although the market is small, decreased. Canvas also lost ground.

Imports of new iron and mild steel bars, cobbles, and wire shorts, nail rods, plate cuttings, and wire fell off, while wire nails and sheets and plates arrived in larger quantities. Less old iron and mild steel was landed. Arrivals of old steel bars and lead fell off, while greater amounts of tin in slabs and of tinned plate were imported. As to foreign sundries, imports of buttons, cement, coal, clocks, aniline dyes, flour, American ginseng, medicines, molasses, singlets and drawers, cotton socks, spirits of wine, white and refined sugars, and wine and spirits increased; imports of rice, cuttle fish, glue, lamps and lampware, cow leather, sewing and knitting machines, matches, paraffin wax, condensed milk, kerosene oil, rattan, sandalwood, brown sugar, tobacco leaf, and umbrellas decreased. As to Chinese sundries imports of bean cake, beans, groundnuts, medicines, samshu, and tea decreased; those of rice, ramie fiber, flour (Shanghai), and silk piece goods increased.

**Amount of Principal Imports.**

The following table shows the quantity of the principal articles imported through the Maritime Customs during the first six months of 1915 and 1916:

Articles.	Jan.-June, 1915.	Jan.-June, 1916.	Articles.	Jan.-June, 1915.	Jan.-June, 1916.
<b>FOREIGN GOODS.</b>			<b>FOREIGN GOODS—contd.</b>		
Cotton Goods:			Cotton goods—Continued.		
Shirting—			T cloths—		
Gray, plain, Eng-lish.....pieces..	59,007	51,068	English.....pieces..	4,322	2,514
White, plain, Eng-lish.....pieces..	79,157	75,708	Japanese.....do....	1,731	2,590
Jeans, English.....do....	3,240	5,036	Printed cotton—		
			Chintzes and plain cot-ton prints.....pieces..	22,666	4,365

Articles.	Jan.-June, 1915.	Jan.-June, 1916.	Articles.	Jan.-June, 1915.	Jan.-June, 1916.
<b>FOREIGN GOODS—contd.</b>			<b>FOREIGN GOODS—contd.</b>		
Cotton goods—Continued.			Foreign sundries—Contd.		
Printed cotton—Contd.			Dyes, colors, and paints—		
Printed Italians, reps			Aniline.....value..	\$11,546	\$11,453
and sateens...pieces..	680	702	Indigo, artificial,		
Dyed cotton—			pounds.....	144,267	.....
Italians—			Enameled ware—		
Plain, black....do....	376	1,834	Basins.....dozen..	3,577	1,781
Plain, colored....do....	10,477	12,643	Bowls, cups, and mugs,		
Venetians, plain, col-			dozen.....	1,744	1,955
ored.....pieces..	361	3,580	Fish, dried and salt,		
Poplins, plain, col-			pounds.....	5,958,276	4,447,467
ored.....pieces..	625	1,687	Flour, wheat.....pounds..	22,400	156,400
Italians, figured....do....	4,384	4,644	Ginseng—		
Poplins, figured....do....	1,818	2,831	American.....do.....	2,251	3,307
Turkey red cambrics			Japanese.....do.....	1,715	490
and shirts.....pieces..	4,991	6,740	Korean.....do.....	252	615
Cotton flannel—			Glue, cow.....do.....	183,333	74,933
Plain, dyed, and			Hats, felt.....dozen..	1,419	527
printed.....pieces..	3,447	1,832	Lamps and lampware,		
Striped.....do.....	4,546	3,106	value.....	\$12,564	.....
Japanese cotton cloth,			Looking glasses and mir-		
yards.....	72,774	62,900	rors, pieces.....	96,110	117,681
Velvets and velveteen,			Leather, cow.....pounds..	202,266	6
yards.....	11,475	7,355	Matches, Japanese, gross.	1,048,493	990,051
Cotton coating and suit-			Match-making material:		
ing.....yards.....	42,341	12,518	Wax, paraffin, pounds.....	366,267	308,000
Handkerchiefs.....dozen..	14,959	14,279	Milk, condensed, in tins,		
Towels.....do.....	12,277	29,588	dozen.....	12,756	11,411
Yarns—			Medicines.....value..	\$69,416	\$71,286
English.....pounds..	7,200	4,000	Molasses, solidified,		
Hongkong.....do.....	82,400	79,600	pounds.....	96,133	5,535,500
Indian.....do.....	8,926,533	5,207,833	Needles.....mille..	60	.....
Japanese.....do.....	1,894,400	713,200	Oil, kerosene—		
Cotton thread on spools,			American.....gallons..	3,379,378	1,922,067
gross.....	15,543	17,366	Borneo.....do.....	93,857	.....
Woolen and cotton mix-			Japanese.....do.....	62,385	63,845
tures:			Sumatra.....do.....	1,629,916	682,874
Alpacas, lusters, etc.,			Rattan.....pounds..	398,000	256,933
yards.....	15,184	3,537	Sandalwood.....do.....	297,467	110,533
Woolen goods:			Singlets and drawers,		
Blankets and rugs,			dozen.....	11,478	34,900
pounds.....	4,315	899	Socks, cotton.....dozen..	17,215	34,925
Camlets, English, pieces..	62	75	Soda, ash.....pounds..	1,178,266	865,867
Coating and suiting,			Spirits of wine.....gallons..	64,961	87,354
yards.....	3,215	4,625	Sugar—		
Lastings.....pieces..	91	105	Brown.....pounds..	147,866	36,667
Long ells.....do.....	533	193	White.....do.....	296,800	2,160,887
Spanish stripes.....yards..	6,011	2,124	Refined.....do.....	606,867	1,835,200
Berlin wool.....pounds..	17,734	21,600	Tobacco, leaf.....do.....	381,600	20,133
Miscellaneous piece goods:			Umbrellas.....pieces..	71,750	53,557
Canvas.....yards.....	44,628	21,735	Wines, etc.—		
Cotton duck.....do.....	3,774	4,283	Ales and beer, quart bot-		
Silk piece goods and mix-			tles.....dozen..	1,496	2,428
tures.....pounds..	2,081	2,415	Brandy, whisky, etc., in		
Metals:			bottles.....dozen..	1,921	3,327
Iron and mild steel, new—			<b>CHINESE GOODS.</b>		
Bars.....pounds..	458,000	280,000	Cotton goods:		
Cobbles and wire shorts,			Shirts, gray, plain,		
pounds.....	170,667	50,667	pieces.....	80	360
Nails, wire.....pounds..	221,267	418,130	Sheetings, gray, plain,		
Nail rods.....do.....	127,734	28,933	pieces.....	4,298	4,409
Plate cutting.....do.....	1,068,400	396,400	Cloth, striped.....pieces..	5,290	2,930
Sheets and plates, do....	71,067	129,967	Nankeens.....pounds..	196,000	133,567
Wire.....do.....	36,000	20,133	Yarns.....do.....	226,667	96,000
Iron and mild steel, old,			Chinese sundries:		
pounds.....	1,150,066	1,011,333	Bean cake.....tons..	139,196	138,153
Lead in pigs and bars,			Beans—		
pounds.....	132,133	44,667	Black.....do.....	1,161	988
Steel, bar.....pounds..	38,133	1,867	Green.....do.....	4,536	2,940
Tin in slabs.....do.....	190,800	708,100	White.....do.....	2,313	1,031
Tinned plate, plain, do....	1,449,733	1,634,400	Yellow.....do.....	20,274	17,049
Foreign sundries:			Cereals—		
Bags of all kinds.....pieces..	1,350,370	1,239,540	Rice.....do.....	27,122	107,556
Bêche de mer.....pounds..	188,534	150,267	Wheat.....do.....	378	436
Buttons.....gross.....	21,587	29,773	Cotton, raw.....do.....	469	474
Cereals, rice.....tons..	192,652	10,649	Fibers—		
Cement.....pounds..	294,000	1,005,400	Ramie.....do.....	1,733	26,684
Cigarettes.....mille..	14,019	14,907	Hemp.....do.....	447	377
Cigars.....do.....	220	490	Fish, dried and salt, do....	1,801	1,056
Coal.....tons.....	30,796	35,006	Flour, mill.....do.....	7,293	9,735
Clocks.....pieces..	5,409	5,645	Groundnuts.....do.....	15,264	9,735
Cuttle fish.....pounds..	2,467,466	1,227,467			

Articles.	Jan.-June, 1915.	Jan.-June, 1916.	Articles.	Jan.-June, 1915.	Jan.-June, 1916.
CHINESE GOODS—contd.			CHINESE GOODS—contd.		
Chinese sundries—Contd.			Chinese sundries—Contd.		
Lily flowers, dried... tons..	156	174	Samshu, medicated... tons..	334	3
Medicines... value..	\$90,296	\$83,219	Seed, sesamum... do...	336	805
Oil -			Silk piece goods... pounds..	110,366	279,667
Bean... tons..	82	12	Tea, black... do...	621,209	379,333
Groundnut... do...	1,778	502	Tobacco, leaf... tons..	1,197	836
Wood... do...	150	80	Vermicelli... do...	1,330	1,333
Samshu... do...	3,306	2,090			

### The Export Trade.

Increases were made in the following articles of export. Bags, bamboo and bamboo ware, coarse chinaware, fine grass cloth, liquid indigo, nankeens, oranges, samshu, and vermicelli and macaroni. Decreases took place in the following items: Cotton clothing, due to falling off of import of cotton goods and of dyes, fresh eggs, paper fans, potato flour, coarse grass cloth, groundnut oil, paper of all kinds, brown and white sugars, black and green teas, and vegetables.

The principal articles exported through the Maritime Customs for the first six months of 1915 and 1916 were as follows:

Articles.	Jan.-June, 1915.	Jan.-June, 1916.	Articles.	Jan.-June, 1915.	Jan.-June, 1916.
Bags of all kinds... pieces..	632,676	685,200	Oil, groundnut... tons..	1,253	1,099
Bamboo and bamboo ware, value..	\$63,114	\$64,383	Oranges, fresh... do...	9,351	9,499
Capoor cutchery... tons..	302	190	Paper:		
Chinaware, coarse... do...	2,414	2,840	First quality... tons..	1,196	1,146
Clothing, cotton... pounds..	175,738	92,000	Second quality... do...	2,191	2,162
Cockles, fresh... tons..	1,906	1,308	Joss... do...	1,803	1,594
Cuttle fish... do...	24	69	Persimmons, dried... do...	392	192
Eggs, fresh... value..	\$71,923	\$66,887	Pottery, earthenware, tons..	5,128	4,954
Fans, paper... pieces..	1,193,536	839,222	Preserves... tons..	620	520
Feathers, duck, fowl, etc., tons..	144	194	Ramie thread and twine, tons..	268	279
Fibers, jute skin... tons..	579	396	Rice, boiled and dried, tons..	404	612
Fire crackers and fireworks, tons..	131	201	Samshu... tons..	734	954
Flour:			Sugar:		
Potato... tons..	2,846	1,952	Brown... do...	17,369	11,925
Rice... do...	437	586	White... do...	7,152	6,573
Garlic... do...	3,463	3,837	Tea:		
Grasscloth:			Black... pounds..	263,666	327,867
Coarse... pounds..	92,933	66,400	Green... do...	31,732	26,667
Fine... do...	313,334	448,933	Tin foil... tons..	93	84
Groundnuts (peanuts), tons..	335	223	Tobacco, prepared... do...	989	343
Indigo, liquid... tons..	335	496	Turnip, salted and dried, tons..	1,992	1,636
Iron pans... do...	704	698	Vegetables, fresh, dried, and salted... tons..	6,745	3,991
Ironware... do...	382	380	Vermicelli and macaroni, tons..	644	627
Joss stick... do...	698	413			
Molasses... do...	60				
Nankeens... pounds..	159,466	229,733			

### Shipping Statistics.

There was a decrease in the number and tonnage of steamers entering and clearing the port during the 1916 period, compared with 1915, as shown by the following figures:

Flag.	January-June, 1915.		January-June, 1916.	
	Number.	Tons.	Number.	Tons.
American	4	6,836		
Danish			2	5,542
British	737	998,323	746	940,003
Dutch	19	29,250	36	80,394
Japanese	214	284,794	173	185,622
Norwegian	96	101,364	50	81,955
Chinese	50	39,962	63	61,276
Total	1,122	1,310,769	1,066	1,394,767

**NORWAY TO RECEIVE INCREASED ALLOTMENT OF TIRES.**

[Consul General E. Haldeman Dennison, Christiania, Aug. 22.]

Under an arrangement made with the British authorities, all automobile tires are imported into Norway through London and consigned only to the Royal Automobile Club, Christiania. The club distributes the tires to the dealers, who are obliged to give guaranties that they are to be used only in Norway.

Practically all the automobiles imported are now of American make and must be shipped without rubber tires. There is a great dearth of tires in the market, but it is thought that the shortage will be only temporary. The greatly increased demand for automobiles on account of the present Norwegian prosperity has made it hard to obtain enough rubber tires to supply the requirements of the trade.

**Conference Results in Extension of Limit.**

Last October the automobile club succeeded in obtaining permission to import 9,000 automobile tires, 4,800 motor tubes, and 800 motorcycle tires during the current year. At that time the quantity was deemed sufficient for the needs of the country. The prosperous times, however, upset all calculations. While on January 1, 1916, there were registered in Norway only 1,520 automobiles, the number has now increased to 2,084, and it has become apparent that the automobile supplies for which licenses had been obtained will not last through the year. The secretary of the automobile club recently was sent to London to confer with the authorities there on the subject, and has succeeded now in getting the limit extended on tires, motor tubes, and motorcycle tires.

The distribution of the goods will be handled jointly by the club and the Rubber Importers' Association, organized under the auspices of the club. For every new tire delivered an old worn-out one must be turned in to the club.

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**EUROPEAN WAR AFFECTS CLAY MINING.**

Curtailment of American imports of high-grade fire clay from Germany as a result of the war in Europe has seriously affected the manufacture of crucibles and lead pencils in this country. The United States Geological Survey, in reporting this state of affairs, says that efforts have been successful in locating a domestic supply of clays suitable for use in these industries in Arkansas, Illinois, Missouri, and Ohio.

Clay mining in 1915 was more prosperous, especially during the latter part of the year, than in 1914, the quantity of clay marketed being 2,362,954 short tons, valued at \$3,971,941, an increase of 153,094 tons in quantity and \$215,373 in value over 1914. Fire clay is the most important variety of clay, 1,570,481 tons being reported for 1915, valued at \$2,361,482, an increase of 161,014 tons and \$214,205 over 1914. There were 28,031 tons of domestic kaolin, the purest form of clay, marketed in 1915, valued at \$241,520, a small decrease from 1914.

The imports of clay decreased considerably in quantity and value, and were the smallest in quantity since 1908 and the lowest in value since 1905.

**GLUE MARKETS IN ITALY AND SWITZERLAND.**

[Consul B. Harvey Carroll, jr., Venice, Italy, June 20.]

The manufacture of glue has practically ceased in the Venice district. Formerly a large factory was located at Piazzola sul Brenta, but it is stated by the director that for several years the glue-making plant has not been in operation, although the making of chemical fertilizers is continued.

The best classes of fish glue were formerly imported from Russia. That country also supplied some of the materials for the hide and bone glue. The war has prevented access to this material, because Venice is a closed port and because the necessary trade routes do not now exist. The war has also greatly affected the imports of fertilizers, formerly the largest class imported into this district by sea routes. The fact that fishing in the Adriatic from this port is prohibited would to some extent affect the supply of raw material, and the great demand for leather may also have an influence.

**District No Longer Ships Glue to America.**

This district no longer ships glue to America, but rather is in the position to seek from America a part of the raw material or finished product to supply the deficiencies from other sources.

"Strong" (forte) glue is classified under No. 443a of the Italian tariff, and duty is levied on gross weight, including packing, and is charged at the rate of 4 gold lire per quintal of 220.46 pounds, general rate, but the United States, by reason of the most-favored-nation clause, enjoys the privilege of Italy's preferential tariff—2 gold lire per quintal, gross weight (lire=\$0.193).

Fish glue is classed under No. 443b, and the details mentioned also apply to this article, though the rate of duty levied is different. For real fish glue the general and preferential rate is 15 gold lire per quintal; imitation fish glue and gelatin classed under the same heading enjoy a preferential rate of 10 gold lire per quintal.

**Method of Extraction from Animal Tissues.**

The method usually adopted in this country for the extraction of glue from animal tissues is one of prolonged ebullition with water. The principal animal substances suitable for the extraction of glue, and therefore called colloidal, are bones, hoofs, skin, cartilage, connective tissue, and the natatory vesicles of fish. Not all of these give products perfectly equal in their composition. From the cartilage the product is called "condrina," and from the bones gliadin or gluten. These two substances have similar physical properties, in that they can not be crystallized, become swollen if placed in cold water, melt in hot water, and on cooling down become a gelatinous mass. They differ in some chemical properties, and in adhesive power, which is greater in the gluten. Neither from a technical nor from a commercial point of view is the distinction important, as the various qualities of glue on the market contain both.

[Consul Walter H. Schulz, Berne, Switzerland, June 3.]

**Operations of Factory Unaffected by War.**

There is but one glue factory in the Berne consular district. Its operations have not been affected by the war. The products, it is stated, are sold direct to Swiss consumers. It buys practically its entire stock of raw materials in Switzerland.



This country exported about \$80,000 worth of fish glue to the United States in 1914. Since the beginning of the war glue prices have increased about 10 per cent. Prices vary from \$15 to \$22 for 220 pounds, as furnished to big consumers and dealers. Druggists sell glue in plates of different weights and sizes to the small consumer, their prices varying from \$0.20 to \$0.50 per plate. A German product known as Cologne glue, which is on the market, is of about the same price.

Glue manufacturers complain of a scarcity of raw material. This is explained by the fact that Swiss manufacturers generally are now buying in home markets instead of foreign markets.

#### Amount of Production of Local Plant.

The glue works here produce 22,000 pounds of glue monthly, chiefly bone glue. At times this company mixes bone and hide glue. The only other product manufactured by the concern is a so-called gelatin glue, the demand for which, however, seems limited. The company is paying \$3.50 per 200 pounds for bones and \$3.85 per 220 pounds for leather scraps. This is an increase of about 45 per cent during the war.

The duty on glue for shoemakers, called glue of Vienna, is, according to the Swiss Customs Tariff No. 1074, \$1.15 per 220 pounds; on glue for joiners, painters, and plasterers, according to No. 1075, \$0.48; on gelatin, No. 1076, fish glue, \$1.35, and on glue, liquid or in powder, No. 1077, \$1.15.

### JULY MARKET CONDITIONS IN ECUADOR.

[Consul General Frederic W. Goding, Guayaquil, Aug. 9.]

During July the price of \$12.71 for arriba superior cacao was maintained by the agricultural association, which received most of the cacao during the month. The difficulties and uncertainty of exports continued. The shipments for the month in pounds were: France, 638,322; Netherlands, 4,500,185; Spain, 535,558; United Kingdom, 5,754,172; United States, 1,918,039; total, 13,346,276.

Coffee prices, owing to receipts of the new crop, were \$7.20 for first grade and \$6.78 for second grade per 100 pounds. The shipments for the month were: Chile 14,374 pounds, and Panama 148,938 pounds, totaling 163,312 pounds.

Rubber prices were \$25.42 for maromas and \$21.19 for hojas per quintal (101.4 pounds), Spain purchasing 2,116 pounds and the United States 2,127 pounds.

The market for hides was firm, with a decided advance in prices. quotations being \$17.80 for serranos, \$16.95 for criollos, and \$8.47 for picados. The exports were: United Kingdom, 34,152 pounds, and United States, 251,939 pounds.

The tagua market was very weak, with prices declining. Quotations on shelled nuts were \$0.81. The shipments were: France, 111,333 pounds; Spain, 22,708 pounds, and United States, 123,011 pounds.

The imports during the month amounted to 60,703 packages, weighing 12,344 tons, and by countries were: From Canal Zone, 83 packages; Chile, 785; Cuba, 1; France, 542; Netherlands, 94; Italy, 1,191; Japan, 38; Panama, 9; Peru, 261; Spain, 2,817; United Kingdom, 8,061; and United States, 46,821.

**IMPORTANT HYDROELECTRIC PROJECTS IN FRANCE.**

[Consul Thomas D. Davis, Grenoble, Aug. 10.]

Interest in hydroelectric development in the Grenoble district has been revived by the movement recently initiated by the Grenoble Chamber of Commerce to attract new industries to this part of France. It is thought that the time is opportune to call to public attention the industrial advantages the Dauphine has to offer, and a systematic plan of gathering and disseminating information is being worked out. While other advantages and resources will be included, the hydroelectric possibilities are to be given chief prominence. If the enthusiasm that marked the launching of the movement is maintained, important results will undoubtedly be achieved.

**Water-Power Development Has Steadily Progressed.**

The development of water power along modern lines commenced here about 1860, and reached important proportions in 1900. Since then it has steadily progressed. There are now in the Department of the Isère 11 important companies utilizing water power in the manufacture of electrochemical and electrometallurgical products of various kinds. These companies own 13 generating plants, which with enlargements in course of construction will give a normal output of 81,500 horsepower. This does not include numerous companies which have generating plants of less than 800 horsepower each. There are also 10 industrial companies formed to utilize Alpine water power and deliver it to consumers. This group owns 18 generating plants representing a normal total of 88,830 horsepower, which is consumed within a radius of 125 miles.

Seven generating plants which are now under construction will have an aggregate output of about 47,400 horsepower. Seven other projects with an estimated output of 98,000 horsepower are said to be on the eve of being constructed.

**Numerous Projects for Creation of New Plants.**

In addition to the plants mentioned there already exist in the two Savoies and the Department of the Hautes Alpes, many electric stations consuming, or transmitting to a distance, energy furnished by the water courses of the Alps. It is estimated that the total production of these will reach far above 100,000 horsepower. In these same regions numerous projects for the creation of new electric plants are being studied. These contemplated installations will represent an aggregate mean production of about 265,000 horsepower.

The expense of installing main trunk lines varies from 10,000 to 12,000 francs, reaching in some cases 15,000 francs per kilometer (\$3,106, \$3,727, and \$4,659 per mile). While the cost of installation of the branch lines varies also according to the nature and tension of the current and the total horsepower furnished, it is generally between 1,500 and 2,000 francs per kilometer (\$465 and \$620 per mile).

**To Find Solution in Water Transportation.**

One condition recognized as very unfavorable to the plan to make Grenoble rival the region of Luneville and Nancy as an industrial center is the lack of cheap and adequate transportation facilities. This has seriously handicapped the industrial development of the

section, and much effort has been expended in the hope of overcoming that deficiency, but with little success. Water transportation is recognized as the solution, and since activity has been renewed in regard to the projected construction of a canal lateral to the Rhone, Grenoble capitalists have discussed the possibility of making the Isere navigable from its junction with the proposed Rhone Canal. The current of the Isere River is about 4 miles an hour, and the bottom is said to change constantly, owing to the great quantity of soil and sand carried down by its waters. The volume of water becomes rather small during the winter months, as it is fed by melting snow from the mountains.

If the campaign that has been begun results in the carrying out of the projects mentioned and in the expected industrial revival of this section, a large part of the machinery and electrical supplies that will be required will have to be imported.

#### Specific Projects Which Are Receiving Attention.

Industrial companies which are organized to exploit Alpine water power are:

Société Générale de Force et Lumière, 37 Rue Diderot, Grenoble, Isere, France; Société Hydro-Electrique de Fère et Morge et de Vizille, 34 bis Boulevard Gambetta, Grenoble; Société des Forces Motrices du Haut Grésivaudan, 26 Rue du Lycée, Grenoble, Isere, France; Société Hydro-Electrique de l'Eau-d'Olle, 46 Boulevard Gambetta, Grenoble, France; Société des Forces Motrices du Vercoeurs, Grenoble, France; Société des Forces Motrices et de l'Eclairage de la ville de Grenoble, Grenoble, France; Société d'Energie Electrique de Grenoble-Valron, Valron and Grenoble, France; Société hydro-electrique du Guiers, Grenoble, France; Société Hydro-Electrique Haute-Bourne, 10 Rue Docteur-Mazet, Grenoble, France.

#### Hydroelectric plants in process of construction are:

Plant of Fond de France (Société Générale de Force et Lumière), 8,000 horsepower; plant of the Curtillard (Société du Bréda et de la Grande-Valloire), 4,400 horsepower; Tencin (Société Hydro-Electrique de Tencin), 3,000 horsepower; plant of the Rivier-d'Allemont (Société Hydro-Electrique de l'Eau-d'Olle), 15,000 horsepower; La Balme plant (Société Hydro-Electrique de la Haute Bourne), 4,000 horsepower.

#### Hydroelectric plants on the point of being constructed are:

Project of the Saut-du-Molne, plant at Pont-de-Chaix (suburb of Grenoble), 15,000 horsepower; project of the Drac inférieur, plant at Grenoble, 15,000 horsepower; project of the Vénéon, 10,000 horsepower; project of the Vernes, plant at Livet, 3,000 horsepower; project of St.-Georges-de-Commiers, near Grenoble, 25,000 horsepower; project of Saint Gervais-sur-Isere, near Grenoble, 20,000 horsepower; project of the Basse-Isere, down the Isere from Romans, 10,000 horsepower.

#### Construction Work Which May be Undertaken.

##### Hydroelectric plants whose construction is contemplated are:

Falls of Sainte Foy, near Bourg-Saint-Maurice, estimated 20,000 horsepower (in Tarentaise); Falls of Aigueblanche, above Albertville (by Grenoble capitalists), from 20,000 to 40,000 horsepower (Tarentaise); Falls of Termignon (in Maurienne), 8,000 horsepower; Falls of l'Arc, between La Madeleine and Bonvillaret (by Société Française des Nitrates, a company newly organized), from 12,000 to 60,000 horsepower (Maurienne); Falls of the Neuvache (by M. J. Delamarche), 15,000 horsepower (Maurienne). In the valley of the Durance—Falls of Presles, 15,000 horsepower; Falls of Savines, 15,000 horsepower; Falls of Serre-Ponçon, 15,000 to 60,000 horsepower; Falls of Carbaux, 17,000 to 60,000 horsepower; Falls of Château-Arnoux, 7,000 to 20,000 horsepower; Falls of the Basse Durance, 20,000 to 50,000 horsepower.

### AMERICAN CONSULAR OFFICERS ON LEAVE OF ABSENCE.

The following American consular officers are on leave of absence in the United States, and will be glad to confer with business men and commercial organizations relative to conditions in their respective jurisdictions. The consul's time is available primarily for personal interviews. He has limited facilities for correspondence, and except in urgent cases letters should be directed to the consulate.

Name.	Post.	Expiration of leave.	Address.
Jewell, John F. ....	Chefoo, China .....	Oct. 1	Galena, Ill.
Hazeltine, Ross .....	Port Antonio, Jamaica .....	do .....	Department of State, Washington, D. C.
Laing, James Oliver .....	Karachi, India .....	Sept. 30	C/o University Club, Kansas City, Mo.
Leonard, Walter A. ....	Colombo, Ceylon .....	Oct. 14	Essex, Iowa.
Osborne, John Ball .....	Havre, France .....	Oct. 21	Department of State, Washington, D. C.
Pike, William J. ....	St. Gall, Switzerland .....	Nov. 1	Do.
Armstrong, John S. ....	Bristol, England .....	do .....	1200 Eutaw Place, Baltimore, Md.
Henry, Frank Anderson .....	Puerto Plata, Dominican Republic .....	Oct. 1	C/o Hollowell & Henry, 27 Pine Street, New York City.
Masterson, William W. ....	Durban, South Africa .....	Sept. 30	

\* Consul Masterson informs the Bureau that he will be in New York City from Sept. 26 to 30, during which period he will be pleased to meet those interested in South African commercial matters. Communications should be sent to the Bureau's district office, Room 409, Customhouse, New York City.

### AGENTS OF AMERICAN FIRMS IN EASTERN GREECE.

[Consul General Alexander W. Weddell, Athens, Aug. 11.]

For some time past the Athens consulate general has maintained a card index of the names of local agents of American firms, under a cross-entry system. It has not been possible, however, to make this list as complete as it should be, despite a notice concerning it that appeared in *COMMERCE REPORTS* some months ago, wherein American commercial houses were requested to notify this office of the names of their representatives. In an endeavor to perfect this list there is now added to the consulate general's replies to inquiries from the United States a paragraph somewhat as follows:

This office keeps a card index of agents of American firms in this territory and endeavors to cooperate with them in building up American trade. Perhaps in the event that you make an agency arrangement for this district you may see proper to notify this office so that inquiries may be referred to your representatives; might it not be in your interest to have your representative call on the writer with a view to discussing the possibilities of the market?

American firms having a representative in the Athens district are again requested to consider the advisability of notifying this office.

### Electric Plant for Colombian Town.

The municipal council of the district of Pueblorrico in the Department of Antioquia has been given official authorization, in the Diario Oficial of July 31, to contract a loan for \$10,000 gold, for the installation of an electric plant.

Consul Felix S. S. Johnston, of Kingston, reports that the publication of his article on "Opportunity for American Molasses in Canada," in *COMMERCE REPORTS* for August 8, 1916, has led to the placing of an order for a carload of American molasses by a firm in that Ontario city.

**PROPOSALS FOR GOVERNMENT SUPPLIES AND CONSTRUCTION.**

[Correspondence should be direct with the offices named, and specifications can usually be obtained at the points where the goods are to be delivered or the work is to be performed. In cases where the time limit is too short to permit firms to submit tenders, they should ask to be placed on the mailing lists of such offices to receive notices calling for future supplies or work of a similar nature.]

**Navy Department supplies, No. 3591.**—Sealed proposals will be received at the Bureau of Supplies and Accounts, Navy Department, Washington, D. C., to which bureau firms desiring to submit proposals should apply, giving schedule numbers, for the supply of the following: Schedule 135, automobile ambulances; schedule 136, silk cloth for cartridge bags, and No. 1 ingot copper; schedule 137, electric bake ovens; schedule 138, turret-turning motors; schedule 139, emery grinders, woodworker's lathes, drill motor-driven presses, 30-inch motor-driven band saws, and motor-driven-saw tables; schedule 141, fuel flasks, spare parts for torpedoes, bronze rings, and wrenches; schedule 142, electrically operated ice-cream freezers, electrically operated food and meat grinders, electrically operated dishwashing machines, electrically operated dough-mixing machines, electrically operated kitchen and cake machines, electrically operated potato peelers, and hand-operated butter slicers; schedule 143, water-tube boilers; schedule 144, rattan brooms, charges for fire extinguishers, paint drier,  $\frac{1}{4}$ -inch rubber garden hose, hydraulic leather, powdered aluminum sulphate,  $\frac{1}{2}$ -pound balls of cotton twine, sheet cork wood, sheet lead, and black sheet steel; schedule 145, semifinished steel bolts and nuts, unfinished steel bolts and nuts, and semifinished steel nuts; schedule 146, 1-gallon tin paint cans, 1-pint tin paint cans, crocus cloth, emery cloth, adjustable hacksaw frames, 4-pound boat grapnels, bronze coat and hat hooks, brass cup hooks, snap hooks with rings, cylinder brass locks, padlocks, spring brass cotter pins, galvanized paint pots, hammock rings, and iron or steel washers; schedule 147, semifinished brass bolts and nuts,  $\frac{1}{4}$ -inch phosphor bronze chain, sheet commercial brass, and sheet phosphor bronze; schedule 148, wiping cotton rags, loofa sponges, 28-inch turkish toweling, and scoop shovels; schedule 149, composition pipe fittings,  $\frac{1}{4}$ -inch steam traps, unfinished composition unions, low-pressure brass gate valves, and low-pressure brass check and cross valves; schedule 150, telephone cable and single conductor wire; schedule 151, shrunk blue denim; schedule 152, steel springs; schedule 153, firsts and seconds mahogany; schedule 154, disinfectant; schedule 155, catnip, cocoa, hops, mackerel, tinned salmon, salt, and tea in half chests; schedule 156, furnishing and erecting steel flagstaff; schedule 157, gasoline trucks; schedule 158, railroad tank car, railroad type platform scale, and steel tanks; schedule 159, portable or knock-down house; and schedule 160, electric portable drills, bench portable grinders, and screw-cutting lathes.

**Grease, No. 3592.**—Sealed proposals will be received at the Office of Depot Quartermaster, 115-123 East Ontario Street, Chicago, Ill., until September 21, 1916, for furnishing and delivering 2,000 pounds of Helmet or equal grease in barrels.

**Post-office construction, No. 3593.**—Sealed proposals will be received by the Supervising Architect's Office, Treasury Department, Washington, D. C., until October 23, 1916, for the extension, remodeling, etc., of the post office at Boise, Idaho. Drawings and specifications may be obtained on application to the above office.

**Hire of schooners, No. 3594.**—Sealed proposals will be received by the Light-house Inspector, New Orleans, La., for hire of schooners in repairing and rebuilding aids to navigation in the waters of that district. Further information may be had on application to the above office.

**Electric elevator, No. 3595.**—Sealed proposals will be received by the Supervising Architect's Office, Treasury Department, Washington, D. C., until October 18, 1916, for the installation, complete, of one electric passenger elevator, in the customhouse, appraiser's stores, and courthouse, Wilmington, N. C., and for three electric elevators in the post office at New Haven, Conn. Drawings and specifications may be had on application to the Supervising Architect.

**Hooks, pikes, and poles, No. 3596.**—Sealed proposals will be received at the Office of the Chief Signal Officer, War Department, Washington, D. C., until September 28, 1916, for furnishing 500 hooks, 950 pikes, and 500 poles for wire pikes. Further information may be had on application to the above office.

## FOREIGN TRADE OPPORTUNITIES.

Reserved addresses may be obtained from the Bureau and its district offices. Request for each opportunity should be on a separate sheet and state opportunity number. The Bureau does not furnish credit ratings or assume responsibility as to the standing of foreign inquirers; the usual precautions should be taken in all cases.

- Pins, needles, snap fasteners, etc.*, No. 22431.—An American consular officer in France writes that a firm wishes to represent, on a commission basis, American manufacturers and exporters of pins, needles, snap fasteners, etc. Reference.
- Machinery*, No. 22432.—A firm in Mexico informs an American consular officer that it would like to communicate with American manufacturers of machines for making nails, wooden pegs, wood screws, and toothpicks. Correspondence in English.
- Tailors' trimmings*, No. 22433.—A lining merchant in the United Kingdom informs an American consular officer that he is desirous of forming connections with American manufacturers and exporters of linings similar to samples which may be inspected at the Bureau or its district offices. (Refer to file No. 79743.) Reference.
- Shooks*, No. 22434.—An American consular officer in Spain transmits the name and address of a firm in his district which desires quotations on wine-case shooks. Further information relative to dimensions, etc., may be had on application to the Bureau or its district offices. Reference. Correspondence in Spanish.
- Bottles*, No. 22435.—A firm in Switzerland has informed an American consular officer that it would like to be placed in touch with American manufacturers of small glass bottles similar to samples which may be inspected at the Bureau or its district offices. It is stated that the firm wants about 800,000 bottles. Prices should be quoted f. o. b. New York. Correspondence may be in English. (Refer to file No. 79575.)
- Fibers and rope*, No. 22436.—An American consular officer in Brazil has transmitted samples of rope and fiber which may be inspected at the Bureau and its district offices. (Refer to file No. 79174.) It is desired to find a market in the United States for these commodities. Requests for further information concerning the fibers should be addressed to the American consular officer.
- Concrete, etc.*, No. 22437.—The Bureau is in receipt of a letter from a firm in the United States transmitting the name and address of a man in Mexico who writes that he expects to secure a contract for the erection of 30 roundhouses, each house to contain 24 stalls. Payment will be made in American gold. The man desires to have these roundhouses built of concrete and wishes to obtain sample specifications for such work and to get in touch with contractors who will undertake to do the work.
- Machinery*, No. 22438.—A firm in the United States writes that it is in receipt of an order for fluting machines to be used for heavy paper and cardboard fluting. Steam or oil heating is to be used. The machines are to be shipped to Finland. The firm in the United States will pay cash against shipping documents.
- Ambulances*, No. 22439.—An American consular officer in Chile reports an opportunity for the sale of four motor ambulances. It is desired to secure ambulances to cost about \$2,500 each. Correspondence may be in English.
- Drugs, paints, and varnishes*, No. 22440.—A business man in France writes that he desires to represent American manufacturers and exporters of drugs, paints, and varnishes. He states that he has large warehouses for storing supplies. References.
- Tools*, No. 22441.—A piano company in the United States writes that its representative in Peru desires to communicate with American manufacturers and exporters of tools for carpenters. Catalogues, price lists, etc., should be in Spanish.
- Tramways*, No. 22442.—An American consular officer in Chile reports that a firm in his district wishes to communicate with American manufacturers and exporters of aerial tramways and supplies. The firm will supply details to interested manufacturers. Correspondence in English.

SEP 29 1916

# COMMERCE REPORTS

PRINCETON, N. J.

DAILY CONSULAR AND TRADE REPORTS

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

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No. 220 Washington, D. C., Tuesday, September 19 1916

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## BRITISH IMPORT RESTRICTIONS ON FRUIT.

[Announcement of Department of State, Sept. 18.]

The American Embassy at London reports by cable that the British Foreign Office has explained that the import restrictions were relaxed in favor of Spanish Valencia raisins on account of the failure of the 1915 crop, and imports will be permitted to an amount 50 per cent greater than last year. The relaxation applies only to Valencia raisins and not to muscatels or any other kind of Spanish fruit.

The relaxation of the import restrictions in favor of Spanish and Portuguese fruits, which are permitted to enter the United Kingdom after September 30, 1916, or one month earlier than the date fixed for imports from other countries, is explained by the statement that if the later date were adhered to it would cripple the fruit trade of those countries.

With respect to American canned, bottled, preserved, and dried fruits, the requirement that they must reach the Atlantic seaboard by overland route in order to be permitted entry has been suspended.

[The regulations governing the importation of canned, bottled, preserved, and dried fruits were published in *COMMERCE REPORTS* for July 22, 1916.]

## INSPECTION OF PHILIPPINE HEMP.

The Bureau of Insular Affairs, War Department, is in receipt of a cablegram from the Governor General of the Philippine Islands advising that during the month of August Philippine government fiber inspectors inspected and stamped 96,671 bales abaca and 7,370 bales maguey, as follows: Abaca, A, 254; B, 728; C, 1,967; D, 2,971; E, 5,622; S-1, 951; S-2, 2,355; S-3, 869; F, 11,337; G, 3,524; H, 2,566; I, 12,110; J, 19,624; K, 7,274; L, 13,676; M, 3,578; DL, 3,767; DM, 1,253; strings, etc., 2,245. Maguey: 1-465; 2-3,930; 3-2,471; D, 504.

California shipped 44,537 cars of citrus fruit during the year ended August 31, 1916—37,279 cars of oranges and 7,258 cars of lemons.

**MONETARY SITUATION IN VERA CRUZ DISTRICT.**

[Consul Wm. W. Canada, Vera Cruz, Mexico, Aug. 22.]

The monetary situation in the Vera Cruz consular district—and, in general, throughout Mexico—is in a state of confusion. Three distinct forms of money, namely, Mexican gold and silver coins, bills of the Vera Cruz and Constitutionalist Army issue, and bills of the de facto Government's new issue, continue in circulation.

Mexican gold coins, of which there are only 5 and 10 peso pieces, are quoted by the Treasury Department of the United States at \$0.4985 American currency per peso, making them equivalent, respectively, to \$2.4925 and \$1.985. For a time, while the Government had a sort of commercial agency in Vera Cruz where gold coins might be obtained for paying customs duties and other dues, the 10-peso gold pieces or "hidalgo" was worth somewhat less than \$5 American currency; but at present, owing, it is said, to the fact that since the giving up of this Vera Cruz commercial agency the gold is sent to Mexico City, gold coins are getting scarce and are now obtainable only at a rate of over \$5 for 1 hidalgo.

In Vera Cruz the Mexican silver peso is taken at its par value in national gold and the smaller silver coins at 80 per cent of their face value. Metallic currency is no longer in general circulation.

**Vera Cruz and Constitutionalist Army Issues.**

Of the paper money issued by the Carranza Government in Vera Cruz only the bills of the 1, 2, and 5 peso denominations are now in circulation for private transactions. Different decrees made those of higher denominations unavailable for ordinary business dealings.

A decree of May 31, 1916, stated that if bills of the higher denominations were deposited with certain Government offices by the end of July certificates would be issued to the depositors and redemption at the rate of 10 centavos national gold per peso would be made during the years 1917 to 1921, the order of redemption of the various certificates being determined by drawings the 30th of June of each year. The bills of lower denomination of this old issue have been made fractional currency of the new issue, 1 Vera Cruz peso being treated as 10 centavos. Those bills of the Vera Cruz issue now in circulation will, according to a recent decree, cease to circulate after September 30, 1916, instead of June 30, 1916, the date set by a former decree.

Of the same value and in the same category as the bills of Vera Cruz are the Constitutionalist Army bills, issued at Chihuahua and elsewhere before the Carranza Government made its headquarters at Vera Cruz.

**Bills of the New Issue.**

The de facto Government began to place in circulation in May of this year bills of a new issue which were made by the American Bank Note Co. in New York. The authorities state that these bills can not be counterfeited and allege that one reason for the low value of the Vera Cruz and Constitutionalist army bills is that counterfeits of them, difficult to distinguish from the genuine, have become common. The new bills are now generally designated "infalsificables," i. e., "noncounterfeitables."



The value given in May, 1916, by the de facto Government to each peso of its new issue was one-fifth of a Mexican gold peso, thus making 10 pesos of the new issue equivalent, in effect, to about \$1 American currency. At present, three months after the new issue came into circulation, the rate of exchange with American currency is about 30 pesos for \$1, and the conditions causing the rapid decline in value still exist.

#### **Exchange Difficult to Procure.**

The authorities sought to stop the decline in the value of their paper by forbidding the exchange of money or the issuance of drafts except by the Government. This did not produce the desired results and business suffered because of the inability to obtain foreign exchange, for the Government found itself unable to continue the issuance of drafts at the arbitrary rate assumed. Hence restrictions have been lessened, and all established commercial firms, including the banks, are again allowed to issue bills of exchange, provided they report daily to the Treasury Department the amounts handled and rates employed.

Only a few of the banking institutions have seen fit to resume the issuance of drafts, and the difficulty experienced in obtaining letters of exchange is only exceeded by that encountered when the foreign currency itself is wanted. In Vera Cruz foreign exchange is almost synonymous with American exchange.

The bank bills that circulated for so many years are now rarely seen. Their value varies according to the standing of the bank by which they were issued.

#### **Local Preference for Vera Cruz Bills.**

Certain Federal taxes are payable exclusively in national metallic currency, others in either metallic currency or bills of the new issue at the rate of 5 pesos of the new issue for 1 metallic peso, while still other taxes are payable exclusively in bills of the new issue. [See COMMERCE REPORTS for Aug. 29, 1916.] Commercial invoices may be made out in either Mexican gold or in the new paper money.

Local business men believe that if in the future a stable government in Mexico takes cognizance of the paper bills that have so far been issued by the Constitutionalist régime and undertakes their redemption, there is a remote possibility that the Vera Cruz paper will be accorded its face value in gold, whereas the peso of the new issue will never be recognized as worth more than one-fifth of the gold peso, i. e., the value established when it was first put in circulation. Indeed, some people here lay away their Vera Cruz paper currency, and even take pains to exchange their surplus bills of the new issue for the others at the rate of 10 Vera Cruz bills for 1 of the new issue; that is, according to the relative value fixed by official decree.

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#### **CURRENT CROP OF GREECE.**

The American consul at Patras, Greece, cables that the total new current crop is estimated at 100,000 tons, or two-thirds crop. The market is firm.

**LOW RECORD FOR AMERICAN DEATH RATE.**

The lowest death rate on record for the registration area of the United States is shown in the 1915 figures compiled by the United States Bureau of the Census. The rate of 13.5 per 1,000 estimated population establishes the new low mark. It was based on 909,155 deaths returned from 25 States (in one of which, North Carolina, only municipalities of 1,000 population and over in 1910 were included), the District of Columbia, and 41 cities in nonregistration States. The total population of this area in 1915 was estimated at 67,337,000, or 67.1 per cent of the total estimated population of the United States.

There is a widespread and increasing interest throughout the country in respect to vital statistics. The States of North and South Carolina, which recently enacted the "model law" for the registration of births and deaths, were admitted to the death-registration area for 1916, increasing the estimated population of the area to 70.2 per cent of the total for the United States in that year.

The most favorable year prior to 1915 was 1914, for which the rate was 13.6. It is markedly lower than the average rate for the five-year period 1901 to 1905, which was 16.2. The decrease thus amounts to 16.7 per cent, or almost exactly one-sixth, during a little more than a decade.

**Number of Lives Saved in United States as a Whole.**

When due allowance is made for the addition of many new States to the registration area between 1905 and 1915, and the comparison is confined to the group of registration States as constituted during the period 1901-1905—the present population of which is about one-fourth of the total for the country—there is still shown a very considerable decrease, from 15.9 to 14.8 per 1,000 population, or 10.1 per cent. This decrease, on the basis of the present population, would amount to 42,876 deaths. On the assumption that a corresponding reduction has taken place throughout the entire country this would indicate a saving of approximately 170,000 lives in 1915 for the United States as a whole.

In the States for which death rates for 1901-1905 are given, the greatest proportional decrease between that period and 1915 is shown for Rhode Island—16.9 per cent. Next in order are New York, with a decrease of 14.6 per cent; New Jersey, 14.3 per cent; Massachusetts, 12.7 per cent; Vermont, 9.3 per cent; Connecticut, 5.1 per cent; Indiana, 3.8 per cent; New Hampshire, 3 per cent; and Maine, 1.9 per cent. Michigan alone showed a slight increase—eight-tenths of 1 per cent.

Among the cities having 100,000 or more inhabitants in 1910 the tendency is toward a still greater reduction in mortality. The following-named cities show, for 1915, decreases of 20 per cent or more as compared with the five-year period 1901-1905: Newark, N. J., 29.9 per cent; Atlanta, 28.4 per cent; New York City, 26.8 per cent; Los Angeles, 25 per cent; Jersey City, 24.9 per cent; Pittsburgh, 23.9 per cent; St. Louis, 22.9 per cent; Denver, 22.7 per cent; Providence, 22.3 per cent; Paterson, 21.9 per cent; San Francisco, 21.7 per cent; Fall River, 21.7 per cent; Louisville, 21.1 per cent; and Nashville, 20 per cent.

### PROGRESS OF AMERICAN SHIPBUILDING.

Steel merchant vessels building or under contract to be built in private American shipyards on September 1, 1916, according to builders' returns to the Bureau of Navigation, Department of Commerce, number 397 of 1,292,310 gross tons. During August new contracts for 20 such vessels of 75,060 gross tons were entered into and 12 vessels of 35,166 gross tons were completed. Foreign shipowners preponderate in recent contracts. The naval appropriation act became law on August 29, and the great naval construction program, mentioned in COMMERCE REPORTS for July 17, 1916, will soon require a large part of our shipbuilding facilities and a large increase in skilled labor. Of the warships 66, of 382,000 tons displacement, must be begun as soon as practicable. Steel plants are reported to be supplied with orders for ship plates late into 1917, and since the naval battle of Jutland, British yards are increasing their output of merchant ships. In the seven months from February 1 to September 1, 1916, American yards entered into contracts to build 229 steel vessels of 576,857 gross tons, and completed 55 such vessels of 206,545 gross tons.

#### Distribution of Work.

The following table shows the distribution of this work among the several builders of steel vessels in the United States reporting merchant vessels under contract or under construction, and, separately, the number and gross tonnage of the ships building or under contract which the builders expect to launch during the current fiscal year (332 vessels of 968,461 gross tons), and those which will not be launched until some time in the fiscal year ending June 30, 1918 (65 vessels of 323,849 gross tons). These dates of launching, of course, are subject to the usual allowances for delays.

Shipyards.	Merchant construction, Aug. 1, 1916.		To be launched during fiscal year ending—			
			June 30, 1917.		June 30, 1918.	
	Number.	Gross tons.	Number.	Gross tons.	Number.	Gross tons.
American Bridge Co., Ambridge, Pa., and Trenton, N. J.	106	51,028	106	51,028	.....	.....
American Shipbuilding Co., Cleveland, Ohio.	21	73,100	21	73,100	.....	.....
Bethlehem Steel Co., Sparrows Point, Md.	12	74,893	7	44,066	5	30,827
Baltimore Dry Docks & Shipbuilding Co., Baltimore, Md.	9	32,800	7	24,500	2	8,300
Bath Iron Works, Bath, Me.	3	<sup>b</sup> 1,600	3	<sup>b</sup> 1,600	.....	.....
Charles Barnes Co., Cincinnati, Ohio.	2	375	2	375	.....	.....
Chester Shipbuilding Co., Chester, Pa.	14	67,700	12	58,700	2	9,000
Cowies Shipyard Co., Buffalo, N. Y.	2	56	2	56	.....	.....
Ellicott Machine Corporation, Baltimore, Md.	1	250	1	250	.....	.....
Fore River Shipbuilding Corporation, Quincy, Mass.	14	<sup>b</sup> 87,800	12	<sup>b</sup> 74,444	2	13,356
George Lawley & Sons Corporation, Neponset, Mass.	1	75	1	75	.....	.....
Great Lakes Engineering Works, Detroit, Mich.	12	48,730	8	33,620	4	15,110
Great Lakes Towing Co., Cleveland, Ohio.	5	466	5	466	.....	.....
Harlan & Hollingsworth Corporation, Wilmington, Del.	15	63,959	11	46,284	4	17,675
Howard Shipyards Co., Jeffersonville, Ind.	5	2,950	5	2,950	.....	.....
J. F. Dunthie & Co., Seattle, Wash.	5	26,850	1	5,370	4	21,480
James Rees & Sons Co., Pittsburgh, Pa.	1	300	1	300	.....	.....
Manitowoc Shipbuilding Co., Manitowoc, Wis.	11	17,450	8	10,700	3	6,750
Merrill-Stevens Co., Jacksonville, Fla.	4	2,500	4	2,500	.....	.....
Moore & Scott Iron Works Co., Oakland, Cal.	6	22,600	2	10,000	4	12,800
Newport News Shipbuilding & Dry Dock Co., Newport News, Va.	15	103,573	9	58,325	6	45,248

<sup>a</sup> Detailed statement of new contract not received.

<sup>b</sup> Incomplete.

Shipyards.	Merchant construction, Aug. 1, 1916.		To be launched during fiscal year ending—			
			June 30, 1917.		June 30, 1918.	
	Number.	Gross tons.	Number.	Gross tons.	Number.	Gross tons.
New York Shipbuilding Co., Camden, N. J.	24	121,538	18	79,835	6	41,708
Pusey & Jones Co., Wilmington, Del.	15	12,578	9	2,973	6	3,600
Seattle Construction & Dry Dock Co., Seattle, Wash.	10	56,700	7	42,600	3	14,100
Skinner & Eddy Corporation, Seattle, Wash.	6	35,720	6	35,720		
Spedden Shipbuilding Co., Baltimore, Md.	3	730	3	730		
Standard Shipbuilding Corporation, New York, N. Y.	6	28,800	6	28,800		
Staten Island Shipbuilding Co., Port Richmond, N. Y.	5	6,341	5	6,341		
Sun Shipbuilding Co., Philadelphia, Pa.	2	12,400			2	12,400
Tampa Foundry & Machine Co., Tampa, Fla.	1	2,000	1	2,000		
Tank-Ship Building Corporation, Newburgh, N. Y.	3	1,800	3	1,800		
Texas Steamship Co., Bath, Me.	4	26,000	2	12,600	2	13,400
Toledo Shipbuilding Co., Toledo, Ohio.	9	22,620	6	17,220	3	5,400
Union Iron Works Co., San Francisco, Cal.	29	186,628	23	145,428	6	41,200
Willamette Iron & Steel Works and Northwest Steel Co., Portland, Ore.	5	23,500	4	22,800	1	5,700
Wm. Cramp & Sons Ship & Engine Building Co., Philadelphia, Pa.	11	71,300	11	71,300		
Total	397	1,292,310	332	968,461	65	323,849

\* Incomplete.

## Details of New Contracts.

The following table shows the details of new contracts for building steel ships entered into during August, 1916, so far as reported by shipbuilders:

Vessels.	Gross tonnage.	Speed, knots.	Owner.	Trade.	Probable date of launch.
Bethlehem Steel Co.: No. 167	4,964	10	H. Mjelde Haugesand	Cargo	Late 1917.
Baltimore Dry Docks & Shipbuilding Co.: No. 81	4,180	11½	Gustav Bull	do.	September, 1917.
No. 82	4,150	11½	do.	do.	October, 1917.
Chester Shipbuilding Co.: No. 352	4,500	10½	For foreign account	do.	1917 delivery.
No. 353	4,600	10½	do.	do.	Do.
Great Lakes Towing Co.: No. 43	98	9	Builder's account	Towing	November, 1916.
No. 44	98	9	do.	do.	Do.
J. F. Duthie & Co.: No. 8	5,730	10½	For Norwegian account		June, 1917.
No. 9	5,370	10½	do.		July, 1917.
No. 10	5,370	10½	do.		August, 1917.
No. 11	5,370	10½	do.		September, 1917.
No. 12	5,370	10½	do.		December, 1917.
Manitowoc Shipbuilding Co.: No. 85	300	8½	Bay State Fishing Co.	Trawler	April, 1917.
No. 86	2,250	8½	R. Lawrence Smith	Cargo	September, 1917.
No. 87	2,250	8½	Christoffer Hannevig	do.	April, 1918.
No. 88	2,250	8½	do.	do.	May, 1918.
Moore & Scott Iron Works: No. 112	4,600	11	Not given		July, 1917.
Seattle Construction & Dry Dock Co.: No. 83	4,700	10½	For foreign account		
No. 84	4,700	10½	do.		
No. 85	4,700	10½	do.		
Total (20 vessels).	75,060				

**Completed Ships.**

The following table shows the details of steel ships completed during the month of August, 1916, by the respective builders named, all but one (the *Doctor Brooks*, schooner barge) of which are steamers:

Vessels.	Gross tonnage.	Speed, knots.	Owner.	Type.	Trade.
American Shipbuilding Co.:					
Emory L. Ford.....	7,986	10	Pittsburgh S. S. Co.....	Cargo.....	Coasting.
Nordal.....	2,029	9½	Frimann & Pedersen (Nor.)....	do.....	Foreign.
Pfaffleheim Steel Co.:					
Corneila.....	3,216	12	Bull Insular S. S. Co.....	do.....	Do.
Clinton Shipbuilding Co.:					
Doctor Brooks.....	562		James J. McNally.....	do.....	Coasting.
Ellicott Machine Corporation:					
P. R. R. No. 12.....	191	11	Pennsylvania R. R. Co.....	Towing...	Do.
Great Lakes Towing Co.:					
Alabama.....	98	9	Great Lakes Towing Co.....	do.....	Do.
Howard Shipyards Co.:					
Minnesota.....	211		William J. Mayo.....	Yacht.....	
Manitowoc Shipbuilding Co.:					
Surge.....	302	10	Bay State Fishing Co.....	Trawler...	Do.
Newport News Shipbuilding & Dry Dock Co.:					
Antwerpen a.....	7,955	10½	American Petroleum Co. (Dutch).	Bulk oil...	Foreign.
Fusey & Jones Co.:					
P. R. R. 271.....	253		Pennsylvania R. R. Co.....	Cargo.....	Coasting.
Union Iron Works Co.:					
Davanger.....	5,876	11	For foreign account (Norwegian).	do.....	Foreign.
Wm. Cramp & Sons Ship & Engine Building Co.:					
J. M. Danziger.....	6,487	11	Pan-American Petroleum & Transport Co.	Bulk oil...	Do.
Total (12 vessels).....	35,166				

a Reported sunk by submarine.

**RHODESIA MAY DEVELOP LEATHER INDUSTRY.**

[British and South African Export Gazette.]

It is thought by many that the manufacture of leather, if seriously undertaken in Rhodesia, might be carried on profitably, and in time render the territory independent to a large extent of the imported article. In various localities the farmers tan the hides themselves, but only in a desultory way. However, some of them assert that by their own rough processes they have been able to obtain a leather even more durable than that derived from Europe or America.

Wattle bark, it is stated, is not used in these processes, the bark of two native trees being employed in place of it. One of these is believed to contain at least as great a percentage of tannin as wattle.

A large amount of money would not be needed to give leather manufacture a fair trial. The outlay would comprise the cost of a small water-tight tank, and the simplest of whatever machinery is used for the purpose of finishing the tanned hide, with a few inconsiderable sundries.

When the British Trade Commissioner visited Rhodesia recently he was so impressed with the specimens he saw that he discussed the possibility of manufacturing leather and leather goods on a commercial scale. Commenting on the abnormally high price now commanded by leather in Rhodesia, an officer of a development company says: "We still dispose of our many hundreds of hides for export to speculators, securing the lowest possible return, and pay for the manufactured article an enormous price, covering as it does the cost of shipment and rail, severe middlemen's, and the retailer's profits."

**INDIAN LEMON-GRASS OIL.**

[Consul Lucien Memminger, Madras.]

The chief commercial center for lemon-grass oil is said to be Travandrum, Travancore, and the exports are made from Cochin and Quilon. The shipments to all countries in the fiscal year ended March 31, 1916, were 30,976 gallons (value, \$181,033), and increase of 3,561 gallons over 1914-15. Exports to the United States in the half-year ended June 30, 1916, were 37,883 pounds, valued at \$18,842, and in the calendar year 1915 they were 88,480 pounds, valued at \$47,145. The price in Cochin at the end of June was \$7.30 per dozen, 24-ounce bottles. Stocks then on hand were small.

Obscurity prevails as to the botanical sources of East Indian lemon-grass oils, but they are generally stated to be derived from *Cymbopogon citratus* and *Cymbopogon flexuosus*. The former is a native of Bengal and is largely cultivated all over India, but the oil distilled in the Malabar coast is derived principally from *C. flexuosus*. This plant grows plentifully in Travancore, especially on the slopes of the mountains to the north of Anjengo. The hill-sides are said to be fired in January to burn down the old and useless grass. Six months later the fresh crop is ready to be cut; by that time the countryside is dotted all over with furnaces and stills. During July, August, September, and October operations are continually maintained, but there would appear to be no second crop. In a few cases Europeans have established distilleries on an improved plan.

The Moplas (native gathers) are said to recognize 27 forms of the wild plant, of which 5 only are of commercial value and 1 is cultivated and never flowers. The most interesting feature of lemon-grass oil is the large percentage of citral that it contains. This has been variously stated at 70 to 80 per cent, and inferior or adulterated samples 40 to 50 per cent. It is employed in the manufacture of artificial perfumes, such as the violet, known as ionone, and like all the grass oils is utilized mainly in perfuming soaps. An important use to which it is applied in the United States is in the preparation of furniture polish. The production of lemon-grass oil in South India on a commercial scale is an industry of comparatively recent growth.

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**CONSERVING AUSTRIA'S STOCKS OF FLAXSEED.**

[Vice Consul Robert S. Townsend, Carlsbad, Bohemia, Aug. 11.]

By a governmental decree of June 26, 1916, all stocks of flaxseed in the hands of inland producers exceeding 30 kilos (66 pounds) have been confiscated. In this decree the Bureau of Commerce is authorized in special cases, however, to make exceptions when the producers prove that their seed is of good quality and necessary for their next season's planting.

The confiscated seed will be examined to ascertain its relative value; the poorer grades will be allowed to be used commercially, while the better quality will be kept for planting the next crop. In order to obtain an idea as to the amount of flaxseed required for the 1917 sowing, the Bureau of Agriculture has requested all the larger agricultural companies to submit estimates of the quantity of seed they will need.

**RATTAN TRADE OF DUTCH EAST INDIES.**

[Consul B. S. Rairden, Batavia, Java.]

For some reason rattan has never been shipped extensively from Netherlands Indies direct to the United States; the bulk of that exported has found its way to the Straits Settlements and China. There is no reason, however, why it can not be sent direct to the United States from ports in Sumatra, Borneo, and the Celebes, and even from Java ports, although Java produces a small quantity as compared with the other islands of the archipelago.

Exports of rattan from Java for 1914 amounted to about 97 tons, of which only 5 tons went to the United States. Exports from ports in Sumatra, Borneo, and Celebes for the same period amounted to 40,105 tons, of which 70 tons were exported to the United States. Local market prices for rattan at the close of 1915 were \$0.02 to \$0.025 per pound all around, although there are different qualities of rattan.

**Not a Cultivated Product—Uses.**

There is no proper cultivation of rattan in Netherlands Indies. it being a product of the forests and growing wild. It is gathered by cutting the stem some 3 feet from the ground, the remaining part of the plant throwing out new shoots. After cutting the rattan is bleached and then washed and dried. Good specimens are dried in the sun and inferior qualities over a fire; the latter method, however, often produces a brown color. After the drying the gravel on the rattan is removed by sharp pieces of wood, knives, glass, etc. The rattan suitable for binding and for basketwork, and the better quality of other kinds which are thicker, as well as rattan cane, are exported entirely to Europe and America. Inferior qualities of rattan from Borneo are exported in large quantities to Hongkong and China.

Netherlands Indies is a large consumer of its own product. The natives twist the rattan into many articles for daily use, especially furniture, and employ certain qualities of it for binding purposes. Rigging for native craft is made from the dark-colored rattans, which varieties are also used in the coal mines and in the fisheries as basket material.

[A list of the firms in Sumatra, Borneo, Celebes, and Java that export rattan may be obtained from the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce or its district and cooperative offices upon referring to file No. 80093. Ninety per cent of the world's supply of rattan is shipped from Singapore. Articles describing Singapore's trade in rattan appeared in *COMMERCE REPORTS* for Sept. 4, 1915, and Aug. 23, 1916. China's trade in rattan was discussed in the issues for May 12, 1915, and July 18 and 28, 1916.]

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**VENEZUELA TO HAVE INTERSTATE HIGHWAY.**

[American Minister Preston McGoodwin, Caracas, Aug. 19.]

In an executive resolution dated August 11, 1916, provision is made for the "Great Western Highway of Venezuela," to connect Caracas and San Cristobal, capital of the State of Tachira, in the extreme southwestern corner of the Republic. The new highway is to traverse the States of Miranda, Aragua, Carabobo, Cojedes, Portuguesa, Zamora, and Tachira. The air-line distance between Caracas and San Cristobal is 425 miles, but the route mapped out in the tentative plans will be about 800 miles in length.

**NOTES FROM PERSIA.**

[Chargé d'Affaires Jefferson Caffery, Teheran.]

**Natives Use Manna in Making Sweetmeats.**

Manna, or gaz, is a white glutinous substance popularly identified with the manna of the Scriptures, which is found upon the branches and leaves of trees, particularly of the tamarisk, where it is said to be deposited by a small, pale-green insect. The natives scrape it off the leaves and make it sometimes into a paste but more often into a sweetmeat called gezangebin, which, although cloying to the palate, is agreeable to the taste, resembling a superior and less sticky form of nougat.

**Real Persian Gardens.**

There is little resemblance between a real Persian garden and its namesake in the West. In the gardens in Europe and America we are accustomed to trim parterres, shaven sward, patterns or arrangements, and comely borders. Here we find flower beds promiscuously filled with various kinds of blossoming plants; the larger ones are like wildernesses intersected by irrigation ditches. Where there is plenty of water the shrubbery is luxuriant, and the beauty of the blossoms in the spring can not be too highly praised. Rose water is extracted in large quantities from the roses of Iran.

**Sturdy Breeds of Horses and Mules.**

The native breed of horses in Persia is widely known throughout the East. There are three types: The Turcoman, celebrated for its strength, in the north; the Arab in the south; and the Persian, a cross between other strains. The last-named is sturdier than the Turcoman and makes a good rough hack. However, the animal most frequently encountered is the Yabu, a serviceable beast which can be bought at a very low price.

The mules of Persia are better known even than the horses. The chief breeding zones are the districts of Isfahan, Shiraz, and Kazerun, and the Bakhtiari country. They are small, but they are possessed of great strength and endurance. A mule can carry a load of 350 pounds at the rate of  $3\frac{1}{2}$  miles an hour for a distance of 25 to 30 miles.

**Cultivation of the Vine.**

Grapes are sold chiefly in a dry state and large quantities are exported to Russia and Turkey in normal times. In the south fresh grapes are packed in cotton wool and exported to India.

Persia produces several kinds of good wine in its three wine-producing zones—Azerbaijan in the northwest, Shiraz in the south, and Khorasan in the northeast. The centers of manufacture are Shiraz, Isfahan, Kazvin, Hamadan, Kerman, and Yezd. The wine of Shiraz resembles old sherry; that of Hamadan resembles a hock. Isfahan manufactures two varieties, a white wine like a muscat and a red wine like port. The wine of Yezd is delicate of flavor, that of Kerman is strong, and that of Teheran is sour. Armenians, Jews, Parsis, and a few Europeans control the industry.

Another spirituous product of the grape is arrack, of which large quantities are consumed in the country. Very small amounts of any of the beverages named are exported.



**NEW BRUNSWICK COMBINES WORK ON TREES AND SOILS.**

[Consul E. Verne Richardson, Moncton, New Brunswick, Canada, Sept. 6.]

In the Province of New Brunswick the question of the conservation of natural resources is now receiving the earnest, practical attention of the Government. In years past timber cutting was carried on with little regard to the serious ultimate consequence of indiscriminate destruction of the trees, and the revenues of the Province probably suffered much through lack of efficient supervision. Conditions have now changed materially.

The Provincial Forestry Service is actively at work and is making a thorough study of all problems associated with the proper and profitable employment of crown lands. Determination of the quantity and quality of raw material available for development; cost of converting it by processes of manufacture; the possibility of making use of materials hitherto classified as waste; transportation, markets, etc., are among the matters involved in the task allotted by the Government to its forestry officials.

**Work Under Direction of Experienced Foresters.**

Field work is now in progress. Three parties are employed, with a total of 22 men. Already 135,000 acres have been covered. The work is being done under the direction of experienced foresters, graduates of the New Brunswick Forest School, who have had several years practical experience. The survey plans show the general topography of the areas surveyed, and the types of timber with an estimate of each type by species. Information is also gathered regarding the cost of logging, stream driving, and the growth of timber on the various sites.

The value of New Brunswick's forest products is estimated officially at \$12,000,000, and the yield in revenue to the Province is more than \$500,000 annually. Lumbering ranks next to agriculture in importance as an industry, gives directly or indirectly employment to a large portion of the population, and pays every year in wages alone to the men directly employed in logging and the manufacture of wood products more than \$6,000,000.

**Give Instruction to Field Parties.**

The field parties are also engaged in the classification of soils. This work is being done by the forestry officers in cooperation with the Conservation Commission and the central experimental farm. During the past summer experts from the latter institution spent several weeks with the field parties instructing them in soil work and getting information regarding soil conditions. The survey to date shows that about 40 per cent of the area covered is suitable for agricultural development if proper care is used in clearing and cropping.

**CROPS IN NEW BRUNSWICK.**

[Consul Henry S. Culver, St. John, New Brunswick, Canada, Sept. 11.]

The official August crop report for New Brunswick states: "August, with more heat and less rain than usual, has been very favorable for crops. Oats, partly harvested, promise well; hay, much above average; potatoes, unfavorably affected by heat, will not give average yield; roots growing well, and corn the best crop for years."

In the St. John consular district the hay and oats crops are unprecedentedly large. The weather has been ideal for harvesting, and at this writing most of the crops have been secured.

**GINGER INDUSTRY OF SOUTHERN INDIA.**

[Consul Lucien Memminger, Madras.]

Owing to the war the European and American markets have neglected East Indian ginger during the last two years, and the bulk of the crop has been bought up by the Indian and Arabian trade. Although America has never been a heavy buyer of Indian ginger, yet the purchases from the Madras Presidency have been of consequence for some time past, averaging at least \$30,000 a year. In the six months ended June 30, 1916, exports amounted to 199,344 pounds, valued at \$16,882; in the calendar year 1915 they totaled 732,368 pounds, valued at \$34,926.

The best ginger in India is said to be that produced on the Malabar coast and exported from Calicut. It is the produce of the Ernaad and Shernaad districts, 40 to 50 miles from Calicut, in the interior of South India. The following notes prepared by one of the principal Madras exporters of East Indian ginger may be said to contain the latest authentic data available locally on this subject:

**Cultural Methods.**

The ginger plant (*Zinziber officinale*) is known to have been cultivated in India and China for many centuries. Its most general Chinese name is kiang. In India the word ginger is believed to come from the Sanskrit "sringavera" through the Arabic "zanzabil," and from the same source was doubtless derived the corresponding Greek name "zingiberis." Though not known in a truly wild state the ginger plant is doubtless a native of southeastern Asia, and was introduced thence into the West Indies (Jamaica), Africa, and tropical countries generally. The plant is cultivated all over the warmer and moister parts of India, up to an elevation of 4,000 to 5,000 feet in the Himalayas.

In the Madras Presidency the cultivation generally commences the middle of May after the ground has undergone a thorough plowing and harrowing. The only suitable kind of soil is good and heavy red earth, free from gravel and not too wet; gravelly grounds check growth of the roots, while swampy ones tends to rot the ginger. At the commencement of the monsoon beds of 10 or 12 feet long by 3 or 4 feet wide are formed, and in these beds small holes are dug 1 foot apart. Selected roots kept as seed from the preceding season are then buried in the holes, the whole bed being covered with a thick layer of green leaves. The plants mature in November, attaining a height of about 2 feet. The leaves and stems then wither away, the rhizomes (root stock) are dug up, the outer peel of the tubers is removed, and the green ginger is washed and dried in the sun.

**"Brown Rough" and "Rough Bleached" Grades.**

From December until the end of March the ginger is sent to Calicut to be sold, roughly dried, to the various European export firms, which undertake the curing. The method of preparing is about as follows: The dried ginger is washed in large tanks of bricks containing 20 or 30 hundredweights of the produce, which, after having been thoroughly soaked and stamped with the foot by coolies, is taken out in baskets and passed several times through clean water. It is then dried on barbecues for 3 or 4 days, garbled,

and packed for export under the denomination of "brown rough ginger."

Another quality is obtained by bleaching the ginger with sulphur in small kilns. Baskets containing about 10 pounds of the article, previously washed, are arranged in rows on shelves in the kilns and exposed for 12 hours or so to sulphur smoke, about 7 pounds of sulphur being used per ton. The produce comes out from the kilns a light brown color, is dried in the sun, garbled, and packed as "rough bleached ginger."

**"Assorted Cut" Ginger.**

Finally a third quality is turned out on a small scale by the following process: Once bleached and dried as above, every piece of ginger is carefully trimmed and scraped with special knives in order to remove the outside tissue. After this it is dipped in a solution of lime water, sent back to the kilns for a second bleaching, removed and dried in the sun for 2 or 3 days, bleached a third and last time, and finally dried for the garbling and sizing. Owing to the three consecutive bleachings, combined with the passing through fairly strong solutions of lime water, the ginger pieces are now quite white and covered by a thin crust of lime which protects them against worms during the voyage to Europe. The several grades are sorted according to size, and each variety is packed separately in mango wood cases. It is shipped and sold under the name of "assorted cut ginger," the sizes being A, B, C, and Triages.

The exports from Calicut before the war amounted yearly to about 30,000 hundredweights, divided between the United Kingdom, United States, and Germany, plus about 20,000 hundredweights which were shipped by native traders to northern India, Arabia, and the Persian Gulf. Prices averaged 30 to 50s. (\$7.30 to \$12.15) per hundredweight c. i. f. London, according to quality.

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### INTERNATIONAL AERO POST SERVICE.

[Vice Consul Robert S. Townsend, Carlsbad, Bohemia, Austria, Aug. 16.]

An international airship corporation in Berlin wishes after the war to establish an aerial post service (and if this proves a success, a passenger line) between Berlin and Constantinople. A capital of \$6,000,000 is estimated as necessary.

Its plan is to have the route extend from Berlin to Carlsbad, continuing to Vienna via Budweis, from there to Budapest, and thence on to Constantinople over Sofia. Between these larger cities are to be numerous landing stations, the cities chosen for landings to subscribe for shares. In this way the corporation hopes to obtain the necessary capital to finance the project. A representative of the corporation has already visited Carlsbad and has talked with the city council as to the probability of obtaining an old race course as a landing station, and as to the chance of the city raising the necessary amount of money as its share of the capital. The scheme also includes the building of a modern hotel at the landing station here.

It is believed that with the advanced experience with heavier-than-air machines during the present war there is no reason why such an enterprise should not be practicable, as well as possible, should the necessary capital be obtained for its foundation.

**PROPOSALS FOR GOVERNMENT SUPPLIES AND CONSTRUCTION.**

[Correspondence should be direct with the offices named; and specifications can usually be obtained at the points where the goods are to be delivered or the work is to be performed. In cases where the time limit is too short to permit firms to submit tenders, they should ask to be placed on the mailing lists of such offices to receive notices calling for future supplies or work of a similar nature.]

*Floating crane*, No. 3597.—Sealed proposals will be received at the Bureau of Yards and Docks, Navy Department, Washington, D. C., until November 11, 1916, for a 250-ton floating revolving crane for the navy yard, Mare Island, Cal. Specifications may be obtained on application to the above-named bureau.

*Panama Canal supplies*, No. 3598.—Sealed proposals will be received by the General Purchasing Officer, The Panama Canal, Washington, D. C., until September 21, 1916, for furnishing by steamer, free of all charges, on dock at either Colon (Atlantic port) or port of Ancon (Balboa, Canal Zone) (Pacific port), Isthmus of Panama, garbage incinerator plant, galvanized sheet steel, hand pumps, lathe chuck, power drill, power-feed jointer, lathe, band-saw machine, hub-boring machine, bushings, flanges, meat broilers, library paste, pencils, and creosoted piles. (Circular 1078.)

*Meat products*, No. 3599.—Sealed proposals will be received at the general depot of the Quartermaster Corps, 115 East Ontario Street., Chicago, Ill., until September 21, 1916, for furnishing and delivering corned beef, roast beef, lard, bacon, ham, pork sausage, beef tongue, etc. Further information may be obtained on application to the above-named office.

*Post-office construction*, No. 3600.—Sealed proposals will be received by the Supervising Architect's Office, Treasury Department, Washington, D. C., until October 20, 1916, for the construction, complete, of the post office at Bayonne, N. J. Plans and specifications may be obtained on application to the above-named office.

*Locomotive crane*, No. 3601.—Sealed proposals will be received by the Bureau of Yards and Docks, Navy Department, Washington, D. C., until October 23, 1916, for one 20-ton locomotive crane, delivered at the navy yard, New York, N. Y. Specifications can be obtained on application to the Bureau of Yards and Docks or to the commandant of the navy yard named.

*Repair of light vessel*, No. 3602.—Sealed proposals will be received by the Light-house Inspector, San Francisco, Cal., until October 3, 1916, for docking and repairing Blunts Reef light vessel No. 83. Information will be furnished on application to the above-named office.

*Construction work*, No. 3603.—Sealed proposals will be received at the Supervising Architect's Office, Treasury Department, Washington, D. C., until October 12, 1916, for extension of mezzanine floor, etc., in the post office and courthouse, Kansas City, Mo. Drawings and specifications may be obtained on application to the above-named office.

*Subsistence supplies*, No. 3604.—Sealed proposals will be received at the General Depot of the Quartermaster Corps, War Department, 115 East Ontario Street, Chicago, Ill., until September 25, 1916, for furnishing and delivering canned salmon, white corn meal, baked beans, rice, canned tomatoes, prunes, evaporated apples and peaches, tea, coffee, chocolate, pickles, etc. Further information may be had on application to the above-named office.

*Panama Canal supplies*, No. 3605.—Sealed proposals will be received at the office of the General Purchasing Officer, The Panama Canal, Washington, D. C., until September 23, 1916, for furnishing, by steamer, free of all charges, on dock at either Colon, Cristobal (Atlantic port), or Port of Ancon (Balboa, Canal Zone) (Pacific port), Isthmus of Panama, kerosene and gasoline during the fiscal year ending June 30, 1917. (Circular No. 1079.)

*Flags and flagstaffs*, No. 3606.—Sealed proposals will be received at the office of the Chief Signal Officer, War Department, Washington, D. C., until October 9, 1916, for furnishing flags and staffs. Specifications will be furnished on application to the above-named office.

**Post-office construction, No. 3607.**—Sealed proposals will be received at the Supervising Architect's Office, Treasury Department, Washington, D. C., until October 19, 1916, for the construction of a post-office building at Du Bois, Pa. Drawings and specifications may be obtained on application to the above-named office.

**Locomotive crane, No. 3608.**—Sealed proposals will be received at the Bureau of Yards and Docks, Navy Department, Washington, D. C., until November 11, 1916, for furnishing a locomotive jib crane of 50 gross tons capacity at the naval station, Pearl Harbor, Hawaii. Plan and specification may be obtained on application to the above-named bureau.

### AMERICAN CONSULAR OFFICERS ON LEAVE OF ABSENCE.

The following American consular officers are on leave of absence in the United States, and will be glad to confer with business men and commercial organizations relative to conditions in their respective jurisdictions. The consul's time is available primarily for personal interviews. He has limited facilities for correspondence, and except in urgent cases letters should be directed to the consulate.

Name.	Post.	Expiration of venue.	Address.
Jewell, John F.....	Chefoo, China.....	Oct. 1	Galena, Ill.
Hazeltine, Ross.....	Port Antonio, Jamaica.....	Do	Department of State, Washington, D. C.
Loring, James Oliver.....	Karachi, India.....	Sept. 30	C/o University Club, Kansas City, Mo.
Leonard, Walter A.....	Colombo, Ceylon.....	Oct. 14	Essex, Iowa.
Gaborne, John Ball.....	Havre, France.....	Oct. 21	Department of State, Washington, D. C.
Pike, William J.....	St. Gall, Switzerland.....	Nov. 1	) o.
Armstrong, John S.....	Bristol, England.....	Oct. 1	1200 Eutaw Place, Baltimore, Md.
Henry, Frank Anderson.....	Puerto Plata, Dominican Republic.....	Oct. 1	(o Hallowell & Henry, 27 Pine Street, New York City.
Masterson, William W.....	Durban, South Africa.....	Sept. 30	

\* Consul Masterson informs the Bureau that he will be in New York City from Sept. 26 to 30, during which period he will be pleased to meet those interested in South African commercial matters. Communications should be sent to the Bureau's district office, Room 409, Customhouse, New York City.

### FAILURES TO MAKE OATH TO EXPORT DECLARATION.

[Consul Henry H. Balch, Yarmouth, Nova Scotia, Canada, Aug. 19.]

Merchandise routed by steamer from Boston to Yarmouth is frequently delayed in transit because of the shippers' failure to make oath to the export declaration before a customs official, notary, or other authorized officer, as is required by Treasury decision 35969 for shipments greater than \$100 in value.

Many seem to construe the statement "but the oath may be omitted on shipments, regardless of value, to Canada or Mexico by car, vehicle, or ferry," which appears on the back of the export declaration form, to mean that the oath may likewise be omitted when the shipments are by vessel to Nova Scotia, which is incorrect. Shippers of merchandise valued at more than \$100 by vessel from the United States to Yarmouth or other Nova Scotian destinations should have their export declarations duly attested to before the proper official so as to avoid delay, for the same reason that the oath is required for exports by vessel to all other foreign countries.

## FOREIGN TRADE OPPORTUNITIES.

Reserved addresses may be obtained from the Bureau and its district offices. Request for each opportunity should be on a separate sheet and state opportunity number. The Bureau does not furnish credit ratings or assume responsibility as to the standing of foreign inquirers; the usual precautions should be taken in all cases.

*Potato flour*, No. 22443.—A consular representative of a neutral European government informs the Bureau that he desires to receive quotations on 100 tons of potato flour, f. o. b. New York or c. i. f. port of entry.

*Chemicals, drugs, dyestuffs, etc.*, No. 22444.—An Indian chemical dealer, who is now in the United States, writes the Bureau that he expects to return to India in October. He desires to confer with American manufacturers and exporters of chemicals, dyestuffs, drugs, etc., who may be interested in selling these commodities in India.

*Machinery*, No. 22445.—An American consular officer in Venezuela writes that a firm in his district desires to purchase the necessary machinery to turn out 1,000 pounds daily of soft cotton cord similar to a sample which may be examined at the Bureau or its district offices. (Refer to file No. 79765.) Correspondence, printed matter, etc., should be in Spanish.

*Coloring materials and chemicals*, No. 22446.—A business man in Spain informs an American consular officer that he desires to act as agent, on a commission basis, for firms in the United States exporting coloring materials and other chemical products. Correspondence in Spanish. References.

*Wireless apparatus*, No. 22447.—An American consular agent in Ecuador asks to be supplied with names and addresses of American manufacturers of wireless apparatus. Full information should be sent at once.

*Bathtubs*, No. 22448.—A firm in France informs an American consular officer that it wishes to be placed in touch with American manufacturers of enameled cast-iron bathtubs. Catalogues, price list, etc., should be in French.

*Textiles, automobile accessories, etc.*, No. 22449.—A firm in the United States writes the Bureau that a Cuban merchant who is now in the United States wishes to secure exclusive agencies for the sale of the following commodities in Cuba: Ostrich feathers, cotton and print goods, underwear, shoes, rubber goods, barrel staves, toys of all kinds, magnets and motors, and electrical and automobile accessories.

*Leather bags*, No. 22450.—An American consular officer in New Zealand transmits the name and address of a business man who is desirous of communicating with manufacturers of leather bags made of Morocco, suede, calf, puma silk, and satin; also leather grips, suit cases, etc. The man wishes to secure agencies for these lines and states that he is ready to establish credit in New York, against which the seller may draw on presentation of shipping documents at port of shipment. Quotations should be made c. i. f. destination or f. o. b. port of shipment. Reference.

*Construction material, etc.*, No. 22451.—An American consular officer in Paraguay states that an engineer in his district desires to secure prices and full information relative to steel beams and girders, wrought-iron pipe, and other materials to be used in construction work; also steel forms for cement fence posts, machinery for making cast stone blocks with rough face, machinery for making cement roofing tile and concrete silos; cement stains and paints, waterproofing mixtures, sanitary fixtures, etc. Correspondence, catalogues, etc., may be in English.

## OFFICES OF THE BUREAU OF FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC COMMERCE.

## DISTRICT OFFICES.

NEW YORK: Room 409, Customhouse.  
BOSTON: 1801 Customhouse.  
CHICAGO: 504 Federal Building.  
ST. LOUIS: 402 Third National Bank Building.  
ATLANTA: 521 Post Office Building.  
NEW ORLEANS: 1020 Hibernia Bank Building.  
SAN FRANCISCO: 807 Customhouse.  
SEATTLE: 848 Henry Building.

## COOPERATIVE OFFICES.

CLEVELAND: Chamber of Commerce.  
CINCINNATI: Chamber of Commerce.  
CINCINNATI: C., N. O. & T. P. Ry. Co.  
LOS ANGELES: Chamber of Commerce.  
PHILADELPHIA: Chamber of Commerce.  
CHATTANOOGA: South American Agent, Southern Ry. Co.  
PORTLAND, OREG.: Chamber of Commerce.  
DAYTON: Greater Dayton Association.

SEP 29 1916

# PRINCETON COMMERCE REPORTS



DAILY CONSULAR AND TRADE REPORTS  
ISSUED DAILY BY THE BUREAU OF FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC COMMERCE  
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

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No. 221 Washington, D. C., Wednesday, September 20 1916

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## TRAIL SMELTER GIVES RATE TO AMERICAN MINES.

[Consul W. E. Alger, Fernie, British Columbia, Canada, Sept. 7.]

Recognizing the increasing importance of the Valley mining district in Stevens County, Wash., the Consolidated Mining and Smelting Co., of Canada, has authorized a reduced treatment charge on ores that go into its smelter at Trail, British Columbia, and the Great Northern Railroad has also announced a reduction in the freight rate, both schedules to become effective about October 1.

The reduction rate will be \$1.50 per ton on ore that runs between \$25 and \$50 per ton, and the freight will be \$2.45, or a total freight and treatment charge of \$3.95 per ton.

If ore values exceed \$50 per ton, a proportionate additional charge will be made both on freight and treatment.

## POSITION OF THE SWISS BOURSES.

[The Economist (London, England), Aug. 26.]

An interesting survey of present financial conditions in Switzerland is given in the August issue of a monthly review published by the Swiss Bankverein at Basel, especially with regard to the position of the Swiss bourses. The Basel Stock Exchange reopened on January 7, 1915, though dealings were confined to cash sales of Swiss bonds. On December 1 transactions in shares were authorized, but it was not until June 26, 1916, that the market was reopened in its entirety and the marking of "bid" and "asked" prices resumed. The Zurich Bourse was not reopened until May 15, 1916, when official dealings in bonds were restarted, but cash transactions in shares were not resumed until July 10. The wisdom of reopening the Basel and Zurich Bourses, it is maintained, has been justified by events.

Sales made from abroad, though considerable, have not exercised any permanently depressing influence on prices; on the contrary, quotations have shown a general and marked tendency toward recovery. Moreover, the official and regular registration of prices allows of a useful control being exercised,

and leads to a more satisfactory leveling of prices between our various financial centers. It has gone far to reassure the public.

#### Swiss Markets Now Largely Independent.

Since the beginning of the war the Swiss markets have, perforce, become almost entirely independent of the great international stock exchanges; this has again been illustrated by the fact that the recent rise in the English Bank rate and the reaction which has taken place in Wall Street has had scarcely any influence. Arbitrage dealings, which played such a prominent part before the war, are completely suspended. Only the Geneva market is still from time to time perceptibly influenced by the conditions prevailing at the Paris Bourse, owing to the great number of securities which are dealt in on both exchanges.

On the other hand, it can not cause surprise that money rates in Switzerland, although they have remained considerably below those prevailing in belligerent countries, have risen sharply since the commencement of hostilities. In view of the military and other requirements it is hardly possible to anticipate for the next few years a return to an interest level approaching that prevailing during the years immediately preceding the war. At times the volume of transactions has attained pre-war figures; in general, however, the total amount still remains far below that previously reached.

The daily fluctuations have become much more considerable, especially in the share market. This applies more particularly to the issues of Swiss companies directly or indirectly benefiting by the exceptional circumstances prevailing at the moment, but also to foreign securities quoted at Berlin, Milan, or Paris, which are subject to the influence of the fluctuations of the foreign exchanges, every rise in the value of the Swiss franc inducing foreign sales of securities quoted in Switzerland, since the profit in exchange would go far toward compensating a fall in prices.

Later than in other neutral markets a recovery in the prices of both fixed-interest and dividend-bearing securities has set in for certain groups that have derived some special advantages from the prevailing circumstances, and other securities have since moved in sympathy. Nevertheless, the index number of Swiss Stock Exchange securities still shows a very marked decline when compared with the prices ruling at the end of June, 1914.

#### Foreign Trade Reflects Improvement.

Industrial shares, which are mostly dealt in on the Geneva, Basel, and Lausanne exchanges, have steadily improved since the beginning of the year. All trades, of course, have not benefited from the present state of affairs, but the returns of the foreign commerce show a great improvement:

	1911	1912	1913	1914	1915
Imports.....	\$347,786,000	\$381,947,000	\$370,367,000	\$285,254,000	\$324,340,000
Exports.....	242,601,000	262,094,000	265,568,000	229,091,000	322,300,000
Excess of imports.....	105,185,000	119,853,000	104,799,000	56,163,000	1,030,000

A heavy depreciation is shown in the shares of mountain railways and hotels, which have suffered from the absence of tourists, and it is stated that financial reconstruction will be necessary after the war for many of these concerns. In summing up the position the review quoted says: "The position of the Swiss bourses is a sound one; the growing demand on behalf of investors, whose capacity of absorption had been entirely underrated, and the almost complete absence of speculation, added to the superabundance of money, have paved the way for a return to better conditions."

The Netherlands Government proposes to make a number of changes in its postal tariff. Vice Consul Eugene Nabel, of Amsterdam states that the domestic postage rates on ordinary letters, post cards, and printed matter are all to be slightly advanced.



**BRAZILIAN PITEIRA FIBER FOR EXPORT.**

[Consul A. T. Haerberle, Pernambuco.]

The Pernambuco consulate has been informed that Dr. Teophilo was commissioned by the Government of the State of Minas Geraes, Brazil, to go to Europe several years ago to have a careful examination made of the piteira plant. He took with him 5 tons of this plant, and was informed by experts there that its fiber was as strong as the Mexican henequen sent over to Europe.

It was also reported that Coronel Jose Falcão, Engenho Jardim, Itambé, Pernambuco, Brazil, has cultivated this plant and has very large quantities on hand, from which he would be able to manufacture a great deal of fiber. It is possible that he would be glad to make some arrangement with American manufacturers of fiber machinery, he receiving the machinery and in turn promising to furnish the necessary labor and send the fiber to the United States if a steady market for his product can be found. Inasmuch as he cultivated the plant at the suggestion of a friend and can not dispose of such large quantities, it is probable that he will be very much interested in the plan outlined. His full address is given above.

[Lyster H. Dewey, botanist in charge of fiber investigations, U. S. Department of Agriculture.]

**Comments of U. S. Department of Agriculture.**

There would probably be little difficulty in finding a market for piteira fiber in the United States at the present time if it can be produced in commercial quantities and of a uniform quality equal to the sample submitted. In order to obtain the best market value, the fiber should be cleaned directly from the freshly cut green leaves and not from water-soaked leaves.

It is very doubtful, however, whether this fiber, which is finer and softer than henequen from Yucatan, would command a price equal to henequen fiber, especially for the first shipments. Manufacturers could not afford to pay more for this fiber than for henequen until they had learned by actual experience how it could be worked up to best advantage.

[A sample of piteira fiber, forwarded by Consul Haerberle, may be inspected at the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce or its district and cooperative offices upon referring to file No. 80009.]

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**WORK OF GEOLOGICAL SURVEY IN TEXAS.**

The United States Geological Survey has carried on map work in Texas since 1884. For four years the work was done in cooperation with the State and in 1915 in cooperation with Harris County. More than a quarter of the area of the State has now been topographically surveyed and nearly a hundred of the resulting maps have been published and are for sale at nominal prices.

In Texas up to 1915 the Survey had run more than 10,000 miles of level lines and had marked 4,600 points with metal tablets or posts showing their heights above sea level. The elevations of these points are given in Bulletin 637, just issued by the Survey for free distribution.

A copy of the report will be sent to engineers and others who have occasion to use accurate elevations. Requests for copies should be addressed to the Geological Survey, Washington, D. C.

**SOUTH INDIA'S TRADE IN RED PEPPER.**

[Consul Lucien Memminger, Madras.]

Madras Presidency is by far the largest producer of chillies (red pepper) in India proper, followed ordinarily by Bengal and the Punjab. The area devoted to this culture can not be stated definitely, as the plants are most frequently raised as borders to fields or as lines through fields. In eastern and northern Bengal, however, capsicum becomes a regular field crop. In the Madras Presidency chillies are raised for commercial purposes principally at Guntur, Nellore, Erode, Salem, and Ongole, where the plant thrives best in irrigated lands. The commonest form is the *Capsicum annum*, to which the Japan, Bombay, and other long capsicums belong. The surplus crop of chillies, or that not used for domestic consumption in the fresh state, is dried and exported.

The name "Bombay capsicum" has become applied to nearly all red pepper exported from the west coast, even though the product may have originated in the Madras Presidency. This variety is 2 or 3 inches long, with a thick skin and a heavy stem. It is usually the cheapest grade available for grinding and, when bright-red, clean pods are secured, will produce a good colored powder of considerable strength. The Bombay capsicum is mixed with Mombessa and other strong chillies by many grinders to produce a strong ground red pepper at a moderate price.

The exports from Madras to the United States during the six months ended June 30, 1916, aggregated 64,960 pounds, valued at \$9,125. The shipments to all countries in the fiscal year ended March 31, 1915-16, totaled 8,050,911 pounds, valued at \$496,707. The yearly crop in South India is estimated at about 4,000 tons. In India red pepper is much used as an ingredient in all curries and many other food preparations by every class of the community. In Bengal an extract of the consistency of treacle is regularly prepared and sold. The green fruits are pickled or cooked fresh with special dishes and even eaten raw.

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**RAPID GROWTH OF SIBERIAN TOWN.**

[London Times Russian Section, Aug. 26.]

According to a writer in the Novoe Vremya, the town of Novo Nikolaievsk, Siberia, has shown remarkable growth. When the Trans-Siberian Railway reached the Ob, the site of Novo Nikolaievsk was virgin bush. Now it is a modern city of 100,000 inhabitants, with electric light, numerous large stone buildings, schools, a large town hall, a cathedral in the Byzantine style, and the palace of the Romanof professional school. The secret of the rapid growth of the city lies in the fact that it is situated at the point of intersection of the great western Siberian artery, the Ob, and the Siberian Railway. Now that the Altai Railway has reached Biisk, Barnaul, and Semipalatinsk, considerable freight will go past Nikolaievsk, but the city will make up for this loss by the cargoes that will be transhipped into Ob vessels for conveyance down the river to the future Ob-White Sea Railway. Novo Nikolaievsk will thus become a "window into Europe" not only for the Altai but also for all Siberia along the railway route from the eastern boundary of Tomsk Government almost to Omsk.

## REVENUES AND EXPENDITURES OF SÃO PAULO.

[Vice Consul Robert S. Kelsor, São Paulo, Brazil, July 31.]

The total revenue of the State of São Paulo, Brazil, in 1915 were the largest in five years, notwithstanding the export difficulties arising out of the European war and the reduction in the official coffee valuation on which the export duty is based. The estimated revenues in the 1915 budget were placed at \$18,621,250, while the actual receipts amounted to \$19,474,333, an excess of \$853,083 over the estimates. The budget was based on the average receipts in the four preceding years, the range being from \$15,986,541 in 1911 to \$19,001,996 in 1913, with a fall to \$16,427,850 in 1914. The principal source of revenue is the duty on exports of coffee, hides, tobacco, and wood. These products, however, do not represent all the exports of the State, for statistics show that \$40,500,000 of other products, duty free, were exported from São Paulo in 1915. A detailed statement of the revenues is given below:

Items.	Revenue.	Items.	Revenue.
Export duties.....	\$10,323,654	Tax on capital employed .....	\$270,039
Fees .....	28,024	Tax on industries.....	37,439
Property transfer tax.....	1,611,072	Tax on corporations.....	306,190
Inheritance tax.....	454,741	Tax on money loaned.....	254,995
Stamp tax.....	350,063	Tax on brandy.....	181,769
Traffic tax.....	521,154	Judicial tax.....	75,417
Sewer tax and tax on buildings in State Capital.....	1,018,182	Tax on salaries and subsidies.....	88,634
Water tax.....	910,174	Indemnities.....	1,397,729
School tax.....	80,550	Various taxes and fines.....	165,800
Sale of public lands.....	42,304	State properties.....	186,485
Collections on debt.....	275,506	Tax on lotteries.....	190,626
Special tax.....	438,833		
Real estate tax.....	39,586	Total.....	19,474,333

**Expenditures.**

Although the revenues exceeded the budget estimates, they were not sufficient to cover the expenditures, there being a deficit of \$3,689,779. In the budget the expenditures had been placed within the revenue figure but they were increased during the year by the demands for public relief, by the needs of prisons and asylums, by river and railway improvements, and by the differences in exchange on the interest on foreign loans.

In the preparation of the budget for the coming year, the president of the State recommends a policy of vigorous economy, with a view to balancing accounts by a limitation of expenditures rather than by the creation of new taxes.

### Compilation of Corporation Laws in Brazil.

A compilation of the laws governing corporations and stock companies in Brazil, entitled "Das Sociedades Anonymas," has been received by the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce. This work contains a commentary by the compiler, Spencer Vampré, who is a practical lawyer and an instructor in political economy in the University of São Paulo. The book (in Portuguese) may be consulted at the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce or its district or cooperative offices. Refer to file No. 1829.

**MEXICO BUYING SOAP FROM UNITED STATES.**

[Consul William W. Canada, Vera Cruz, Aug. 14.]

Although recent conditions in Mexico have had an unfavorable effect on the money-exchange rates and on the demand for merchandise, and it is impossible to say that there is a good market for imported soaps, yet there is less competition than in normal times.

Under more favorable conditions, two large soap factories at Vera Cruz, one important soap factory at Tlacotalpam, and smaller ones in Jalapa, Orizaba, and other towns of the Vera Cruz consular district, as well as two oil companies (American and British) with refineries in the State of Vera Cruz, furnished the greater part of the ordinary grades of soap consumed in this part of the country. Now the oil companies, although once able almost to swamp the market, seem no longer in a position to meet the demand. The regular soap factories are still running, but are suffering from an inability to obtain raw materials in the necessary quantities.

**Changes in Tariff Provisions.**

The Constitutionalist Government, realizing that the supply of domestic soap was proving inadequate, in a decree of March 6, 1916, placed on the free list ordinary unscented soap not suitable for toilet use. In the hope, however, that this exemption will no longer be necessary, a decree of August 6 stated that a duty of 5 centavos per legal kilo (approximately 1 cent, American currency, per pound) would be imposed beginning August 21. Even this duty is low in comparison with the 25 centavos per legal kilo (about 6 cents per pound) laid by the old tariff in times when the domestic soap producers had natural advantages in addition to the tariff.

According to the old tariff, No. 692, perfumed soap paid 1 peso per legal kilo (about 22 cents per pound). The Constitutionalist Government imposed a surtax of 10 per cent of the import duties in addition to the Vera Cruz port duty of 2 per cent already being charged as a sort of surtax. (A new tariff to go into effect on Nov. 1, 1916, aims to do away with the 10 per cent surtax. The provisions for soap have not yet been published.)

Even before the European war American manufacturers succeeded in obtaining more orders than European exporters. This fact is indicated by statistics of imports through the Vera Cruz customhouse in the calendar year 1913 (the latest statistics available). The figures are:

Countries.	Quantity.	Value.	Countries.	Quantity.	Value.
<b>SCENTED.</b>			<b>UNSCENTED.</b>		
	<i>Pounds.</i>			<i>Pounds.</i>	
United Kingdom.....	3,223	\$1,160	United Kingdom.....	12,000	\$2,473
France.....	13,563	7,791	France.....	22,269	1,585
Germany.....	12,659	3,210	Germany.....	9,151	802
United States.....	61,358	26,786	United States.....	44,626	6,056
Spain, Italy, and Austria.....	254	108	Spain and Italy.....	538	49
Total scented.....	81,057	39,055	Total unscented.....	88,584	10,967
			Total for all soaps.....	169,641	50,022

**Trade Affected by Transportation Facilities.**

With the outbreak of the European war, the German soap supply was cut off, and the two German houses that handled soap in Vera

Cruz turned to the United States for purchases. The British steamship lines have gradually ceased to send vessels with general cargo to Vera Cruz, and the French liners arrive but rarely nowadays. In contrast to this disadvantage in transportation facilities from northern Europe, vessels of the *Compañía Trasatlántica Española* call once a month at New York on the way to Vera Cruz, the Ward Line has biweekly sailings from that port, and several vessels, especially of the Wolvin Line and the *Compañía Mexicana de Navegación*, come to Vera Cruz from New Orleans and Texas City.

Several American soap companies have already recognized the fact that there is an opening for their product, and American soaps are being handled even by the merchants who formerly showed a preference for European soaps. Soap is kept in stock principally by dry-goods firms, druggists, grocers, and hardware dealers. The larger stores can afford to import directly; the small shops obtain their supplies from local commission houses. Prices may be quoted to importers here in American currency and both f. o. b. and c. i. f. Weights are almost always calculated in kilos. Although Spanish is preferred for correspondence, most of the large importers, especially in the port of Vera Cruz, understand English.

[A list of firms in the Vera Cruz consular district which may be interested in imports of soap can be obtained from the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, its district or cooperative offices. Refer to file No. 79953.]

### STOCK RAISING IN CUBA.

The high price of sugar that followed the outbreak of the European war influenced many Cuban planters to plant in sugar cane large tracts of grazing land. There are still left in the island, however, thousands of acres of land suitable for stock raising, and if sown with grasses and forage plants these lands, in the opinion of the Cuban Agricultural Department, quoted by the *Camara de Comercio* in its *Boletín Oficial*, would yield returns quite as profitable as those devoted to sugar cane.

Two pasture grasses were imported into the country some years ago, the Parana from Argentina, and the Guinea grass from the west coast of Africa, and they have proved well adapted to the climate and soil of Cuba. It is estimated that 100 acres in either of these grasses will pasture from 50 to 70 head of cattle in a year. Alfalfa has been introduced into the island, and when the soil is inoculated with alfalfa bacteria, it thrives. The Province of Camaguey is noted for its fine pasture lands. Oriente and Las Vegas are also rich in grass lands, though in these Provinces, as in Habana and Matanzas, good lands are held at very high prices. In Pinar del Rio there are grazing lands offered at \$20 to \$40 an acre, which under proper management would yield a profit of 20 to 40 per cent on the investment.

High-grade cattle have been imported into the island during recent years, and the native herds are being rapidly improved. The Department of Agriculture has registered a total of 4,000,000 cattle in the country. Cuba is said to be well adapted for raising horses and mules, and American breeds introduced in the island thrive as at home. The native Cuban horses are of Arabian stock, introduced during the Spanish conquest, and they are much valued for their great endurance.

**COTTON PIECE GOODS TRADE OF FOOCHOW DISTRICT.**

[Consul Albert W. Pontius, Foochow, China, July 12.]

Importations of foreign-made cotton piece goods into the Foochow district during the past year amounted in value to more than \$500,000, the greater share of the trade being in gray and white plain shirtings, drills, jeans, T-cloths, chintzes and cotton prints, Turkey red cottons, cotton italians, poplins, and flannel.

There are in Foochow about 30 native firms handling cotton piece goods. The high prices which prevailed during the past year have fallen off to some extent within the last four months, owing to the dullness of trade and the high rate of exchange. Various brands, of which only small stocks remain, are still quoted at a high figure. The local money market has tightened, and, as a rule, only small orders have been placed. The trade of the present year is sure to be much less than that of the preceding one.

**Promoting Trade in American Piece Goods.**

The local native merchants purchase most of their wares through a broker or agent in Hongkong or Shanghai. It is seldom that any orders are placed direct with the manufacturers in the United States. Although native merchants have been approached at times by American manufacturers, such written attempts to introduce goods have generally proved unsuccessful.

The trade in American piece goods could best be promoted through the establishment of an American general import and export firm. The trade in the three South China ports of Foochow, Amoy, and Swatow could, as a matter of economy, be looked after by one firm, permanent headquarters being established at either Foochow or Swatow, the other ports being covered by visits made at regular intervals, the interests of the said firm being placed in the hands of some responsible native firm or compradore. [Swatow's trade in cotton goods was reviewed in COMMERCE REPORTS for Dec. 15, 1915.]

The names of three Foochow native dealers in cotton piece goods who are able to correspond in English are forwarded [and may be obtained from the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce or its district and cooperative offices upon referring to file No. 79866]. In corresponding with these firms samples with prices should accompany all letters of inquiry in order to avoid delay.

**Japanese Advantages of Nearness and Distributing Facilities.**

The bulk of the cotton piece goods consumed in the Foochow district is of British manufacture. Of that imported from Japan the fabric known as Japanese cotton cloth is the best seller. The Japanese manufacturer has also proved a formidable competitor in T-cloth and cotton flannel. The nearness to the consuming market and the presence of Japanese firms and agents at every trade center in China are important factors in favor of the Japanese article, and this advantage makes competition a difficult matter.

As a result of this condition the trade in certain lines—but only a few—may ultimately be monopolized by the Japanese manufacturer; but, on the other hand, there are many lines in which he can not

possibly enter into competition with the American or European manufacturer, and a careful survey of the existing demand for piece goods in general will show this to be a fact.

**Kinds in Popular Demand.**

In the following discussion of the kinds of cotton piece goods in popular demand in Foochow, values are given in local currency. At the present bank rate of exchange \$100 local currency is equivalent to \$48 United States gold.

The cambric calico imported is wholly of British manufacture; this cloth is dyed locally blue or black and is used chiefly by the poorer classes. The cloths in best demand are known as the Dragon and Bear brands. The calicoes come put up in bolts 24 yards by 31½ inches, the Dragon brand selling for \$4.90 and the Bear brand for \$5.10.

Printed calicoes and chintzes sold on the local market are of Russian, British, and Japanese manufacture. This cloth is used by women and children practically throughout the whole of the year, and the Russian cloth meets with the widest favor. The Russian cloth is sold in bolts of 60 yards by 24 inches at \$9; the British, 80 yards by 28 inches, at \$6.40; and the Japanese, 30 yards by 28½ inches, at \$4.60.

About 90 per cent of the local trade in drills is in the British article, the remainder of the demand being for goods of American manufacture. The British cloth in chief demand is known as the Eagle brand and is sold in bolts of 40 yards by 29 inches at \$9.70, while the American cloth (the Horse brand), which comes in bolts of the same size, is priced at \$8.20.

**Italians, Jeans, Poplins, Lenos, and Shirtings.**

The trade in cotton italians is a good one. All of this cloth is imported from England. It is used in the manufacture of clothing for the better class of Chinese and comes put up in bolts of 30 yards by 30 inches, costing \$17. All of the stocks of jeans imported are likewise of British manufacture; this cloth is also used in making clothing, chiefly for the summer months, the two kinds in best demand being the Rat brand, in bolts of 30 yards by 30 inches, priced at \$4.15, and the Otter brand, 30 yards by 28½ inches, selling for \$4.85.

Poplins are in good demand. Practically all of this cloth is of British manufacture. There are many varieties, the cloth being sold for \$20 per bolt of 30 yards by 30 inches. The lenos imported are likewise of British manufacture and are used chiefly for curtains. The cloth is white in color and is sold in two grades—24 yards by 28 inches, at \$4.60 per bolt, and 66 yards by 28 inches, at \$7.50.

The shirtings imported locally are manufactured in England. Gray shirtings are employed for mourning wear and in the manufacture of bags for the tea shipped to North China. The same cloth dyed blue is used for the lining of winter garments. White shirtings are universally used in the manufacture of clothing for both sexes. The brands in best demand are Dragon, 38½ yards by 38½ inches, gray, plain, at \$6.20; Eagle, 38½ yards by 37½ inches, gray, plain, at \$6;

Elephant, 43½ yards by 37 inches, white, plain, at \$9.50; and Tiger, 41 yards by 36½ inches, white, plain, at \$10.40.

**Flannel, Duck, and T-cloth.**

Japanese cotton cloth is widely used in the manufacture of clothing for men and women. That in best demand is white with dark lines, having a short plush nap on one side; this makes the cloth well adapted for cold weather. Bolts 15 yards by 25 inches in size sell for \$2.50. The major part of the demand for the ordinary cotton flannel is in the Japanese article, and this cloth comes put up in bolts of 20 to 60 yards by 28 inches and costs 25 cents per yard. A small amount of American cotton flannel was imported during the past year.

Cotton duck importations are entirely of British origin. This cloth is used in making summer garments and is put up in bolts of 30 yards by 30½ inches, costing \$8.40.

T-cloths sold on the local markets are manufactured in England and Japan. This cloth is used by the poorer classes for mourning purposes and in the making of bags for the cheaper grades of tea sold here. T-cloth dyed is also used in making coolie clothing. The best seller is the British cloth 38½ yards by 36 inches, costing \$4; the Japanese article, an inferior cloth, imitates the British in both brand and size and sells for \$3.50.

**Lawns, Turkey Reds, and Nankeens.**

Lawns are all of British manufacture and come in gray, pink, light blue, and black; white lawns are also to be found on the local market. Lawns are put up in bolts of 40 yards by 36 inches, costing \$10. The Turkey-red cloth sold on the local market is imported from England and Japan; most of it is shipped to interior points and used in the manufacture of women's clothing. The British cloth is 25 yards by 30 inches and costs \$7.50, and the Japanese cloth 25 yards by 27 inches at \$6.50.

Nankeens, or native-manufactured cotton cloth, and the so-called silk cloth have a very good sale on the local market. All of this cloth is used in the making of wearing apparel for men and women. The annual consumption in this district is estimated at 80,000 pieces, two-thirds of which are imported from Shanghai, the remainder being manufactured locally. The cotton goods known as silk cloth contains no silk, but is made of a superior grade of cotton yarn, which gives a sheen or luster in the course of its manufacture. Nankeens and silk cloth are put up in bolts of 19 yards by 21 inches and cost \$3 and \$4.20, respectively.

[For general reviews of the cotton piece-goods trade of China, see articles by Commercial Agent Ralph M. Odell in *COMMERCE REPORTS* for Jan. 4, Feb. 23, July 22, and Sept. 25, 1915; also his 242-page monograph entitled "Cotton Goods in China," and known as Special Agents Series No. 107, which may be obtained at 25 cents per copy from the Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington, D. C., or from the district and cooperative offices of the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce.]

The considerable demand for antimony during the last year has stimulated the development of certain Alaskan deposits of that metal, from which ore to the value of about \$74,000 was mined and shipped during 1915, according to a report published by the United States Geological Survey.



**AUSTRIAN PURCHASES OF ARTIFICIAL LIMBS.**

[Vice Consul John L. Bouchal, Prague, Bohemia, July 20.]

Artificial limbs are now used in the Prague consular district to a considerable extent, but only such kinds are sold as are made either in this country or in Germany. There is no present possibility of importing them from the United States, the country that is here credited with producing the best kinds of artificial limbs. Although the prices of American makes are considerably higher than those in this country, it is asserted by local orthopedists that well-to-do persons who can afford to spend more money for such articles will undoubtedly give preference to the American products.

The feature of a recent lecture on artificial limbs and their usefulness, delivered by the chief physician of the orthopedic hospital in Prague, was the appearance of Dr. Max Kohn, superintendent of the orthopedic division of the Moabit Hospital in Berlin, who, having lost his left hand through infection, used an artificial hand made by an American company and demonstrated its efficiency and usefulness in such a perfect and admirable way that it was hardly noticeable that all the movements and experiments were performed by an artificial hand.

**Prominent Citizens Witness Demonstrations.**

The demonstrations by Dr. Kohn were praised by the assembled audience, which included the governor of Bohemia, the leading surgeons, and a large number of prominent physicians and citizens of Prague and vicinity.

The number of persons having amputated limbs in Austria-Hungary after the war will probably be considerable. For the great masses of the people, consisting chiefly of the laboring classes, it will not be possible, in buying an artificial limb, to spend \$250, the average price charged by the American company mentioned, but the wealthier classes will gladly purchase such goods.

The prices allowed by the Austrian Army administration for artificial limbs made in this country, in crowns (equivalent to \$0.2026 each), are: Artificial limb for the upper part of the thigh, including a pair of good, suitable shoes, 275; artificial limb for the shank, including shoes, 220; artificial limb after exarticulation in the ankle joint, including shoes, 165; upper-arm limb when an exarticulation is made in the shoulder joint, 198; artificial limb after amputation of the upper part of the arm, 154; artificial limb after amputation of the forearm and hand, 132; artificial limb after amputation of single fingers, 50 to 90. The prices of artificial arm limbs are for cosmetic limbs with a plain mechanism.

Each military person who has suffered amputation is entitled to one artificial limb from the military administration; and, in view of the fact that only one artificial limb is furnished free of charge by it, the prospect of the sale of artificial limbs in this country is very favorable.

[A list of orthopedists, surgeons, and hospitals in the Prague consular district may be obtained from the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, its district or cooperative offices. Refer to file No. 80195. An article on the Vienna market for artificial limbs was published in *COMMERCE REPORTS* for June 12, 1915.]

**PETROLEUM ENTERPRISE IN SOUTH AFRICA.**

[Vice Consul Fayette J. Flexer, Port Elizabeth, Aug. 2.]

Indications of the presence of mineral oils in the district immediately surrounding Port Elizabeth have attracted the attention of a group of local capitalists, and the Uitenhage Petroleum and Mining Co. has been incorporated in South Africa under very broad articles. Papers were filed with the Government on June 15, 1916, and the full issue of one hundred £25 (\$121.66) shares was immediately subscribed.

The field was surveyed by a prominent British expert, who reported the geological formation to be very similar to that of the Caucasus belt. Prospecting operations which then followed resulted unsatisfactorily. The present site was selected after consulting several prominent South African geologists, and is 3 miles from a main-line railway and 20 miles from Port Elizabeth.

It is estimated that the subscribed capital will be sufficient to sink and case a test hole to a depth of 1,500 feet, 300 of which have already been completed. Cores from various depths have been submitted to the Government's geological department, with the result that strong indications of a rich petroleum base oil were reported.

The capital is to be increased if further tests justify such a course.

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**FORESTRY SERVICE IN SÃO PAULO.**

[Vice Consul Robert S. Kelsner, São Paulo, Brazil, July 31.]

The Forestry Service of the State of São Paulo since its organization in April of 1911 up to March of the present year has distributed 4,582,973 trees, or an average of 916,594 per year. The distribution of fruit trees by the recently created section of fruit culture during the past year reached a total of 49,695 plants of 36 different species. Beginning with March, 1915, the Government decided to sell at a low price the fruit trees and cuttings, as it was found that the system of free distribution led to abuses and a lack of proper attention to the plants. It is worthy of note that this change in policy did not cause a decrease in the requests for cuttings, but rather an increase, for while in 1914 trees and plants to the number of 31,049 were distributed gratuitously, in 1915 orders were received for 49,695, all of which were shipped and paid for. Improvements are planned in the Forestry Service of the State, and measures are being taken to replant with trees certain devastated lands and to prevent the further devastation of timber lands.

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**NEW ROADS BUREAU IN SALVADOR.**

The National Assembly of Salvador has created a bureau of public roads, designated Direccion General de Caminos, to operate under the Ministerio de Fomento, according to a decree in a recent number of the Diario Oficial. The new bureau will be in charge of technical men who will make an exhaustive study of all plans for roads and bridges, with a view to working out a system of connecting routes which will provide means of communication for the entire country. All work relating to the construction of new roads or the repair of old ones will be administered by this roads bureau.

**NEW SWISS BUSINESS FROM "TRADE OPPORTUNITIES."**

[Consul Walter H. Schulz, Berne, Aug. 18.]

While not all of the "Trade Opportunities" submitted by the Berne consulate bring the desired commercial connections, very good business has resulted from the publication of some of them. An "Opportunity" forwarded by this office in 1915 at the instance of the Quartermaster General's Department of the Swiss Army led to the importation of 8,000 tons of sugar, valued at approximately \$1,000,000, and during the first six months of 1916 further orders for 15,000 tons were placed in the United States. Another "Opportunity" submitted last year for a well-known Swiss condensery resulted during the March quarter of 1916 in a \$30,000 order for tin plate.

Nine "Opportunities" transmitted in the June quarter of the current year brought orders for \$18,366 worth of American goods—glucose, \$9,000; piano felt, \$1,466; antimony, \$3,700; and cornstarch, \$4,200.

In addition to these "Opportunity" results, the efforts of the Berne consulate contributed to the success of a New York firm in securing an \$800,000 alcohol order from the Swiss Government.

**AMERICAN CONSULAR OFFICERS ON LEAVE OF ABSENCE.**

The following American consular officers are on leave of absence in the United States, and will be glad to confer with business men and commercial organizations relative to conditions in their respective jurisdictions. The consul's time is available primarily for personal interviews. He has limited facilities for correspondence, and except in urgent cases letters should be directed to the consulate.

Name.	Post.	Expiration of venue.	Address.
Jewell, John F.....	Chefoo, China.....	Oct. 1	Galena, Ill.
Haseltine, Ross.....	Port Antonio, Jamaica	do ....	Department of State, Washington, D. C.
Laing, James Oliver.....	Karachi, India.....	Sept. 30	C/o University Club, Kansas City, Mo.
Leonard, Walter A.....	Colombo, Ceylon.....	Oct. 14	Essex, Iowa.
Osborne, John Ball.....	Havre, France.....	Oct. 21	Department of State, Washington, D. C.
Pike, William J.....	St. Gall, Switzerland..	Nov. 1	J. O.
Armstrong, John S.....	Bristol, England.....	.....	1200 Eutaw Place, Baltimore, Md.
Henry, Frank Anderson....	Puerto Plata, Dominican Republic.	Oct. 1	C/o Hallowell & Henry, 27 Pine Street, New York City.
Masterson, William W. ....	Durban, South Africa.	Sept. 30	

\* Consul Masterson informs the Bureau that he will be in New York City from Sept. 26 to 30, during which period he will be pleased to meet those interested in South African commercial matters. Communications should be sent to the Bureau's district office, Room 409, Customhouse, New York City.

**OFFICES OF THE BUREAU OF FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC COMMERCE.****DISTRICT OFFICES.**

**NEW YORK:** Room 409, Customhouse.  
**BOSTON:** 1861 Customhouse.  
**CHICAGO:** 504 Federal Building.  
**ST. LOUIS:** 402 Third National Bank Building.  
**ATLANTA:** 521 Post Office Building.  
**NEW ORLEANS:** 1020 Hibernia Bank Building.  
**SAN FRANCISCO:** 307 Customhouse.  
**SEATTLE:** 848 Henry Building.

**COOPERATIVE OFFICES.**

**CLEVELAND:** Chamber of Commerce.  
**CINCINNATI:** Chamber of Commerce.  
**CINCINNATI:** C., N. O. & T. P. Ry. Co.  
**LOS ANGELES:** Chamber of Commerce.  
**PHILADELPHIA:** Chamber of Commerce.  
**CHATTANOOGA:** South American Agent, Southern Ry. Co.  
**PORTLAND, OREG.:** Chamber of Commerce.  
**DATTON:** Greater Dayton Association.

**UNSATISFACTORY STATE OF SWISS BISCUIT INDUSTRY.**

[Vice Consul James L. A. Burrell, St. Gall, Aug. 18.]

According to an article in the St. Galler Tageblatt, the Swiss biscuit industry is at present in an unusually unsatisfactory condition. Its chief customer, the hotel industry, is now purchasing very small amounts, and Italy, which was formerly a large importer, has prohibited the importation of biscuits and confectionery goods. Upon the demand of the S. S. S. (Société Suisse de Surveillance Economique) the exportation of dessert articles and swieback for the sick to the Central Powers has also been prohibited.

The Association of Swiss Biscuit and Confectionery Manufacturers (Verband schweizerischer Biskuits- und Zuckerwarenfabrikanten) has issued a circular in which the statement is made that its members will deliberate upon a general and uniform decrease of production. Some of the smaller works are placed in a most precarious situation on account of existing conditions. The larger, wealthier concerns will give holidays and reduce production in such a way that the employees will suffer as little as possible.

**COTTON EXPORTS.**

According to reports received by the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce of the Department of Commerce the exports of cotton during the week ending September 16, 1916, at the 12 principal customs districts of the United States were as follows:

Districts.	Bales.	Districts.	Bales.	Districts.	Bales.
Georgia.....	7,779	Philadelphia.....	978	San Francisco.....	1,296
Massachusetts.....	426	South Carolina.....		Washington.....	6,444
Maryland.....	3,734	Virginia.....	3,569		
New York.....	13,005	Galveston.....	42,148	Total.....	93,690
North Carolina.....		New Orleans.....	14,311		

The exports of 93,690 bales of cotton during the past week make the total since August 1, 1916, approximately 634,700 bales. Exports of cotton for the corresponding periods of the preceding year were, respectively, 91,089 bales for the week and 307,498 bales in the cotton year.

**HIGH PRICE OF LEMONS IN CANADA.**

[Consul Felix S. S. Johnson, Kingston, Ontario. Sept. 13.]

There seems to be a fair opening for American lemons in Canada. The prices were higher during July and August than for the past seven years. They were sold to the retail trade by wholesalers in July as high as \$9 per case. During the present month they have been selling at \$8 and \$8.50 per case. At the beginning of July they sold at \$5 per case. Retail, lemons sold as high as 5 cents apiece or 60 cents per dozen in July of this year in certain instances. At present they are selling at 40 to 45 cents per dozen.

The war and high ocean freight rates have affected the importation of lemons from Italy. Car lots are brought into Toronto, Montreal, and Winnipeg and from these points shipped in less than car lots to smaller trade centers.

## FOREIGN TRADE OPPORTUNITIES.

**Reserved addresses** may be obtained from the Bureau and its district offices. Request for each opportunity should be on a separate sheet and state opportunity number. The Bureau does not furnish credit ratings or assume responsibility as to the standing of foreign inquirers; the usual precautions should be taken in all cases.

**Steel lighters**, No. 22452.—A lumber exporting firm in northern Brazil informs an American consular officer that it desires to buy one or two steel lighters suitable for transporting lumber. Capacity should be from 150 to 200 tons, and no partition. References.

**Iron, steel, and hardware**, No. 22453.—An American consular officer in Chile writes that a business man in his district wishes to represent, on a commission basis, American manufacturers and exporters of heavy hardware and iron and steel products, such as bars, rods, and nuts, and corrugated sheeting. Correspondence may be in English.

**Collapsible tubes**, No. 22454.—A chemical supply company in New Zealand informs an American consular officer that it wishes to form commercial relations with American manufacturers and exporters of collapsible tubes for tooth paste, etc. Catalogues, price list, printed matter, etc., should be sent at once. It is stated that the company is prepared to meet most any terms for payment. Quotations should be made c. i. f. destination, or f. o. b. port of shipment. Reference.

**Machinery**, No. 22455.—An American consular officer in South Africa states that a man in his district desires to receive catalogues, price lists, and full information relative to fertilizer machinery.

**Office equipment, adding machines, etc.**, No. 22456.—An American consular officer in Cuba writes that an American who has been established in business for a number of years as a dealer in books, stationery, office supplies, etc., wishes to extend his business and would be glad to receive proposals for the representation of American manufacturers and exporters of filing devices, check writing and protective devices, sales-recording devices, adding machines, time recorders, etc.

**Roofing felt and gum rosin**, No. 22457.—A firm in Canada writes the Bureau that it desires to get names and addresses of American manufacturers and exporters of roofing felt, also gum rosin.

**Crockery, leather, etc.**, No. 22458.—A business man from Spain, who is now in the United States, desires to enter into commercial relations with American manufacturers of crockery, leather, dyestuffs, metal ornaments for furniture, boots, celluloid articles, buttons, orthopedic devices, rubber goods, flint, machinery for nailing soles on shoes, woolen goods, antimony regulus, low-priced jewelry, codfish, cash registers, and millinery. Communication is also desired with direct importers in the United States of olives, olive and green sulphur oils, canary seed, and other Spanish products. References will be furnished, it is stated.

**Washing machines and clothes wringers**, No. 22459.—A Dutch merchant residing in France informs an American consular officer that he desires names of American manufacturers and exporters of family washing machines and clothes wringers. Correspondence may be in English.

**Surveying and drawing instruments**, No. 22460.—The Bureau is informed that a business man in Canada wishes to obtain a list of manufacturers of surveying and drawing instruments.

**Photographic views**, No. 22461.—An American consular officer in the Danish West Indies writes that a photographer in his district desires to be put in touch with American manufacturers of picture post cards who might be interested in photographic views of the Danish West Indies. Correspondence may be in English.

**Paper**, No. 22462.—A business man in an insular possession writes the Bureau that he wishes to purchase 12 tons of news print paper similar to the samples which may be examined at the Bureau or its district offices. The paper should be 9½ by 24 inches, weight, 37 pounds per 500 sheets. (Refer to Miscellaneous No. 150.)

**Mosquito netting**, No. 22463.—An American consular officer in India writes that a firm in his district wishes to purchase white cotton mosquito netting in widths of 72, 90, and 108 inches.

**PROPOSALS FOR GOVERNMENT SUPPLIES AND CONSTRUCTION.**

[Correspondence should be direct with the offices named, and specifications can usually be obtained at the points where the goods are to be delivered or the work is to be performed. In cases where the time limit is too short to permit firms to submit tenders, they should ask to be placed on the mailing lists of such offices to receive notices calling for future supplies or work of a similar nature.]

*Navy Department supplies*, No. 3608.—Sealed proposals will be received at the Bureau of Supplies and Accounts, Navy Department, Washington, D. C., to which bureau firms desiring to submit proposals should apply, giving schedule numbers, for the supply of the following: Schedule 167, motor and turbine driven centrifugal pumps; schedule 168, motor generator set; schedule 169, forcing and straightening press; schedule 170, electric spot welder; schedule 171, miller driller borer, involute gear cutter equipment, heavy grinder, engine bench lathes and turret, profiling machine, milling machine, automatic screw machine, screw slotting machine, boring and turning mill, and drill presses; schedule 173, iron 6-inch gate valves; schedule 174, high-tensile rivet steel; schedule 175, pneumatic trolley hoist; schedule 176, photographic machine; schedule 177, canned apples, canned beans, flour in export bags, groceries, olive oil, and assorted spices; schedule 178, oil-burning running lights, cotton machine thread, and iron pipe fittings; schedule 179, drop black in oil, basic sulphate white lead, cold-water paint, and zinc dust; schedule 180, cement cans, 1-gallon paint cans, crocus cloth, emery cloth, coil iron chain, spring cotters, fast pin brass hinges, 3-inch spring bronze hinges, spur-gear chain hoists, coat and hat hooks, brass-cup hooks, combination locks and latches, brass chest locks, padlocks, wardrobe locks, boat copper rivets, and brass wood screws; schedule 181, ingot aluminum and seamless copper tubing; schedule 182, music stands, unbleached drill, and black tape; schedule 183, cotton for smokeless powder; schedule 184, aneroid barometers, night binoculars, boat clocks, deck clocks, transparent 12-inch parallel rulers, spyglasses for officers of the deck, stadimeters, comparing watches, and stop watches; schedule 185, alcohol, caustic soda, and sodium nitrate; schedule 186, momie cloth, unbleached muslin, and bleached cotton sheeting; schedule 187, semifinished steel bolts and nuts, bellows leather, lacing leather, rigging leather, standard steel nuts, and muriatic acid; schedule 188, galvanized boat anchors, hacksaw blades, emery cloth, spring brass cotters, adjustable hacksaw frames, hardware, bronze hasps and staples, loose-pin bronze hinges, seaming palms, flint or sand paper, flow-steel flexible rope, two-handle cross-cut saws, platform and bakers' scales, screw drivers, hand shovels, and 6-inch adjustable "S" wrenches; schedule 189, ingot antimony, bar naval brass, monel metal, one-eighth-inch half-and-half solder, and wiping solder; schedule 190, brass pet cocks, composition pipe fittings, brass pipe, composition unions, composition check valves, and reducing pressure valves; schedule 191, paintbrushes, schedule 192, standard steel bolts and nuts, steel drums, galvanized steel angles, class B plate steel, galvanized boiler plate steel, rivet steel, steel pipe, seamless steel tubes, and safety valves; schedule 193, boiler compound.

*Gun caissons, etc.*, No. 3609.—Sealed proposals will be received at the office of the Chief of Ordnance, United States Army, Washington, D. C., until October 14, 1916, for furnishing and delivering f. o. b. contractor's works, 720 3-inch gun caissons, model of 1916, complete, 96 3-inch gun carriages, model of 1916, complete, and 960 3-inch gun limbers, model of 1916, complete. Specifications may be had on application to the above-named office.

*Concrete roads*, No. 3610.—Sealed proposals will be received at the Bureau of Standards, Department of Commerce, Washington, D. C., until September 25, 1916, for the construction of concrete roads and curbs upon the premises of the bureau. Drawings and specifications may be had on application to the Bureau of Standards.

*Lumber*, No. 3611.—Sealed proposals will be received by the Lighthouse Inspector, New Orleans, La., for furnishing cypress lumber delivered at New Orleans, La., or at Point Aux Herbes Light Station, La. Further information may be had on application to the above-named officer.

SEP 29 1916

PRINCETON, N. J.

## COMMERCE REPORTS

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## ADDITIONS TO FRENCH EMBARGO LIST.

[Cablegram from American consul general, Paris, Sept. 18.]

A decree of September 16, prohibits the export, transit, etc., of the following goods: Chromic acid; fatty chromates and bichromates; sulphurous anhydrid; arrack; arsenic ore; asphalt; bitumen; pitch; whale and cachalot spermaceti; borax; boracic acid; other boron compounds; calcareous bitumen; cinnamon; halogen carbon compounds; all metallic and metalloidal chlorides; blacking; glue of all kinds and materials therefor, including casein, egg or serum albumen; dried blood, dextrin, soluble starches; gelatine and glues made from hides, from hide and leather waste and animal refuse; formic ether; feldspar; diamond drawplates of all diameters; cloves; electric material, suitable for military use, and detached parts; manufactures of lead; sodium; varnish. The decree is subject to the usual exceptions.

A decree of September 16 prohibits the importation into France and Algeria of liquid bromine of foreign origin or shipment. Goods already shipped direct or declared for warehousing are still admitted. The Ministry of Commerce may accord exceptions.

## REGULAR SERVICES THROUGH PANAMA CANAL.

In its September 6 issue the Panama Canal Record publishes a list of the lines which have established regular or approximately regular services through the canal since the resumption of traffic in April. The list includes four services from the Atlantic terminus to South and Central America, one from the Atlantic terminus to Central and North America, three from the Atlantic coast of the United States to the Pacific coast of South America, four services from Europe to the Pacific coast of South America, four from Europe to the west coast of North America, nine from the Atlantic coast of the United States to Japan, Siberia, China, and the Philippine Islands, six from the Atlantic coast of the United States to Australia and New Zealand, and two from Europe to Australia and New Zealand.

### REDUCTION IN GRADINGS OF PHILIPPINE HEMP.

The following cablegram was sent by the Bureau of Insular Affairs, War Department, to the Governor General of the Philippine Islands, dated September 7:

It is reported that ruling prohibiting shipment of immature hemp has recently been established in the Philippine Islands, causing considerable reduction in gradings during next few months. Cable facts, and, if this report is correct, what grades will be involved.

The following reply was received by the Bureau of Insular Affairs, dated Manila, September 18:

Referring to telegram from your office of 7th instant, have rejected approximately 10,000 bales Albay, Camarines districts; Tabaco district alone rejections 8,000 bales; approximate decrease production fiber Albay, Camarines, 5,000 bales monthly since March. Cause this decrease quantities immature and damaged fiber produced, typhoons occurring 1915 and 1916 and stripping immature plants caused rejections. Normal production October providing no typhoons. Reduction grades J to DM throughout Albay and Camarines; typhoon caused rejections to the amount of approximately 5,000 bales Leyte March to June; conditions normal Leyte except from fire occurring presses Sontua Tansenguan, Ortiga Hermanos; loss approximately million pesos, including 12,000 bales E to L grade; some of this fiber shipped out of the islands, various firms taking advantage of defect in act No. 2380. Have prevented further shipments of immature, damaged fiber. Had it not been that present law was in effect this damaged class of fiber exported from these districts would have been exceedingly worse than has been the case.

### CANADA PLANS FARM WORK FOR RETURNING SOLDIERS.

[Consul Henry S. Culver, St. John, New Brunswick, Sept. 6.]

The Canadian people are devising plans for placing disabled soldiers on the land as they are sent back from the battle front and, anticipating conditions at the close of hostilities, they intend these plans to include such able-bodied soldiers as return home without any fixed means of support or chance of employment.

The scheme embodied in the British Columbia soldiers' homestead act appears to be the most attractive so far devised. It provides a free grant of land and a loan of money for improvements to each soldier settler, with exemptions from all taxes except for school purposes, and five years' exemption from seizure for debt.

In the old country the training of the men for farm work is provided partly at the convalescent institutions and partly at the agricultural colleges, and it is proposed to adopt the scheme in Canada. The course of instruction to be followed in each individual case will depend upon the extent of physical disability of the soldier. Some will be instructed in dairy work, others in gardening, poultry raising, etc., the Government making special money allowances for the maintenance of the men and their families while instruction is being given.

### BRITISH PRICES OF FERROTUNGSTEN.

[Cablegram from American consul general, London, England, dated Sept. 19.]

Minister of Munitions fixes prices of ferrotungsten at 5s. 6d. per pound of tungsten content and tungsten powder 6s. 3d. per pound based on or at 60s. per unit, price of products on sliding scale, rising or falling 1d. per pound with each variation of 1s. per unit of ore.

Minister is studying steps to terminate inflation prices of shellac in London and Calcutta.



**REPORT OF PORT OF LONDON AUTHORITY.**

[The Economist (London, England), Sept. 2.]

The revenue of the Port of London Authority has not suffered from war conditions. Indeed, both the gross and the net receipts for the year ended March 31 last show a large expansion when compared with those of the previous financial year, as will be seen from the following summary:

Items.	Year ending March 31—		
	1914	1915	1916
Total revenue.....	\$16,713,715	\$81,194,845	\$22,241,425
Total expenditure.....	10,793,030	11,577,300	13,916,910
Balance of revenue.....	5,920,735	6,617,545	8,324,515
Deduct fixed charges.....	4,539,405	5,078,080	5,608,900
Surplus revenue.....	1,381,330	1,539,465	2,815,615
Add balance forward.....	436,220	447,250	913,970
Total.....	1,817,550	1,986,715	3,729,585
Written off or transferred to reserve fund, etc.....	1,370,300	1,072,750	2,600,270
Balance carried forward.....	447,250	913,965	1,129,315

The general reserve fund now amounts to \$2,510,600, of which \$628,425 remains uninvested. Capital expenditure during the year amounted to \$3,395,150, and temporary loans were raised to meet it and bills amounting to \$1,946,600 that matured in August, 1915.

**Falling Off in Tonnage.**

There was a 17 per cent decline in the net tonnage of vessels entering and clearing the Port of London, as shown in the following table:

Traffic.	1914-15	1915-16	Decrease.
	<i>Tons.</i>	<i>Tons.</i>	<i>Per cent.</i>
Foreign.....	18,519,536	15,515,326	16.2
Coastwise.....	8,323,194	6,766,841	18.7
Total.....	26,842,730	22,282,167	17.0

Owing to heavy and irregular arrivals, phenomenal demands were made upon the resources of the port as regards berths, storage, and facilities for rapid handling and transit. The Authority, however, was successful in dealing with the congestion, and additional storage accommodation of about 500,000 superficial feet of sheds was provided. Increasing demands have been made by the Government departments upon the Authority's dock and harbor facilities, and large areas of quay and shed space and of land, including extensive cold-storage space for meat, have been withdrawn from ordinary commercial use.

**Electrical Installation for Argentine Hospital.**

The Government of Argentina has approved a project for an electrical installation in the Hospital Comun Regional del Centro en Bell Ville. The River Plate Review states that the estimated cost of the installation is \$48,847, and that public tenders are to be invited.

**WORK OF THE URUGUAYAN MANUFACTURERS' ASSOCIATION.**

The activities of the Manufacturers' Association of Uruguay for the year 1915-16 is shown in the annual report published in a recent issue of the official monthly organ of the association, the *Revista de la Union Industrial Uruguaya*. This association is devoted to the development of domestic industries and international commerce, and at its headquarters in Montevideo it maintains a library of works on manufacturing subjects, of statistical reports, laws, catalogues, and domestic and foreign directories. Its exchange list includes scientific, industrial, and financial publications from many parts of America and Europe. It receives through the Ministers of Industries and Foreign Relations the reports of Uruguayan consuls and disseminates to its 359 members the news on international markets and industrial progress.

**Legislative Activity.**

Upon the adoption of a law requiring manufacturers to establish safety appliances for the protection of workmen, the association obtained an extension of six months in the application of this law to allow manufacturers time to import the necessary protective apparatus from America and Europe. The association also succeeded in arranging for the services of an inspector from the National Office of Labor to indicate modifications in the manufacturing establishments and to decide doubtful points in connection with the accident law. The association was instrumental in the passing of a law prohibiting the exportation of metals, it having found on investigation that the total stock of metal in the country was needed to supply domestic demands. Through the efforts of the association an order issued last year changing the process of denaturation of alcohol was revoked, when it was ascertained that injurious effects followed the use of the new process.

**Cattle Marking—Hide Tanning.**

During the past year the manufacturers' association has conducted an investigation on the present method of cattle marking, and has advocated the passage of a bill before Congress prescribing a system that would result in a great saving in the hides. This matter is of interest not only to the stock raiser but to the manufacturers of leather, who complain of the extremely wasteful methods of marking now employed, and who would pay better prices for whole hides that could be utilized to better advantage in cutting.

In connection with the tanning industry, the association has actively supported the proposal of the Director of the Institute of Industrial Chemistry that an expert in tanning be engaged by the tanners of Uruguay for one year, in order to introduce the most improved methods in the treatment of hides and leather. While it is conceded that a perfecting of methods is much needed, the tanners have not yet arranged for the services of a specialist in this line.

**Encouragement of Domestic Industries.**

The association made a formal protest against the application of the new consumption tax on soap to the soap of domestic manufacture. A bill to limit the sale by importers or manufacturers of liquor to licensed liquor dealers was strongly supported by the association, in an effort to check the secret manufacture of liquor. As a measure

of protection to the domestice manufacture of corsets, the association succeeded in putting before Congress a bill to increase the duty on corsets. The latest efforts of the association have been in behalf of the manufacturers of butter. On account of the drought this year, and an invasion of locusts, cattle have suffered for lack of pasture, and as a consequence cream has not been available for the manufacture of butter. Cream from Argentina has been imported to some extent, but the duty has made this an expensive raw material. A law of 1913 provided a maximum and a minimum tariff on cream, the minimum to be applied when in the opinion of the Executive the scarcity of the domestice supply of cream should make this advisable. The association has now appealed to the Executive for the application of the minimum tariff, to be effective from date of application.

### EDUCATIONAL FILMS WANTED IN HONDURAS.

[Consul E. M. Lawton, Tegucigalpa, Aug. 28.]

The Teatro de Variedades in Tegucigalpa holds a concession from the Honduras Government by the terms of which the owners must give, periodically, a certain number of performances free of admission to the public. Two of the three concessionaires owning the theater are native-born Americans. Both Government and owners are desirous of making these exhibitions of real educational worth to the people and have asked the help of this consulate in securing films such as are sometimes furnished by large manufacturing concerns showing mechanical operations and processes in their factories, or by governmental institutions and departments, showing methods and practices in agriculture, natural history, forestry, and the arts and sciences generally.

The concessionaires do not feel justified in buying the films, but it is hoped that some such films will be loaned gratis for advertising or educational purposes or leased at a nominal rental. The management will gladly furnish any necessary banking references as to their responsibility and serious intentions and will give the films all the publicity demanded. [The names of the three owners of the Teatro de Variedades may be obtained from the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce or its district and cooperative offices by referring to file No. 80292.] If the films can be furnished with explanatory "inserts" in the Spanish language, so much the better; but this is not entirely necessary, as in any other case a preliminary explanation can be prepared here, in Spanish, for throwing on the screen before starting the picture.

Motion pictures of this sort may not produce actual commercial results of a concrete character but certainly would help to cement existing friendly relations with the people of Honduras, and, as demonstrating the progressiveness and development of American institutions and commerce, their exhibition is worthy of commendation. The educational purpose of such films (as well as the terms of the theater's concession) puts them on the "free list." It is suggested that, after first making the necessary arrangement with Government officials, the reels might be consigned to the American consulate at Tegucigalpa for a reasonable period, then to be returned or sent in turn to other consulates in Central America for similar use in their respective districts.

**AMERICAN SHIPPING PROSPECTS ON THE PACIFIC.**

Notwithstanding the fact that the war has cut down the total shipping of all nations engaged in trans-Pacific trade from 380,000 gross tons to 280,000, and that the American share, at its lowest mark of the past two years, had fallen from 21 per cent to 2 per cent of the total, recent developments have shown that gradually the American flag is returning to the Pacific. A report on these conditions has been published by the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce.

The report states that the United States has more merchant vessels under construction than any other country in the world, and while the greater part of this new tonnage is not intended for immediate use in the Far East, it is probable that sooner or later some of it will be diverted to that trade. Whether American shipping will fully regain its former standing on the Pacific can not now be definitely foretold, but there is no further danger of the flag disappearing in that quarter. The recent purchase of three large ships by the Pacific Mail Steamship Co. marked the turning point. It adds 17,100 gross tons to the 5,000 tons that remained. Prior to the war the total American tonnage engaged in this trade was 80,000 gross tons.

Before the war British shipping represented 39 per cent and Japanese 33 per cent of the total. When our share was at its lowest point, however, British tonnage had fallen off to 30 per cent, Japanese tonnage had increased to 55 per cent of the total, and Dutch shipping had jumped from practically nothing at all to 13 per cent. English tonnage fell from 150,000 gross tons to 84,000 tons, Japanese tonnage increased from 125,000 to 155,000 tons, and the Dutch increased from a negligible quantity to 35,000 tons.

**Shipbuilding Activities in Japan and China.**

A very interesting section of the report is devoted to shipbuilding activities in Japan and China. Japanese shipyards are taxed to the limit of their capacities. Orders for ships from abroad have been refused, as the yards have booked orders for Japanese ships that will keep them busy for the next two years. The builders, however, are handicapped by a lack of material, and it is an interesting fact that one large new shipbuilding company is buying all of its material from this country. Boilers, engines, and other fittings can not be had at very reasonable prices for they can not be manufactured at home as cheaply as they can be turned out in the United States and England. But in spite of all handicaps, Japan is losing no time in taking advantage of the present unparalleled opportunities. Purchases of foreign ships have been made at very high prices. The Chinese also are busy at their yards in Shanghai and Hongkong, although badly handicapped by scarcity of materials. One Hongkong company is at work on eight ocean freighters for Norwegian owners.

The new report is entitled "Trans-Pacific Shipping," Miscellaneous Series No. 44, and is the work of Julian Arnold, American commercial attaché at Peking, who has made a very careful study of the recent development of Japanese shipping. Much of the report is devoted to this subject. For the nominal price of 5 cents this bulletin

may be obtained from the Superintendent of Documents, Washington, or from the nearest district office of the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce.

### USE OF MILKING MACHINES IN SWEDEN.

[Consul B. M. Rasmussen, Goteborg, Aug. 23.]

It was for many years the custom of male farm hands in Sweden to regard milking by hand as "women's work," with which they had nothing to do, and usually there was sufficient female help to be employed. In recent years, however, there has been a change and men are doing the milking on certain large farms and manor estates. The use of milking machines has to some extent been adopted.

Four different types of milking machines have been tested at the Agricultural and Dairy College at Akarp—three Swedish and one Danish. One of the Swedish manufacturers alleges that he has supplied more than 100 machine-milking plants in Sweden, by which between 4,000 and 5,000 cows are being milked daily.

It is claimed that one person can attend to 6 machines, milking from 30 to 35 cows per hour; as a rule it requires 1 machine for every 10 or 12 cows, or 4 machines for 40 to 50 cows. In certain cases the final stripping is done by hand. Electric energy, horse power, or other motive power may be used.

#### Stock of Cattle Probably Reduced.

An inquiry received regarding the effect of the war on the number of milch cows in the dairy industry can not be answered, as statistics are not available. On account of the scarcity of natural fodder, however, and the difficulties encountered in importing concentrated cattle feed from the United States and other countries, as well as the present high price of meat, the stock of cattle in general doubtless has been considerably reduced.

During the period from May, 1914, to May, 1916, the average percentages of increase for milk products at 44 different places were: Whole or unskimmed milk, 28.6; hand-skimmed milk, 25; separator-skimmed milk, 33.3; dairy butter, 35.1; farmer's butter, 38.6. Cheese has increased by about 70 per cent. The relatively smaller increase in the price of butter is due to the Government's action in establishing restrictive regulations.

### PROGRESS IN SIAM'S IRRIGATION SCHEME.

[Vice Consul Carl C. Hansen, Bangkok, July 20.]

Two American engineers have recently arrived in Siam to superintend the assembling of the machinery which has arrived from the United States for the "Prasak" scheme of irrigation [see *COMMERCE REPORTS* for Feb. 14, 1916]. An American firm of Milwaukee has supplied a steam shovel and hydraulic dredge, and another steam shovel came from manufacturers in Ohio.

These engineers will remain in Siam until the machinery is in satisfactory running order, and, if necessary, they may be asked to take permanent charge of the excavating work.

Two other American engineers are at present employed by the Siamese Irrigation Department in connection with this irrigation scheme.

### HUDSON RIVER REGION INCREASES OUTPUT OF BRICKS.

The principal source of supply for the very large quantities of bricks required in Greater New York is the region extending on both sides of the Hudson River from New York to Cohoes, including Bergen County, N. J. Figures compiled by the United States Geological Survey place New York in the lead among the common-brick markets of the country. An important addition to the sources of supply within the past few years is the Raritan River district, Middlesex County, N. J.

In 1915 the output of common brick in the entire region mentioned was 960,527,000 brick, valued at \$5,009,065, or \$5.21 per thousand. This was an increase of 72,261,000 brick and \$658,233 and of 31 cents per thousand over 1914. The New York portion of this region marketed 741,568,000 common brick in 1915, valued at \$3,744,548, or \$5.05 per thousand, which was about three-fourths of the quantity and value of the entire region and was an increase of 62,448,000 brick and \$461,149 and of 22 cents per thousand over 1914. Ulster County was the leading county in production and value of common brick, reporting 229,343,000 brick, valued at \$1,110,492, or nearly a third of the output and value of the New York portion of the region, an increase of 42,962,000 brick and \$214,186 over 1914. Dutchess County was second and Rockland County third.

New Jersey's portion of the production of the region was 218,959,000 brick, valued at \$1,264,517, an increase of 9,813,000 brick and of \$197,084 compared with 1914. The average price per thousand increased 68 cents compared with 1914.

### SOUTH INDIA'S TRADE IN SENNA LEAVES.

[Consul Lucien Memminger, Madras.]

Senna leaves ranked twelfth among the exports from the Madras Presidency to the United States in the first six months of the current year [see COMMERCE REPORTS for Aug. 24, 1916], aggregating 319,349 pounds (2,851.33 hundredweight of 112 pounds) in quantity and \$46,307 in value. In the calendar year 1915 the declared exports totaled 452,192 pounds (4,037.43 hundredweight), valued at \$42,512. Exportation of this drug is restricted in order that a good percentage of the supply may remain in the country.

The plant is of the bean family (*Cassia angustifolia*), and the product as exported consists of dried leaflets. The drug enters largely into medicinal prescriptions. The following description of the Tinnevely senna of Indian commerce is given in Sir George Watt's "Commercial Products of India," edition of 1908:

**Introduced by Arabs—Domestic Product of High Quality.**

The present species of senna, as also the Alexandrian (*C. acutifolia*, Delile), were introduced to both Indian and European pharmacy through the Arabs. The former species (the only one grown in India) is fairly extensively produced in Tinnevely, and recently its cultivation has been extended to Madurai and Trichinopoly, districts of South India, and to Poona in Bombay. It is sown on red or black clay loams, fairly liberally plowed and manured, the sowing being in May. Weeding has to be attended to, but irrigation is hardly, if ever, necessary. The season for collecting the leaves is June to December. The yield is said to be 1,000 pounds (2 candelas) an acre, which allows a handsome margin for profit.

Indian senna is either exported coastwise to Bombay and thence to foreign countries or is consigned direct from Tuticorin. The drug is also imported by

India from Arabia, where it is collected from the wild plant and accordingly often much adulterated. It would appear that about 5,000 hundredweight are usually taken by India and reexported under the name of East Indian senna or Moka or Aden senna. For many years past, however, the imports from Arabia have been declining and the exports of Tinnevely senna improving.

The purity, high quality, and low price of the Indian article place it in the front rank. In 1887-88 the total exports from India of locally grown senna came to 21,376 hundredweight, valued at 318,869 rupees (\$103,451). More recent figures are given by some writers, such as 5,000 candies annually from Tuticorin, but the data for an exact and detailed statement of the total trade are not available. Quite recently a new form of senna has appeared in the London markets from India. This has been shown by Barber to be *C. montana*, but as a drug it has been found inferior to *C. angustifolia*.

#### Shipments During Recent Years.

Later (official) figures covering the exports of domestic senna from British India ports during fiscal years ending March 31 show a sharp falling off in the war year 1914-15, when shipments aggregated only 6,663 hundredweight; but this loss was more than made up in the fiscal year 1915-16, when 34,280 hundredweight were exported. Data as to the value and destination of the 1915-16 shipments are not yet available; for the three preceding years they were:

Countries.	1912-13		1913-14		1914-15	
	Cwt.	Value.	Cwt.	Value.	Cwt.	Value.
United Kingdom .....	15,043	\$89,777	19,862	\$64,082	8,271	\$49,478
Other British possessions .....						
Total British Empire .....	15,885	91,992	11,528	66,695	8,625	50,665
United States .....	10,229	49,105	7,391	32,576	4,835	30,391
France .....	4,128	13,998	1,097	5,000	526	2,516
Germany .....	6,467	22,435	4,991	18,200	511	2,829
Other foreign countries .....						
Total foreign countries .....	23,681	86,998	14,922	61,902	6,663	39,681
Grand total .....	39,566	178,990	26,450	128,597	15,288	90,346
Share of Madras .....	38,637	176,153	26,008	127,064	14,845	88,580

#### EXPORTS FROM CALLAO.

The exports from the port of Callao, Peru, in the first six months of 1916 amounted to \$14,288,822, which was more by \$974,886 than the total exports in the whole year of 1915. The highest export figures were in the winter months, the maximum being \$3,880,775 in December, 1915. During the second quarter of 1916 the monthly exports were nearly uniform, as shown by statistics in the Boletín de las Aduanas, varying only from \$2,210,885 in April to \$2,395,427 in June.

#### OFFICES OF THE BUREAU OF FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC COMMERCE.

##### DISTRICT OFFICES.

NEW YORK: Room 409, Customhouse.  
 BOSTON: 1801 Customhouse.  
 CHICAGO: 504 Federal Building.  
 ST. LOUIS: 402 Third National Bank Building.  
 ATLANTA: 521 Post Office Building.  
 NEW ORLEANS: 1020 Hibernia Bank Building.  
 SAN FRANCISCO: 307 Customhouse.  
 SEATTLE: 848 Henry Building.

##### COOPERATIVE OFFICES.

CLEVELAND: Chamber of Commerce.  
 CINCINNATI: Chamber of Commerce.  
 CINCINNATI: C. N. O. & T. P. Ry. Co.  
 LOS ANGELES: Chamber of Commerce.  
 PHILADELPHIA: Chamber of Commerce.  
 CHATTANOOGA: South American Agent, Southern Ry. Co.  
 PORTLAND, OREG.: Chamber of Commerce.  
 DAYTON: Greater Dayton Association.

**\*BAUXITE DEPOSITS IN DUTCH GUIANA.**

[Consular Agent Henry L. Hirschfeld, Paramaribo, Aug. 18.]

Bauxite was discovered about 14 months ago by a mining engineer on private properties situated on the Surinam River, four hours' journey from Paramaribo. The area over which the bauxite deposits have been found, and which discloses various outcrops, is 100 kilometers long and 10 kilometers wide (62 by 6.2 miles). It is not yet possible to give any idea of the amount of bauxite within this area. The bauxite company now operating seems interested only in the highland and hill deposits. It is in possession of the most suitable land.

Very little prospecting has been done. In wet, tropical countries like the Guianas there is extensive decomposition. The damp heat, aided by decomposed vegetation, tends to make surface indications difficult for the prospector.

On the northern fringe of the deposit there is a large percentage of iron, assays showing as high as 33 per cent, whereas the southern fringe shows less than 2 per cent. Silica contents are low at both points.

**Mineral Probably Located at Various Depths.**

It is probable that the greater part of the given area is made up of bauxite, and that the mineral will be discovered at various depths, the formation being of a wavy nature.

Several broad and deep rivers run through the course of the formation, making it easily accessible for transportation.

To become holders of authority for the exploitation of minerals, including bauxite, applicants must be Netherlands, inhabitants of the Netherlands, Surinamers, inhabitants of Surinam, companies or associations established in the Netherlands, or companies or associations established in Surinam.

The holder of such authority or the concessionnaire who is not residing in the colony must constantly be represented there. The authority or concession lapses legally—(a) when the holder ceases to have the qualification required; (b) on the holder's death, so far as concerns those assigns who have within the period of one year failed to prove the qualification prescribed. Disputes concerning the required qualification in this article will be decided by court.

**Method of Obtaining Authority for Exploration.**

In order to obtain authority to undertake exploration for minerals, including bauxite, in or upon the Crown domain, the person interested or his attorney, with the latter's powers set forth in writing, is required to address to the governor a stamped petition containing his name and nationality, combined with—(a) statement showing to which of the classes mentioned in the general regulations the applicant belongs; (b) choice of domicile at Paramaribo; (c) a figurative chart containing as accurate an indication as possible of the situation, boundaries, and area of the tract he desires to explore. With the application must be submitted a receipt showing that the amount due the Colonial Treasury has been paid at the rate of 1 cent per hectare per year of the period for which the application is made (hectare=2.47 acres).



In case the application is made by or in the name of more than one person, the petition must be signed by all the applicants or their attorneys, appointed in writing; and if made by an association or company by properly accredited representatives or representative. All applicants are individually responsible for the fulfillment of the stipulations that are now in force or may be put in force.

#### **Applications May be Rejected.**

The governor, after having heard the privy council, may, by Government resolution, assigning therein his reasons, reject any application for authority to seek deposits of minerals upon the Crown domain. The authority is not granted for a larger extent than 20,000 hectares or for less than 2,000.

Rights are not to be granted for lands on which there have been previous concessions until three months after the date on which the concessions shall have lapsed. The period for which authority is granted is to be fixed in no instance for longer than one year; but in case there are reasons for so doing, the authority may be renewed once in each instance for a period of one year.

No concession of Crown domain for exploitation of minerals and bauxite is to be granted for less than 1 year or for longer than 40 years, or for an area less than 200 hectares.

#### **Payments to be Made for Rights.**

To the Colonial Treasury is to be paid in advance, for the right of exploration, 1 cent (Dutch) per hectare (cent=\$0.004), and for a concession for exploitation for the first and the second years, each, 10 cents (Dutch) per hectare; for the third and the fourth years, each, 25 cents (Dutch) per hectare; for each following year, 50 cents (Dutch) per hectare. When a concession is granted for a period in excess of one year the dues are to be paid every year at least 30 days before the date of the commencement of the concession. In default of this payment the concession will lapse on such annual date.

Since the bauxite deposits were discovered in this colony 19 persons have applied for the right of exploration for minerals, including bauxite. Nearly all of these concessions are situated on the Cottica River, where rich deposits have been found. Many of the concessions have proved to be of no value.

[An article on bauxite in British and Dutch Guiana was published in **COMMERCE REPORTS** for July 8, 1916, and the developments in British Guiana were discussed in the issue of Aug. 15, 1916.]

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### **INCOME-TAX LAW IN SALVADOR.**

Regulations governing the new income-tax law in Salvador appear in the *Diario Oficial* of August 30. Under this law taxes are levied on salaries, professional fees, land and house rents, interest on capital, and on commercial, industrial, and mining profits. Companies are not required to pay an income tax, but the manager or representative of a company must furnish to the tax bureau a list of the partners or stockholders in the company he represents, showing the profits or dividends pertaining to each person.

**MARKET FOR KEROSENE STOVES IN DUTCH WEST INDIES.**

[Consul G. S. Messersmith, Curaçao, Aug. 26.]

Conditions on the island of Curaçao are such that an unusual opportunity is presenting itself for the introduction of a good moderate-priced kerosene stove for cooking and baking purposes.

In the houses of the rich and poor on this island, almost without exception, the cooking has been done on charcoal pots. These iron pots come in all sizes, and have up to this time been imported from England. The negro servants through long experience have become expert in cooking on these pots, and to a stranger it seems almost incredible that they should be able to prepare on no more than two or three of them a course dinner and yet serve every dish warm. As no baking can be done on the charcoal pots, and as the ovens in use are crude and unsatisfactory, cakes and bread are seldom baked in the house, but are bought from small bakers. The absence of baked dishes of all kinds, so common in the United States, is also noticeable. It is believed that kerosene stoves equipped with an oven would become popular here once the possibilities of increasing the variety and improving the quality and taste of the food through their use are more generally understood.

**Introduction of American Stoves.**

An American kerosene stove of good quality, and constructed so as to withstand the climate, has recently been introduced here, and every order the agent is sending in is larger than the preceding one. The demand so far has come chiefly from Americans, but many of the families permanently residing here have become interested and have purchased stoves. The demand for this stove will, however, be restricted to a small class, as the price is too high to meet a popular demand.

A cheap and a moderate-priced kerosene stove of good grade for cooking and baking, constructed for use in tropical countries, would best meet conditions here. The stove should be of as simple construction as possible, and the metal parts should be durably japanned, enameled, or in some other way effectively protected from rust. The oven should be built so that it may be shipped "knocked down" to save freight. It should also be of such construction that it can easily be put on or taken from the stove. The one, two, and three-burner stoves, and the small and medium size ovens would be in the greatest demand here.

**Printed Instructions Should Accompany Stoves—Petroleum Refinery.**

As a part of the selling campaign a booklet should be prepared in Spanish, explaining clearly how to operate the stove. It should also contain a number of good recipes for cooked and baked dishes suitable for this part of the world.

The erection of a large petroleum refinery here to refine crude oil from Venezuela will no doubt result in a considerable reduction in the price of kerosene. The refinery will be completed early in 1917.

From information received through reliable sources it appears that a similar opening for kerosene stoves exists in other parts of the West Indies, and in Central and South America. The enterprising manufacturer who will study the conditions and produce a stove that will meet them will no doubt find the returns much worth while.

**INDIAN CASHEW-NUT INDUSTRY.**

[Consul Lucien Memminger, Madras, July 14.]

The cashew nut tree (*Anacardium occidentale*), originally introduced from South America, is established in the coast forests of India, especially in sandy places. In South India it is important in coast-dune reclamation.

Until 12 or 15 years ago cashew was a jungle product and the nuts gathered were mainly intended for consumption in the country and in the gulf ports, where a considerable demand exists among the Arabs. The total output, however, under such conditions never exceeded 1,500 to 2,000 hundredweight (hundredweight=112 pounds). The advent of European firms in the business gave an impetus to the trade and to meet the increased demands the produce began to be regularly cultivated.

South and North Canara on the western coast of the Indian Peninsula is the home of the cashew tree in India and of late years large tracts in Malabar and Travancore have also been planted with it. The fruit yielded by the tree is commonly known as cashew apple; it is eaten only by the lowest classes, and quantities of it are wasted. The crop season is between the end of March and the beginning of May.

**Preparing the Nuts for Market.**

The nut, which is, in fact, the seed of the tree, is attached to the top of the cashew apple. After being detached, the nuts are dried, packed in robbins, and roasted over an ordinary charcoal fire. The nuts are removed hot, and the outer shell is broken by means of stones, the kernels then being removed and sent to the market for sale. As they are generally very damp when they reach the South Indian buyers and are liable to spoil, the buyers' representatives, upon receipt of the supplies from the natives, usually cause the nuts to be spread out in the sun for two days. The brown and rancid nuts are garbled out, and the article is then ready for export.

Something like 15,000 hundredweight of these nuts are now exported in an average season to England, France, and America, the principal port of shipment being Mangalore.

In the calendar year 1915 the exports to the United States from the Madras Presidency totaled 2,288 hundredweight, valued at \$28,063. There have been no exports thus far in 1916, but the season is just now opening, and contracts have been made for forwarding the average quantity.

**Flour Said to Resemble That of Almonds.**

Cashew nuts are prepared for table use in much the same manner as roasted almonds, the flavor of which they are said to resemble slightly. They are not unlike almonds in shape, though thinner and more elongated, and many of them are concavo-convex. The exported nuts are no doubt bought chiefly by East Indians residing in foreign countries or by persons who have acquired a taste for them by residence in India. They are sometimes made into confectionery with sugar.

[For other uses of cashew products see Daily Consular and Trade Reports for Nov. 3, 1914.]

**FOREIGN TRADE OPPORTUNITIES.**

Reserved addresses may be obtained from the Bureau and its district offices. Request for each opportunity should be on a separate sheet and state opportunity number. The Bureau does not furnish credit ratings or assume responsibility as to the standing of foreign inquirers; the usual precautions should be taken in all cases.

*Gold leaf, varnishes, etc.*, No. 22464.—Supplementing Foreign Trade Opportunity No. 21467, the Bureau is informed that the man now desires to form commercial relations with American manufacturers and exporters of gold leaf, aniline colors, and varnishes. References.

*Cement*, No. 22465.—An American consular officer in Brazil reports that an official in his district writes that he would like to purchase American cement if it can be delivered cheaper than cement which is now being purchased in England. It is stated that cement is being purchased for about \$6, c. i. f. destination.

*Cabbage and beans*, No. 22466.—A canning company in Canada writes the Bureau that it desires to receive names and addresses of vegetable growers' associations in the Eastern States, with a view to purchasing cabbage and white beans.

*Bags, rice, flour, and butter*, No. 22467.—A firm in Venezuela writes an American consular officer that it wishes to receive quotations on jute bags and bagging, and wishes to sell on a commission basis rice, wheat flour, and butter. Correspondence preferably in Spanish.

*Logging equipment*, No. 22468.—An American consular officer in Brazil reports that a firm in his district desires to purchase logging equipment, such as winches for steam block and tackle, patent blocks and jacks, cant hooks and appliances. Catalogues, price lists, etc., in English, should be sent at once.

*Heating and lighting apparatus*, No. 22469.—A merchant in France informs an American consular officer that he desires to be placed in communication with American manufacturers and exporters of heating and lighting apparatus. Correspondence, printed matter, etc., should be in French.

*Machinery*, No. 22470.—A firm in Cuba writes the Bureau that it wishes to receive names and addresses of American manufacturers of machinery to be used in making automobile and bicycle tires and other rubber articles. It is desired to receive estimates for the establishment of such an enterprise.

*Refrigerating supplies, etc.*, No. 22471.—An American consular officer in Spain reports that a firm in his district wishes to import manometers for refrigerating machinery, and rubber packing. Correspondence in English. References.

*Harmonicas and protractors*, No. 22472.—An American consular officer in Canada transmits the name and address of a firm in his district which wishes to purchase harmonicas and celluloid protractors.

*Boots and shoes, hosiery, etc.*, No. 22473.—A business man in the Danish West Indies informs an American consular officer that he desires to enter into commercial relations with American manufacturers and exporters of boots and shoes, hosiery, underwear, silver and plated ware, hard and soft lumber, hardware, enamel ware, and ready-made clothing. Correspondence may be in English. Reference.

*Leather and photographic supplies*, No. 22474.—An American consular officer in Spain reports that a dealer in his district wishes to import leather for footwear and furniture, also photographic supplies. Correspondence should be in Spanish or French. References.

*Glass sand*, No. 22475.—An exporter of white sand for the manufacture of glass informs an American consular officer in France that he wishes to communicate with American importers of such sand.

*Lumber*, No. 22476.—A firm in northern Brazil informs an American consular officer that it desires to find a market in the United States for lumber, especially cedar, "louro vermelho," andiroba, acapu, and morototo. The latter is a soft wood used for making matches and could be supplied in large quantities.

*Windmills, tractors, etc.*, No. 22477.—An American consular officer in Australia writes that a company in his district wishes to enter into commercial relations with American manufacturers and exporters of windmills, light tractors, light motor wagons suitable for country requirements, materials for fences and all the latest agricultural machinery, etc. The firm is also interested in coolers and purifiers or any devices that could be used for preserving meat during the summer months; also exterminators of white ants and other pests common to the Tropics. References.

*Elastic products*, No. 22478.—An American consular officer in Venezuela writes that there is a market in his district for all kinds of elastic products, for suspenders, garters, hats, belting, etc. Prices should be given per meter and the weight in kilos per meter. Samples should not be sent by parcel post. References.

*Sewing machines and needles*, No. 22479.—A business man in France informs an American consular officer that he wishes to purchase, on a cash basis, sewing machines and needles therefor. Reference.

### AMERICAN CONSULAR OFFICERS ON LEAVE OF ABSENCE.

The following American consular officers are on leave of absence in the United States, and will be glad to confer with business men and commercial organizations relative to conditions in their respective jurisdictions. The consul's time is available primarily for personal interviews. He has limited facilities for correspondence, and except in urgent cases letters should be directed to the consulate.

Name.	Post.	Expiration of leave.	Address.
Jewell, John F.....	Chefoo, China.....	Oct. 1	Galena, Ill.
Hazeltine, Ross.....	Port Antonio, Jamaica.....	do.	Department of State, Washington, D. C.
Lains, James Oliver.....	Karachi, India.....	Sept. 30	C/o University Club, Kansas City, Mo.
Leonard, Walter A.....	Colombo, Ceylon.....	Oct. 14	Essex, Iowa.
Osborne, John Ball.....	Havre, France.....	Oct. 21	Department of State, Washington, D. C.
Pike, William J.....	St. Gall, Switzerland.....	Nov. 1	Do.
Armstrong, John S.....	Bristol, England.....	.....	1200 Eutaw Place, Baltimore, Md.
Heary, Frank Anderson....	Puerto Plata, Dominican Republic.....	Oct. 1	C/o Hallowell & Henry, 27 Pine Street, New York City.
Masterson, William W.....	Durban, South Africa.....	Sept. 30	
Gracey, Wilbur T.....	Seville, Spain.....	Oct. 30	Department of State, Washington, D. C.

\* Consul Masterson informs the Bureau that he will be in New York City from Sept. 26 to 30, during which period he will be pleased to meet those interested in South African commercial matters. Communications should be sent to the Bureau's district office, Room 409, Customhouse, New York City.

\* Consul Gracey will be glad to have conferences with American exporters in eastern cities interested in the Spanish trade during his visit in the United States.

### New School Building for São Paulo.

The Director of Public Works of São Paulo, Brazil, has been commissioned to arrange for the erection of a large school building, reports Vice Consul Robert S. Keiser, of São Paulo.

Vice Consul Eugene Nabel, of Amsterdam, reports that Utrecht, the capital and largest city of the Province of Utrecht, is to have a new post office. The Netherlands Government is looking for a suitable site upon which to erect the building.

**MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS IN SOUTH AFRICA.**

[Consul Edwin N. Gunsaulus, Johannesburg, July 25.]

Any American manufacturer of pianos, pianolas, phonographs, or records who desires to secure a footing in the Johannesburg market will find it necessary either to open a branch in South Africa or to send a representative who will travel throughout the district or grant an exclusive agency to some established firm. The representative should be prepared to advertise the goods and in that way clearly put before the buying public an article for which there is a comparatively large demand.

The retail prices of pianos vary from \$350 to \$750, while the prices for pianolas are from \$250 to \$1,350. Phonographs may be bought at prices from \$35 to \$100.

**Values of Imports and Countries of Origin.**

Most buyers are now paying cash against documents in New York, and have, in the past, met payments largely by means of sight drafts.

Values of imports, with the sources of origin, for the fiscal year 1915 were:

Countries.	1914	1915	Countries.	1914	1915
<b>MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS.</b>			<b>PHONOGRAPHS, GRAMOPHONES, AND ACCESSORIES.</b>		
United Kingdom.....	\$159,908	\$228,648	United Kingdom.....	\$334,363	\$61,727
Canada.....	11,334	2,015	France.....	9,497	2,830
France.....	5,474	9,983	Germany.....	24,167	1,348
Germany.....	330,966	21,778	United States.....	5,031	1,667
United States.....	43,769	52,519	Other countries.....	7,514	2,155
Other countries.....	854	6,647			
Total.....	553,305	321,740	Total.....	390,572	70,627

Notwithstanding the high rank that the United States holds in the manufacture of musical instruments and of phonographs, gramophones, and accessories, the exports of the latter class are practically negligible, and should call for an immediate study of this market, which offers an increasing field for the sale of all kinds of musical instruments of American manufacture.

One of the largest dealers in this city, who handles almost exclusively musical instruments of British manufacture, states that there is a large demand for pianos ranging in price from \$200 to \$250. At present this firm is unable to secure representation for pianos of this price.

[A list of dealers in musical instruments and importers of talking machines may be obtained from the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, its district or cooperative offices. Refer to file No. 79728.]

**Proposed Paper Mill in Argentina.**

Argentine manufacturers are studying the possibilities of establishing a paper plant. The Government of the Province of Mendoza, at the petition of Vicente Mut, has recommended to the Provincial legislature the exemption from all taxes and imposts of the first paper factory to be erected in that Province.

SEP 29 1916

# COMMERCE REPORTS

PRINCETON, N. J.

DAILY CONSULAR AND TRADE REPORTS

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No. 223

Washington, D. C., Friday, September 22

1916

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## RESTRICTIONS ON CERTAIN EXPORTS TO SCANDINAVIA.

[Cablegram from American consul general, London, Sept. 20.]

No further licenses will be granted or facilities given for export of sauces to Norway and Sweden, and of bamboos, canes, and rattans to Norway.

## RELAXATION OF BRITISH EMBARGO ON WOOL.

[Cablegram from American consul general, London, Sept. 20.]

Application for licenses to export to allied and neutral countries limited quantities of carbonized wool noils and waste will now receive consideration from War Trade Department, without guaranty of favorable action in all cases.

## PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND CROP ESTIMATES.

[Consul William A. Pierce, Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island, Canada, Sept. 8.]

Hay, oats, and potatoes are the three Prince Edward Island crops whose annual production exceeds \$1,000,000 in value. Reports to the provincial Department of Agriculture up to September 1 indicate an area of 200,000 acres under hay and clover, with an estimated yield of 300,000 tons, valued at \$3,600,000. The oats acreage is placed at 200,000 and the production at 7,500,000 bushels, valued at \$3,375,000. Potatoes occupy 32,000 acres, from which a crop of 7,000,000 bushels, valued at \$3,500,000, is expected.

## COINAGE OF GOLD DISKS IN PERU.

The Peruvian Government, through the Ministry of Finance, has authorized the Banco Mercantil Americano to have coined 50,000 Peruvian pounds (\$243,325) in gold disks imported by the bank. The West Coast Leader of August 24 states that this bank will import a first consignment of gold amounting to \$500,000. The gold disks are to be exempt from import duty, and they are to be coined free of charge. The Banco Mercantil is to turn over half of the coined gold to the Government in exchange for Peruvian bank notes of the same value.

**NEW ALASKA LIGHT STATION IMPORTANT SHIPPING AID.**

Cape St. Elias Light Station, which was placed in commission September 6, 1916, will be one of the most important aids to navigation on the coast of Alaska. It is the landfall light for vessels bound to Prince William Sound or Cook Inlet from either the Pacific coast of the United States or southeastern Alaska.

The illuminating apparatus consists of a three-mantle lamp in a third-order, double-flashing lens of 300,000 candlepower, and the range, due to its elevation, is 15½ nautical miles. The metal superstructure of the tower, including the watch room, gallery, and helical bar second-order lantern, was on exhibition at the Panama-Pacific International Exposition in San Francisco during 1915. The fog signal, which will be placed in commission at an early date, consists of a 6-inch automatic compressed air siren, in duplicate, each with a trumpet with a two-way mouth. This machinery, including the necessary air tanks and piping, was also exhibited at San Francisco.

The characteristic of the light is a double white flash every 20 seconds; that of the fog signal will be a double blast of 4 seconds each every minute.

This lighthouse has been constructed directly by the Lighthouse Service, which has maintained a force during the past two seasons at this remote spot. When the station was placed in commission, the temporary light was discontinued. The station is on the south end of Kayak Island, on a shelf about 45 feet above sea level. The tower is square and supports a cast-iron watch room and second-order lantern, whose focal plane is 40 feet above the base of the structure and 85 feet above sea level. The tower rises above the roof of the fog-signal building from one of its ends. On a terrace east and north of this building are located the cooling tanks for the engines, the fuel oil and illuminating oil tanks, cisterns, the dwelling with quarters for three keepers (men only), and the boat and hoisting-engine house, with an inclined railway to the sea level. There is a system of roads, tracks, sewers, drains, etc., about the buildings, which are of reinforced concrete and hollow terra-cotta tile where the latter is practicable.

A gas, whistling, and submarine bell buoy was placed off this cape on May 14, 1916, and an automatic gas light has also been maintained on an off-lying rock during the construction of the lighthouse.

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**CHANGE OF FISCAL YEAR IN COLOMBIA.**

[Chargé d'Affaires Charles B. Curtis, Bogotá, July 29.]

The fiscal year in Colombia will hereafter begin March 1 instead of January 1. A congressional decree in the *Diario Oficial* of July 22 provides for this change, and specifies that the fiscal year of 1916 shall be extended to the last day of February, 1917, to comply with the new law. The decree also provides for the submittal of a statement of the revenues and expenditures of the past year to the Ministry of the Treasury before May 31 each year. In the event that the revenues are not sufficient to meet obligations promptly, payments are to be made in the order provided in the decree. This order may be altered in the case of international obligations or when a deviation is required in the interest of public health or order.



**MARKET IN PORTUGAL FOR MEN'S HOSIERY.**

[Consul General W. L. Lowrie, Lisbon, Aug. 22.]

Men's hosiery imported by Portugal at present comes from the United States, England, and France—largely from the last two of these countries. Formerly the sources of supply were Germany and France. The importation from the United States has been increasing slowly; some shipments reach Lisbon by direct steamers and the rest through other countries, principally Spain.

Under the present circumstances, and especially because of the great scarcity of the article, it is difficult to give an idea of the prices for the various qualities of hosiery. One of the largest importing houses states that it has yet to see a sample of American-made cotton hosiery that is entirely suitable for the Portuguese market. Some which are excellent in quality or material lose their value because of heavy weight, and others which have a suitable weight are of poor material and badly dyed.

**Lightweight Hose Desired—Introducing American Goods.**

Cotton hosiery worn in this country is usually of one color, nearly always mercerized, and very lightweight. Although the hose may be higher in price (of silk, silk and cotton, and "fil d'Ecosse"), if it suits the market there is a very large demand.

Silk hose are worn in colors and black, ranging in quality from medium priced to expensive. American manufacturers are able to satisfy the demands for this class of goods. As the duty is high—7 milreis per kilo, or about \$2.30 a pound at present exchange—for articles of natural or artificial silk, or containing silk, light weight is desirable. Hose of moderate price should not weigh more than 30 grams (1.06 ounces) and the higher priced not more than 35 to 40 grams (1.23 to 1.41 ounces).

Local importers state that samples of American-made hose of silk and cotton show that an inferior grade of cotton and dyes is employed, although the silk part is entirely satisfactory. It is suggested that the difference in the quality of the materials should be avoided and the cotton should be mercerized. Duty on cotton hosiery is 1.50 milreis per kilo, or about 45 cents a pound. This class of goods likewise should be lightweight on account of the duty and also because the prevailing mode is for transparent hosiery. The opinion is generally held that if American manufacturers will supply an article adapted in every way to the Portuguese requirements the business now and in the future should be a valuable one, well worth study and consideration.

**Usual Terms.**

The usual terms of credit in this trade are from four to six months. Payment of cash before even documents are received, which seems to be generally adopted by American manufacturers and exporters, may be sound business just now, but this method does not tend to develop present or future commerce. It is urgent that some other basis be adopted and more liberal terms allowed if the United States expects to retain its present strong position in Portugal.

[A list of the leading importers of men's hosiery in Lisbon may be had upon application to the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce or its district and cooperative offices. Refer to file No. 80254.]

**SPAIN'S INTERNATIONAL TRADE FOR SIX MONTHS.**

[Consul General Carl Bailey Hurst, Barcelona, Aug. 23.]

An increase in the value of Spain's imports and exports was manifest during the first six months of 1916, compared with the corresponding period of 1915. The total values of imports and exports during the first six months of the last two years follow: 1915, imports, \$102,552,422; exports, \$113,087,786; 1916, imports, \$117,428,379; exports, \$122,760,087.

Aside from the imports and exports of gold and silver in coin and bullion, the increase in value of exports over imports during the first six months of 1916 amounts to \$34,596,707, compared with only \$10,535,364 during the corresponding period of 1915. The imports of gold in coin and bullion amounted to \$28,220,107, as compared with \$9,748,577 during the corresponding period of 1915. Exclusive of imports of gold and silver, the value of imports decreased during the first six months of the past three years, while the value of the exports has steadily increased.

**Changes in the Import Trade.**

The imports of raw materials during the first six months of 1916 were not as large as in 1914. Manufactured articles imported in 1914 were valued at \$35,840,285; in 1915, \$18,478,642, and in 1916, \$21,579,142. Among the imports that show a notable increase during the first six months of 1916, compared with the corresponding period of 1915, were coal, phosphates of lime, pig iron, waste iron, and steel, plates and sheets of iron and steel coated with tin, nitrate of soda, unwashed wool, pulp for paper making, staves, lumber, and wheat. Imports that have fallen off considerably are zinc in bars and lumps, sesamum seed, linseed and other oleaginous seeds, mineral fertilizers, superphosphates of lime and Thomas slag, feculæ for industrial use, paraffin in lumps, raw cotton, raw jute, manila hemp, agave and other vegetable fibers, cork in sheets, planks, and cork dust, and codfish.

**Increases and Decreases in the Export Trade.**

Among the exports showing an increase during the first six months of 1916, as compared with 1915, are blende, zinc ore, iron and iron pyrites, mercury, lead, manufactured iron, chemical products, silk manufactures, instruments and machinery, paper and paper manufactures, barley, green and salted olives, oranges, olive oil, wines, and sardines. Articles of export that have fallen off are salt, cotton and manufactures thereof, hemp, flax, and jute manufactures, wool and wool manufactures, cork stoppers, tanned calfskins, shoes, rice, garbanzos, beans, and some other alimentary products, the export of which has been limited by customs regulations. The decreased export of cotton and woolen goods is particularly great, as compared with the first six months of last year, but the export at that time was exceptional, owing to large orders of warring nations. A comparison with the first six months of 1914 shows still a great increase in these lines. Exports of cotton and its manufactures during the first six months of 1914 amounted in value to \$3,886,271, in 1915 to \$14,574,886, and in 1916 to \$11,242,248; while those of wool and its manufactures amounted in 1914 to \$2,225,421, in 1915 to \$18,960,121, and in 1916 to

\$9,041,186. The export of chemicals, on the other hand, has steadily increased and is now nearly double that of 1914, while metals as a class show an increase, compared to 1914, of from \$13,792,279 to \$17,570,989. The export of articles of food as a whole shows a continued increase from \$34,549,916 during the first six months of 1914 to \$50,099,664 during the corresponding period of 1916.

### **CULTIVATION OF CHICORY SEED IN GERMANY.**

[Consul Alfred W. Donegan, Magdeburg, Aug. 22.]

Methods employed in Germany for planting and cultivating chicory seed have been described by Mr. Gustav Jaensch, who believes they will prove of great assistance in efforts to raise the product in the United States.

Chicory seeds are planted here in 14.1-inch rows ("36 cm. in der Reine"), about 19.7 inches apart. The plants are allowed to grow out and bloom out until the first blossoms have developed a hard, yellow-brown grain. Neither the lateral branches nor the ends of the plants are cut off.

In this region, where the climate is moderate and great heat rarely prevails, the plants normally reach a height of 4 to 5 feet. The crop from March plantings is usually harvested in the second half of September. The entire plants are then cut off just above the roots with sharp and slightly curved knives, bound together in small bunches, and set up in double rows on the fields for after-ripening. The seed can then be thrashed only in very dry weather or heavy frost in winter.

Despite all precautionary measures at least 10 per cent of the ripened seed usually lies on the ground, as a certain percentage necessarily falls off when the plants are touched. Inasmuch as chicory seeds are always considerably damaged by birds in Germany, watchmen have to be kept in the fields all day to prevent excessive loss.

### **EXPORTS OF METALS FROM MALAY STATES.**

[Consul Harry Campbell, detailed as vice consul, Singapore, July 27.]

The exports of block tin from the Federated Malay States for June, 1916, amounted to 6,258 piculs (picul=133.5 pounds), compared with 5,599 in June, 1915. Exports of tin ore (70 per cent of gross weight) amounted to 51,448 piculs, compared with 62,404 in June, 1915. Total tin exports were valued at \$2,827,639 United States currency, compared with \$3,155,003 in June, 1915.

Exports of block tin for the first six months of 1916 amounted to 39,119 piculs, compared with 34,282 in the first six months of 1915. Exports of tin ore amounted to 325,863 piculs, compared with 357,455 in the first six months of 1915. Total tin exports for the half year were valued at \$18,674,636, compared with \$17,552,264 in the first six months of 1915. These figures are given by the Federated Malay States Government Gazette.

Exports of wolfram from the Federated Malay States for June, 1916, amounted to 370 piculs, producing a total for the year to date of 2,795 piculs, compared with 1,917 during the corresponding period of the preceding year. Exports of gold for June, 1916, were 1,170 ounces, producing a total to date of 8,074 ounces.

**SPANISH DISTRICT'S GROWING TRADE WITH UNITED STATES.**

[Vice Consul Harris N. Cookingham, Barcelona, July 31.]

Local customhouse authorities state that imports from the United States into Barcelona have greatly increased within the past few years, possibly from 60 to 70 per cent. This increase has been made in spite of the sometimes unfavorable terms offered by American manufacturers to the Spanish importers, who are accustomed under normal conditions to credits of from 60 to 90 days.

Commercial intercourse between Spain and the United States also is somewhat handicapped by the lack of shipping facilities. There is now only one passenger line with sailings from Barcelona to New York, and but four different freight lines have services which include six sailings monthly from this port to the United States. In 1915 there were 161 vessels that left Barcelona for American ports. The number of vessels coming here from the United States was much greater than this, probably about double, and practically all were laden with cargo. These vessels often return to the United States in ballast.

Another handicap to direct trade relations between the two countries is the present lack of a parcel-post system. Spanish merchants, however, have already requested the Government at Madrid to take measures with a view to arranging for this service with the United States Government.

**American Bank Would Produce Important Results.**

No American bank has been established in Spain. It is believed here that if an important American banking firm were to open a branch either in Barcelona or Madrid, the volume of business transacted in Spain between houses in the United States and in this city would be considerably augmented. Previous to the war the bank that carried the greater proportion of business between Spanish and American firms was the German Transatlantic Bank, but under present circumstances the Banco Hispano-Americano and the Banco Español del Rio de la Plata, both of which have branches in Madrid and in Barcelona, are the agencies through which most international transactions have been effected.

Although Spanish highways and railways lack certain of the facilities sometimes found in other countries, the Peninsula offers an important field for tourist exploitation and is gradually becoming better known to and more popular with the American traveling public, who resort to Madrid and southern Spain in ever-increasing numbers. Any agency opened here might be established more advantageously as a foreign company than as a Spanish organization. According to Spanish law, the taxes will be levied upon the capital used by a foreign company in Spain, whereas if the company is Spanish the taxation is upon the total capital. The rate of taxation is, I am informed, 3 per cent of the capital used in Spain, provided such percentage is more than 15 per cent of the net profits of the Spanish branch; otherwise, the 15 per cent tax is levied.

**Manager of Company May be Foreigner.**

The law does not require that the manager of a foreign company shall be a Spaniard, and a foreigner may well be installed to direct the business.

The rental of good office quarters in a prominent thoroughfare of Barcelona would probably be from 10,000 to 12,000 pesetas (\$1,930 to \$2,316) annually; but such quarters, well located and on the ground floor, are so scarce here that the customary course for firms desiring at all costs to obtain specific locations is to pay the occupants a satisfactory amount upon their promise to vacate the premises at once.

As a tourist center Madrid is a more promising city than Barcelona in which to establish an agency for that class of business; but Barcelona, a great industrial center and commercial port, offers certain advantages for the opening of a branch which might serve the business interests of importers and exporters.

The 1914 imports into Spain from the United States were valued at \$26,549,499 and exports to the United States at \$11,459,680, according to Spanish statistics. The exports certified at the various American consular offices throughout Spain show their value to be \$19,468,296, of which about \$4,000,000 represents exports from Barcelona and \$5,000,000 the shipment of ores from Huelva.

### **NAILS NEEDED FOR BANANA SHOOKS IN CANARIES.**

[Consul George K. Stiles, Tenerife, Canary Islands, Aug. 24.]

The forthcoming banana crop in the Canary Islands will call for a large supply of various classes of nails for the assembling of shooks. Conditions at this time seem to favor American nails, which would have a market if manufacturers would make a serious effort to get into touch with the larger consumers. Approximately \$50,000 worth is needed here to care for the packing of this season's banana output.

It is probable that c. i. f. terms a Canary port would be acceptable to the average purchaser. Several large buyers have replied to a query from this consulate with the statement that they would like to have quotations from American firms.

Supplies from England are increasingly difficult to obtain, and Birmingham prices have doubled since the last big imports to take care of the previous crop. There are no duties on nails, which are usually shipped here in 50-kilo (110-pound) kegs. There are, however, certain local municipal taxes and landing expenses on this class of merchandise. These expenses are invariably paid by the local buyers and therefore need not be taken into account by American exporters.

#### **Should Base Prices on Thorough Investigation of Freights.**

As ocean freights from American ports to these islands are especially variable and very high at this time, it is suggested that firms thoroughly investigate the freights involved before making c. i. f. prices on shook nails. The c. i. f. prices, with freights at buyers' risks, are perhaps safer except when an actual and practical rate can be quoted with definite date of sailing.

The sizes most needed at this time are: Length,  $1\frac{1}{2}$  inches, gauge 14 and  $13\frac{1}{2}$  length,  $1\frac{1}{2}$  inches, gauge 15; length,  $1\frac{1}{4}$  inches, gauge 15; length, 1 inch, gauge 16.

[A list of buyers of banana-shook nails in the Canary Islands may be obtained from the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, its district or cooperative offices. Refer to file No. 80273.]

## FOREIGN TARIFFS.

## ARGENTINA.

[Consul General W. Henry Robertson, Buenos Aires, July 26.]

**Classification of Women's Velvet Dresses.**

By an executive decree of June 14, 1916, item 2212 of the Argentine customs tariff, specifying women's ready-made dresses of velvet or plush, trimmed or not, is made applicable only to garments of silk or silk-mixed goods. The same articles if of cotton or cotton mixed with wool are to be regarded as articles not specified in the tariff, dutiable at 27 per cent ad valorem. The new classification will result in a great decrease in the duty on the latter, the rate prescribed under tariff No. 2212 being 100 pesos each (\$40.53, including surtax).

## AUSTRALIA.

[Commonwealth Gazette, Mar. 2.]

**Prohibition on Certain Explosives.**

The importation into Australia of explosives containing more than 50 per cent of nitroglycerine has been prohibited, except after the consent, in writing, of the Minister of State for Trade and Customs has been obtained.

[Commonwealth Gazette May 4.]

**Prohibition on Alcoholic Essences.**

A proclamation dated May 3, 1916, prohibits the importation into Australia of essences of whisky, rum, brandy, cognac, and oil of cognac, or of any artificial aroma or essence which may be used as a substitute for the foregoing products.

[Commonwealth Gazette, May 11.]

**Prohibition on Gold Jewelry.**

The prohibition on imports of gold jewelry has been further modified and, according to a proclamation dated May 10, 1916, no restriction is to be placed on the importation of such articles of less than 9 carats. [For previous notices regarding this measure, see COMMERCE REPORTS for May 27 and June 8, 1916.]

[Board of Trade Journal, Aug. 10.]

It is now announced that the Minister for Trade and Customs is willing to waive the prohibition on gold jewelry where proof is furnished to the satisfaction of the High Commissioner in London that expense had been incurred on orders received prior to May 20, 1916. [While this notice apparently refers to orders of British firms, it is probable that a similar concession would be allowed to concerns in other countries, provided suitable proof was furnished.]

[Board of Trade Journal, Aug. 17.]

**Prohibition on Soap.**

According to telegraphic information received by the High Commissioner in London for the Commonwealth of Australia, a proclamation has been issued prohibiting the importation of soap into Australia. [The Board of Trade Journal for Aug. 24, 1916, states that this prohibition does not apply to soap imported from the United Kingdom.]

## HONDURAS.

[Consul Walter F. Boyle, Puerto Cortes, Aug. 9.]

**Heavy Customs Storage Charges.**

Shippers of machinery and heavy articles in general, as well as exporters of explosives, petroleum products, and certain chemicals

destined for Honduras, should take into consideration the very heavy storage charges prescribed by the Honduran customs tariff in order to insure the prompt removal of such articles from the custody of the customhouse. Thus, for goods shipped "cash against documents," where the shipper naturally hopes to protect himself by the return of the goods in the event the consignee refuses them, such charges are very burdensome, if there is delay in the acceptance of the draft and consequently in the clearance of goods through the customs.

The Honduran customs tariff provides that machinery operated by mechanical power, pipe, barbed wire, sheet iron for roofing, petroleum products, explosives, certain dangerous chemicals, and, in general, all goods of great bulk and weight are not to enter the customs warehouse and must be cleared within three days after arrival. After that time a storage charge of 0.01 peso per half kilo for each additional day will be collected. [Peso (July 1, 1916), \$.50; kilo, 2.2046 pounds.]

As a concrete example of these charges there may be mentioned the case of a gasoline engine, weighing 2,500 pounds and sold for \$280, on which a cash collection of 25 per cent was made before shipment. In 7 days the storage charges on this article equaled the cash advance and in 28 days exceeded the entire value of the engine.

It is suggested that in making shipments of this character American concerns arrange with the bank or company undertaking collection of the shipper's draft for the prompt return of the goods when for any reason they are not to be claimed by the consignee.

#### NEW ZEALAND.

[New Zealand Gazette, July 24.]

##### Restrictions on Imports.

According to regulations published in the New Zealand Gazette, July 24, 1916, an import license issued by the Comptroller of Customs must be obtained before the entry will be allowed of goods from other countries than the United Kingdom, British possessions and self-governing dominions, and the United States. The object of this restriction is to exclude more effectually goods "in whole or in part manufactured, produced, sold, consigned by, or procured from an enemy or an alien enemy, or any person having such connections or associations with an enemy or alien enemy that the importation of such goods is contrary to the public interest."

In this connection, it should again be noted that goods shipped to New Zealand by export commission houses or forwarding concerns in this country should be accompanied by a manufacturer's invoice, in order to establish conclusively the American origin of the goods. [See COMMERCE REPORTS for May 9, 1916.]

#### URUGUAY.

[Diario Oficial, July 11.]

##### Exemption of Nonalcoholic Beverages.

Nonalcoholic beverages of a kind not manufactured within the country have been exempted from all duties and surtaxes upon importation into Uruguay, according to the provisions of a law of June 7, 1916. It is also provided that no internal duty shall be levied on such beverages and that advertising matter for promoting their sale shall not be subject to municipal tax. The President is authorized to reimpose the customs duties on such beverages when factories for their manufacture are established in Uruguay.

**ORIENTAL COMMENT ON TRADE OF THE FAR EAST.**

[Extracts from Japan Weekly Chronicle, forwarded by American Commercial Attaché, Peking, China.]

**Growing Japanese Interests at Harbin.**

The Japanese governor general of the Kwangtung Leased Territory recently paid a visit to Harbin, giving special attention to the growing Japanese settlement there. This community is now thriving, and several new commercial establishments have been opened during the past year. It contains flour and oil mills, sawmills, breweries, and machine shops. The turning over of a section of the railroad extending to the frontier of Russian and Japanese interests established in 1905 to Japan, in connection with the recent Russo-Japanese convention, and its operation by the South Manchuria Railway Co., will have a strong tendency to divert the trade of Harbin to the south, and will undoubtedly increase the importance of Japanese interests there. Municipal improvements are badly needed in Harbin, and it seems not unlikely that Japanese capital will be found to take care of them.

**Applications for Tungsten Mines in Korea.**

During April and May there was a boom in applications for permission to work tungsten mines in Korea. More than 1,000 were registered during those months, and 300 more during June. The activity appears to have been due to the very high prices for that metal ruling during the first two months mentioned. Prices have since fallen, and the number of applications has decreased. It is claimed, however, that this indicates no lack of interest in the mining industry in Korea in general, as more recently the deposits of iron and gold have received attention. The applications for tungsten mines were largely from persons other than professional mining men.

Japanese capital, now that the demand for war enterprises and for industrial development in Japan proper seems to have spent itself to some extent, is being turned in great measure to the Japanese dependencies, particularly Korea. A large spinning company, and another for mining tungsten are recent projects. The Korean Government and the Bank of Korea are giving all the assistance they can to these enterprises. There is some activity in Formosa also, although the field there is much more fully occupied.

**Exports of Japanese Superphosphate Fertilizers.**

There has been a marked development lately in the foreign markets for Japanese superphosphate fertilizers. An Osaka firm is reported to have secured an order for 2,000 tons, half for Russia and half for India, and further orders are said to be in sight from the former country, besides one for several thousand tons from Port Said. An investigation is in progress to see whether there are sufficient stocks to meet the demand.

**Increased Porcelain Production—Formosa's Sugar Output.**

Japanese exports of porcelain increased by more than 110 per cent for the first half of the current calendar year, as compared with the corresponding period of last year. In fact they reached about the same value as the exports for the 12 months preceding the outbreak of war. The output of the factories has about doubled, and ma-



chinery is now taking the place of manual labor to a much greater extent than formerly.

The first estimates have been made of the next season's output of Formosan sugar, the total being placed at 5,232,947 piculs, or about 348,776 short tons. This represents an increase of about  $8\frac{1}{2}$  per cent over last season's yield.

#### Incombustible Celluloid—Japan-China Trade.

Tokyo papers state that a Japanese professor has invented an incombustible celluloid which can be made from soya-bean cake, and is superior to all others of the kind, in that its cost is only about 20 sen (\$0.10) per pound, as compared with the normal cost of \$5 and \$6. It is also stated that a valuable lacquer varnish is obtained as a by-product.

Japanese returns show that during the first half of the current calendar year Japan's exports to China amounted to \$38,500,000, and imports to \$22,000,000. The excess of exports over imports was much greater than for the corresponding period of last year. Japanese exports to China are mainly to North and Central China and Manchuria.

It is reported that the managing body of the Cotton Yarn Guild of Osaka has under consideration an agreement with the spinning companies, whereby the latter would be bound to dispose of their product either through the members of the guild or to certain approved consumers. The object is said to be the prevention of speculative transactions.

#### Shipping Service to America Reduced.

The total tonnage of Japanese tramp steamers on the America-Vladivostok service has recently decreased from 100,000 to 70,000. The boats are being used on the South China runs, where the demand is better, and on the routes to Singapore, Saigon, Java, and Australia. A restoration of activity in the American trade is, however, predicted for the near future.

The Kawasaki Dockyard at Kobe has received an order for a 3,000-ton yacht for the King of Siam. The engines of a small cruiser, which is to be broken up, are to be used in the yacht.

### AMERICAN SWEET POTATOES FOR CANADIAN MARKET.

[Consul Felix S. S. Johnson, Kingston, Ontario, Sept. 13.]

As the season is at hand in the United States for harvesting sweet potatoes would it not be a wise move on the part of American farmers to try to secure direct Canadian connections in Ontario and Quebec? Further, instead of consigning all potatoes to Montreal and Toronto, why not try other points—for instance, Hamilton, Ottawa, Peterborough, Kingston, Cornwall, Sherbrooke, Three Rivers, and Quebec?

I note that the potatoes imported at Quebec are what are termed "seconds," and during my residence in Kingston no potatoes of the best quality have been offered for sale here. American sweet potatoes are retailed on the local market at 7 and 8 cents a pound.

[A list of Kingston firms that handle sweet potatoes may be had upon application to the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce or its district and cooperative offices. Refer to file No. 80269.]

## TRAVELING EXPENSES AND CONDITIONS IN PERU.

Commercial Attaché William F. Montavon, of Lima, had the statement that appears below handed to him by an American business man who recently made the trip from the Peruvian capital to Iquitos, an important rubber center on the Upper Amazon. As the facts and figures presented therein bring out clearly the amount of time and money required and give one an idea of the traveling conditions to be met with on this journey, the schedule should be of interest to other American business men, whether they plan to make the trip or not.

### APPROXIMATE TIME AND COST OF TRIP FROM LIMA TO IQUITOS, PERU.

*Lima to Oroya* (by train); 12 hours, 222 kilometers (138 miles); cost, 14.50 soles Peruvian currency: (The Peruvian sol may be taken as roughly equivalent to \$0.50 United States gold.) Other expenses—breakfast, Lima, 1.50 soles; dinner, 3 soles; supper, Oroya, 3 soles; bed, Oroya, 2 soles.

*Oroya to Tarma* (by horse); 6 hours, 34 kilometers (21 miles); cost, horse, 3 to 5 soles. Other expenses—lunch, for trip, 1 sol; supper, Tarma, 2 soles; bed, Tarma, 1.60 soles; breakfast, Tarma, 1.50 soles; feed for horse, 1.20 soles.

*Tarma to Merced* (by horse); 14 to 16 hours, 80 kilometers (50 miles); cost, horse, 10 soles. Other expenses—dinner, Huacapistana (hotel), 2 soles; supper, Merced, 2.50 soles; feed for horse, 1.20 soles; return of horse, 3 soles; breakfast, Merced, 1.50 soles.

*Merced to Yapaz* (by horse); 12 hours, 50 kilometers (31 miles); cost, with guide, about 12 soles.

*Yapaz to Encnas* (by horse); 8 hours, 30 kilometers (19 miles); cost, 12 soles.

*Encnas to Porvenir* (by horse); 12 hours, 35 kilometers (22 miles); cost, about 24 soles.

*Porvenir to San Nicolas* (by horse); 8 or 9 hours, 30 kilometers (19 miles); cost, about 22 soles.

*San Nicolas to Puerto Yessup* (by horse); 16 hours, 60 kilometers (37 miles); cost, about 30 soles.

*Puerto Yessup to Bermudez* (by balsa or canoe); 5 or 6 hours; cost, about 15 soles.

*Bermudez to Iquitos* (by launch); 4 or 5 days; cost, about 50 soles.

Total of items given, 221.50 soles Peruvian, or about \$110 United States gold.

### Clothing and Other Equipment Needed.

To this schedule the following notes were appended by the American traveler referred to:

Journeying easily, the trip will require 16 or 17 days, and one must always take into consideration the customs of the people here and be prepared to wait over at any one place for a day, or possibly several days, as the horses asked for and the guides are liable not to show up at the time agreed upon. It would thus be a safer calculation to say 20 days, or even 25 days, to be absolutely certain.

Arrangements would have to be made with some one to send notice by the mail runner at least a week or two ahead, so as to have horses and guides ready at the different points of the trip. One must also plan to arrive at the river before the sailing of the launch, so as not to have to await its return from Iquitos, as that would mean a delay of 10 days or more.

The dry season for the trip is from June 1 to about October 20. During the remainder of the year the journey will take more time, owing to bad trails.

The clothing needed would comprise four suits of medium woolen underwear, one riding suit, one business suit, four woolen (light) shirts, six pairs socks, one extra pair of shoes, one pair leggings, two pairs gauntlet gloves, one extra cap or hat, two good blankets, one good poncho, one good raincoat or slicker, and an oiled-canvas roll to pack same in and keep clothes clean.

It would also be a wise plan to take along a small frying pan, small kettle, stewpan, knife, fork, spoons, hatchet, and a fair-sized alcohol lamp for cooking, as rum can be had at nearly all places and kerosene is hard to get.

The total above shown amounts, as stated, to 221.50 soles, but it would be wise to add another 80 soles for safety's sake, making a total of about 300 soles (\$150) for the trip. Of course, anyone who had been over the line and knew people could make the trip at a somewhat less cost.

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### GLASS BROKEN AS RESULT OF FAULTY PACKING.

[Consul Lucien Memminger, Madras, India, Aug. 11.]

An instance of faulty packing has been called to the attention of the Madras consulate by a local commission agent who recently received from New York, on behalf of an East Indian merchant, 200 cases of window glass, the contents of which were all badly broken when delivered here. The cases were not divided into compartments and did not contain sufficient straw to keep the panes of glass securely in place. The boxes were apparently strong enough, though they would doubtless have been improved by battens on the outside. The omission of interior strips dividing the boxes into compartments was the most serious feature, as previous consignments received from America in boxes containing compartments and packed with plenty of straw had arrived intact.

The condition in which the glass arrived was not only a great disappointment to the local merchant, but also represents a considerable loss to him unless the agent is able to obtain a refund. The type of packing was not guaranteed in advance, but the purchaser had asked that the cases be made with three compartments and with outside battens. The fact that previous consignments from America had been received properly packed encouraged the local buyers to believe that they could count on this feature being properly attended to. The negligence on the part of the shipper or manufacturer in this instance caused an unfortunate impression locally, as the merchant concerned has an extensive bazaar trade, and the fact that the shipment was badly packed came to the attention of a number of people.

Each of the cases contained 100 square feet of glass, most of the panes being 12 inches by 14 inches. The glass is mainly used by Indian merchants for making mirrors, which have a large sale in the bazaars. The glass received in the recent consignment was broken into such small pieces that practically none of it can be used for mirrors or for window panes.

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### PROPOSED IMPROVEMENTS AT RUSSIAN PORT.

[British (Government) Board of Trade Journal, Sept. 8.]

The British vice consul at Theodosia, on the Black Sea, reports that the port authorities are doing their utmost to improve the harbor. It has practically been decided to lay down new railway lines on the quay and erect four movable cranes. As soon as the war is over it is expected that Theodosia will have facilities for discharging all kinds of goods, particularly coal from the United Kingdom. It is also proposed to have a floating crane with a lifting capacity of 50 tons permanently in the port.

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Of the total imports into the Union of South Africa during July, valued at \$15,919,738, those to the port of Durban amounted to \$5,527,230 and to Cape Town \$4,153,729.

### AMERICAN CONSULAR OFFICERS ON LEAVE OF ABSENCE.

The following American consular officers are on leave of absence in the United States, and will be glad to confer with business men and commercial organizations relative to conditions in their respective jurisdictions. The consul's time is available primarily for personal interviews. He has limited facilities for correspondence, and except in urgent cases letters should be directed to the consulate.

Name.	Post.	Expira- tion of venue.	Address.
Jewell, John F.....	Chefoo, China.....	Oct. 1	Galena, Ill.
Hazeltine, Ross.....	Port Antonio, Jamaica	.....do.....	Department of State, Washington, D.C.
Laing, James Oliver.....	Karachi, India.....	Sept. 30	C/o University Club, Kansas City Mo.
Leonard, Walter A.....	Colombo, Ceylon.....	Oct. 14	Essex, Iowa.
Osborne, John Ball.....	Havre, France.....	Oct. 21	Department of State, Washington, D.C.
Pike, William J.....	St. Gall, Switzerland..	Nov. 1	Do.
Armstrong, John S.....	Bristol, England.....	.....do.....	1200 Eutaw Place, Baltimore, Md.
Henry, Frank Anderson....	Puerto Plata, Do- minican Republic.	Oct. 1	C/o Hallowell & Henry, 27 Pine Street, New York City.
Masterson, William W. a....	Durban, South Africa.	Sept. 30	.....do.....
Gracey, Wilbur T. b.....	Seville, Spain.....	Oct. 30	Department of State, Washington, D.C.

\* Consul Masterson informs the Bureau that he will be in New York City from Sept. 26 to 30, during which period he will be pleased to meet those interested in South African commercial matters. Communications should be sent to the Bureau's district office, Room 409, Customhouse, New York City.

\* Consul Gracey will be glad to have conferences with American exporters in eastern cities interested in the Spanish trade during his visit in the United States.

### CATTLE CENSUS IN FRANCE.

[Consul J. E. Jones, Lyon, Sept. 2.]

The Minister of Agriculture published in the Journal Officiel of July 21, 1916, the results of the latest cattle census of France, up to the end of June, 1916. Figures are also given for the close of 1915, as follows:

Animals.	Dec. 31, 1915.	July 1, 1916.	Animals.	Dec. 31, 1915.	July 1, 1916.
<b>EQUINE.</b>			<b>OVINE.</b>		
Animals under 3 years.....	Head. 577,303	Head. 614,185	Rams 1 year and over.....	Head. 235,008	Head. 208,769
Animals 3 years and over..	1,578,921	1,703,020	Ewe: 1 year and over.....	7,407,127	7,143,683
Total.....	2,156,224	2,317,205	Sheep 1 year and over.....	1,503,585	1,411,211
Mules.....	143,561	102,969	Lambs and ewe lambs under 1 year.....	3,232,404	3,314,555
Donkeys.....	324,250	316,559	Total.....	12,379,124	12,079,211
<b>BOVINE.</b>			<b>PORCINE.</b>		
Bulls.....	220,835	221,800	Boars.....	29,665	17,899
Oxen.....	1,394,205	1,321,887	Sows.....	608,044	680,631
Cows.....	6,296,035	6,337,799	Pigs over 6 months.....	1,835,915	1,317,432
Calves 1 year and over.....	2,555,405	2,678,837	Pigs under 6 months.....	2,352,156	2,442,404
Calves under 1 year.....	2,077,934	2,164,123	Total.....	4,915,780	4,448,266
Total.....	12,514,414	12,723,846			

### OFFICES OF THE BUREAU OF FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC COMMERCE.

#### DISTRICT OFFICES.

NEW YORK: Room 409, Customhouse.  
BOSTON: 1801 Customhouse.  
CHICAGO: 504 Federal Building.  
ST. LOUIS: 402 Third National Bank Building.  
ATLANTA: 521 Post Office Building.  
NEW ORLEANS: 1020 Hibernia Bank Building.  
SAN FRANCISCO: 307 Customhouse.  
SEATTLE: 848 Henry Building.

#### COOPERATIVE OFFICES.

CLEVELAND: Chamber of Commerce.  
CINCINNATI: Chamber of Commerce.  
CINCINNATI: C., N. O. & T. P. Ry. Co.  
LOS ANGELES: Chamber of Commerce.  
PHILADELPHIA: Chamber of Commerce.  
CHATTANOOGA: South American Agent, South  
ern Ry. Co.  
PORTLAND, OREG.: Chamber of Commerce.  
DAYTON: Greater Dayton Association.

## FOREIGN TRADE OPPORTUNITIES.

Reserved addresses may be obtained from the Bureau and its district offices. Request for each opportunity should be on a separate sheet and state opportunity number. The Bureau does not furnish credit ratings or assume responsibility as to the standing of foreign inquirers; the usual precautions should be taken in all cases.

*Tubes and valves*, No. 22480.—An American consular officer in Spain writes that a firm in his district desires to import iron and steel tubes and valves. Correspondence in English. References.

*Mica, fluospar, and antimony*, No. 22481.—The Bureau is in receipt of a letter from a business man in Mexico who wishes to find a market in the United States for mica, fluospar, and antimony.

*General representation*, No. 22482.—An American consular officer in Brazil transmits the name and address of a man in his district who wishes to represent American manufacturers and exporters. He does not specify any particular line.

*Shipbuilding material*, No. 22483.—An American consular officer in an insular possession reports that a 380-ton schooner is now in course of construction and that shipbuilding material and machinery is needed. Additional information as to the materials needed may be had on application to the Bureau or its district offices.

*Shooks*, No. 22484.—A shipping and trading company in Canada informs an American consular officer that it desires to get in immediate touch with American manufacturers and exporters of apple-box shooks. Detailed information as to dimensions, etc., may be had on application to the Bureau or its district offices.

*Brass tubes*, No. 22485.—An American consular officer in Argentina writes that a manufacturer's agent in his district has a client who is in the market each month for large quantities of brass tubes of varying sizes and thicknesses. Further information as to sizes, etc., may be had on application to the Bureau or its district offices, where samples of the tubes may also be examined. (Refer to file No. 79517.) Correspondence in English. Reference.

*Machinery*, No. 22486.—A man in Australia informs an American consular officer that he desires to receive full particulars from American manufacturers of machinery, etc., for the manufacture of fly paper of the style known as tanglefoot. Reference.

*Office furniture*, No. 22487.—The Commercial Attaché of the Department of Commerce in the Netherlands transmits the name and address of a firm in that country which desires to communicate with American manufacturers and exporters of steel filing cabinets, etc. The firm has agencies in some of the principal cities of the Netherlands. It desires to receive catalogues and full information relative to various filing devices. The firm expects to send a representative to the United States to complete arrangements with interested American manufacturers.

*Enamelware, tinware, glassware, etc.*, No. 22488.—An American consular officer in Canada writes that a man in his district wishes quotations on enamel, tin, and glass ware; novelties; new lines of dry goods and accessories; stationery, and other low-priced goods usually kept in a variety store.

*Agricultural machinery*, No. 22489.—A Norwegian importer informs an American consular officer that he wishes to be placed in communication with American manufacturers of agricultural machinery of all kinds. The firm wants to hear only from manufacturers who are prepared to give the exclusive agency for Russia, and possibly Scandinavia. Catalogues, price lists, and f. o. b. quotations are desired. Correspondence may be in English. Reference.

*Beans, catch, etc.*, No. 22490.—An American consular officer in India writes that two firms desire to be put in touch with American importers of white beans, catch, and other products of Burma.

**PROPOSALS FOR GOVERNMENT SUPPLIES AND CONSTRUCTION.**

[Correspondence should be direct with the offices named, and specifications can usually be obtained at the points where the goods are to be delivered or the work is to be performed. In cases where the time limit is too short to permit firms to submit tenders, they should ask to be placed on the mailing lists of such offices to receive notices calling for future supplies or work of a similar nature.]

*Surgical supplies*, No. 3612.—Sealed proposals will be received at the Medical Supply Depot, United States Army, Fort Mason, San Francisco, Cal., until October 3, 1916, for furnishing and delivering at warehouse "D," transport dock, Fort Mason, San Francisco, Cal., one electrolysis set, electro magnet, tissue forceps, and tonsillotome. Further information may be had on application to the Medical Supply Depot.

*Post Office construction*, No. 3613.—Sealed proposals will be received at the Office of the Supervising Architect, Treasury Department, Washington, D. C., until October 30, 1916, for the construction of the post office at Burlington, N. C. Drawings and specifications may be obtained on application to the above-named office.

*Panama Canal supplies*, No. 3614.—Sealed proposals will be received at the office of the General Purchasing Officer of the Panama Canal, Washington, D. C., until October 3, 1916, for furnishing, by steamer, free of all charges, on dock at either Colon (Atlantic port), or Port of Ancon (Balboa Canal Zone) (Pacific port), Isthmus of Panama, air compressor, steel office furniture, office chairs, chain, wire netting, brake beams, fusible plugs, rivets, screws, grommets, hammers, dies, drills, bits, rasps, saw blades, carpenters' clamps, marine lights, plate glass, butcher's saws, paper, paper cups, etc. (Circular 1081).

*Creosoting piles*, No. 3615.—Sealed proposals will be received by the Lighthouse Inspector, New Orleans, La., for furnishing 250 creosoted square-sawn piles. Further information will be furnished on application to the above office.

*Veterinary supplies*, No. 3616.—Sealed proposals will be received at the Medical Supply Depot, United States Army, Fort Mason, San Francisco, Cal., until September 27, 1916, for furnishing and delivering at warehouse "D," transport dock, Fort Mason, San Francisco, Cal., powdered chincol, "Coro-Noleum," creolin, hoof knives, chloride of lime, and hoof testers. Specifications will be furnished on application to the Medical Supply Depot.

*Aeroplane hangars*, No. 3617.—Sealed proposals will be received at the office of the Chief Signal Officer, War Department, Washington, D. C., until October 6, 1916, for furnishing portable aeroplane hangars. Drawings and specifications may be had on application to the above-named office. (Refer to Proposal No. 852.)

*Construction work*, No. 3618.—Sealed proposals will be received at the office of the Supervising Architect, Treasury Department, Washington, D. C., until October 10, 1916, for library stack, glass floors, etc., in the Interior Department office building at Washington, D. C. Drawings and specifications may be had on application to the above-named office.

*Heating system*, No. 3619.—Sealed proposals will be received by the lighthouse inspector, Tompkinsville, N. Y., until October 4, 1916, for installing a steam-heating system in north and south office building, General Lighthouse Depot, Tompkinsville, N. Y. Further information may be had on application to the above-named officer.

*Potatoes*, No. 3620.—Sealed proposals will be received at the office of the quartermaster, United States Army, 308 Gumbel Building, Kansas City, Mo., until September 28, 1916, for furnishing and delivering 5,000 pounds of fresh potatoes.

*Vegetables, etc.*, No. 3621.—Sealed proposals will be received at the office of the quartermaster, United States Army, 308 Gumbel Building, Kansas City, Mo., until October 5, 1916, for furnishing and delivering 60,000 pounds of beans, 18,000 pounds of fresh potatoes, 4,500 pounds of onions, 300 pounds of oleomargarine, 300 pounds of butter, 1,000 pounds of bacon, 2,400 pounds of prints sales butter, 600 pounds of cheese, 800 pounds of ham, and 100 pounds of compressed yeast.

SEP 29 1916

# COMMERCE REPORTS

PRINCETON, N. J.



DAILY CONSULAR AND TRADE REPORTS  
ISSUED DAILY BY THE BUREAU OF FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC COMMERCE  
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

For sale by the Superintendent of Documents, Washington, D. C., at \$2.50 per year



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## SECOND NATIONAL EXPOSITION OF CHEMICAL INDUSTRIES.

[Commercial Agent Thomas H. Norton.]

The First National Exposition of Chemical Industries, held at the Grand Central Palace, New York City, September 20 to 25, 1915, was a distinctly notable event in the evolution of American industrial life. Expositions of this branch in other countries have been of the greatest value in developing a solidarity of interests among chemical manufacturers, in bringing them more closely in touch with producers of raw materials, with novel devices and perfected methods, with designers of improved mechanical accessories, and finally with the consumers of finished products. Such occasions have been stimulating, suggestive, and inspiring; showing where national resources have been neglected, where the needs of domestic consumption have been overlooked or only inadequately met, and, on the other hand, where difficulties and obstacles, physical, technical, or commercial, have been vanquished by the intelligent application of scientific fact and theory, or by the happy combination of pluck, daring, and skillful adaptation.

This first gathering of our country's technical chemists for a comprehensive presentation of their achievements in meeting the Nation's demands for an enormous variety of products, that fall ordinarily into the category of chemicals, was unquestionably highly educative. It showed marvelous accomplishment in certain fields: in others it revealed a lack of enterprise in utilizing effectively and fully the magnificent treasures of our mines, forests, fields, and streams.

The Second National Exposition, to be held at the same place during the week beginning September 25, promises to be equally noteworthy. The number of exhibitors is tripled. Over 50,000 visited the exposition of 1915. An attendance ranging from 100,000 to 200,000 is confidently expected during the coming week.

### Expansion of Chemical Technology.

No branch in the cycle of American industries has presented such a marvelous rate of expansion during the past two years as chemical technology. The degree to which this Nation was dependent upon foreign sources for the greater part of its chemicals, drugs, and dyes was revealed to us in a brusque, uncomfortable manner, as the rapid succession of embargoes consequent upon the great European conflict suddenly threatened a multitude of manufacturing

activities, dependent upon regular supplies of certain chemicals, with dislocation or paralysis.

The coming exposition will be a barometer, as it were, showing in a vivid, picturesque way the wonderful progress and adaptation characteristic of these past few months, how American enterprise, skill, science, and capital have united to lay broad and deep the foundations of a comprehensive and self-contained national chemical industry. While the genius and energy of European chemists have been concentrated upon means and methods of destroying life and annihilating armed power, American chemists have been equally active in synthetic, constructive fields, swiftly evolving, one after another, various branches of industrial effort destined to emancipate us from a foreign commercial yoke.

#### **Interesting Exhibits at the Exposition.**

Among the many interesting features illustrative of this evolution will be such exhibits as the following: The barium industry, now utilizing to the fullest extent the boundless domestic deposits of barytes; the contact sulphuric acid process, now unsurpassed in volume and perfection of method; chemical glassware and porcelain, equal to the finest products of Germany; bleaching powder of the highest grade, of which, two years ago, but one-quarter of the country's needs was of domestic origin; the numerous sodium compounds, such as the ferrocyanide and the chlorate, now effectively and satisfactorily replacing the corresponding potassium salts, formerly imported in such quantities; a large group of medicinal chemicals hitherto secured exclusively from across the Atlantic, etc.

There will be instructive exhibits showing how American ingenuity is seeking to solve the nitrogen problem, and free us from further dependence upon Chile's swiftly vanishing stock of nitrate.

There will likewise be exhibits revealing the ways in which our potash problem also is being worked out—slowly, but surely. The great feldspar deposits in many sections of the land, the vast supply of alunite in Utah, the waste gases of cement works and iron furnaces, all are contributing to the insistent appeal of American agriculture and industry for the customary rations of potash. Most important of all is the intelligent exploitation of the kelp along our Pacific littoral. Ordinarily we have imported annually over 1,000,000 tons of potash salts from Europe. We have neglected the enormous supply of potash which the waters of the Pacific offer us, involving no other outlay than that of harvesting a crop worth annually \$90,000,000 for its potash content, but containing in addition combined nitrogen, suitable for fertilizer purposes, valued at \$60,000,000.

#### **Development of the Coal-Tar Chemical and Other Industries.**

The most striking feature of the Exposition will be found in its revelation of the astonishing rapidity with which an American coal-tar chemical industry is being created. Formerly most of the coal-tar, benzol, and ammonia, liberated by our by-product coke ovens, was allowed to go to waste. Now it is all recovered.

There has been an almost mushroomlike growth of the industries producing dyestuffs, explosives, photographic chemicals, and synthetic medicinals, flavors and perfumes from prosaic coal-tar. And yet there is little of the mushroom about the spacious factories and



jungles of machinery which have so swiftly appeared upon the scene. They are substantial, permanent assets in our industrial arsenal.

Two years ago a single firm made aniline on a small scale, while six companies produced artificial dyestuffs from intermediates imported from Europe.

Today 18 companies are manufacturing synthetic carbolic acid, and over 40 are producing aniline and other intermediates. Over 30 companies are making coal-tar dyes. The total number of operatives in this branch two years ago was 400; now single establishments employ 1,000 workmen. In 1914 we made one-tenth of the synthetic colors consumed in the United States by "assembling" foreign semimanufactured material. Today we produce three-quarters of the amount of artificial colors normally required by our textile, paper, and other industries, and every pound is made from American coal tar! The production is largely concentrated upon a few staple colors, used in great amounts. The variety of shades available is, however, being rapidly increased. A few years will see the American industry able to supply the great bulk of the domestic demand both in quantity and in variety.

Most of the new companies engaged in building up the American coal-tar chemical industry display their products in the Exposition.

#### **Governmental Assistance to Chemical Industries.**

The National Government early recognized the importance of furthering in every possible way the evolution of a chemical industry. This has found concrete expression in a number of bureau organizations. The chief instrumentalities in this connection are the Bureau of Mines and the United States Geological Survey, in the Department of the Interior; the Bureau of Animal Industry, the Bureau of Plant Industry, the Forest Service, the Bureau of Chemistry, and the Bureau of Soils, of the Department of Agriculture; and the Bureau of Standards, Bureau of the Census, and Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, of the Department of Commerce. Of the bureaus in the Department of Commerce, the Bureau of Standards has for its main purpose the standardization of the mechanical accessories, the processes, and the products of these industries; the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce brings the producer of raw materials into touch with the manufacturer, and the latter into relations with the consumer, through its studies of markets and trade opportunities at home and abroad; and the Bureau of the Census is the national bookkeeper of the industries.

#### **Exhibits by Government Bureaus.**

Varied and extensive exhibits were made by the different governmental bureaus at the exposition of 1915. They were eminently interesting and instructive, and were regarded, in fact, as the leading feature of the exposition. They were grouped together, and the general effect was very striking. So large, however, was the concourse of visitors clustered about that particular section of the exposition that it has been found advisable this year to locate the separate exhibits of the various bureaus at different parts of the building.

The exhibit of the Bureau of Mines includes an imposing display of the means employed to insure the safety of the miner. The gen-

eral public will probably gather in throngs, as was the case in 1915, to witness the exposé of the fascinating process, devised by Dr. Rittman, of the Department of the Interior, for transforming almost worthless petroleum residues, at will, into volatile gasoline for motor engines, or into benzol and toluol, now employed on so vast a scale for the manufacture of high explosives and dyestuffs. Other exhibits illustrate the work of the bureau in producing the rare metal radium from American carnotite, at a cost far below that required by current methods of preparation in Austria and France, in studying the technology of petroleum, and in investigating the clays of the South.

The exhibit of the Bureau of the Census comprises a complete set of the publications and bulletins portraying, at quinquennial periods, the status and condition of the various chemical industries, and numerous charts illustrative of the growth of individual chemical industries.

The exhibit of the Bureau of Standards is the most complete and extensive of any of the departmental agencies. It illustrates in detail the varied activities of the bureau in standardizing methods and accessories in the manufacture of iron and steel, nonferrous metals, cement and concrete, lime and plaster, ceramics and glass, bituminous materials, paint and varnish, mineral oils, gas, textiles, paper, ink, rubber, sugar, refrigeration, electrochemical industries, and laboratories in general. Many types of apparatus will also be shown, such as thermometers, pyrometers, volumetric apparatus, calorimeters, saccharimeters, gas and water meters, etc. Samples of various materials and illustrative methods of testing, calibration, and purification form prominent features. A large chart portrays graphically the temperatures involved in numerous industrial operations. The details of the construction and equipment of the magnificent new chemistry building of the Bureau, now approaching completion, are illustrated by numerous photographs and blue prints.

The exhibit of the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce shows the chemical trade the highly perfected methods for collecting, filing, and communicating trade information. An official will be in constant attendance, explaining to all visitors the many facilities offered by the mechanism of the Bureau for bringing to the attention of chemical manufacturers the opportunities for extending their trade to all quarters of the world, and for securing such information from foreign lands as may be helpful in improving and expanding their respective branches. There is a complete exhibit of the many publications of the Bureau, which record the statistics of our domestic and foreign trade, or present in full detail the data desired by all branches of industry and commerce on foreign markets and conditions.

#### Value of Bureau Publications.

The Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce has devoted special attention to monographs upon chemical subjects. Among these are reports on "The Utilization of Atmospheric Nitrogen," "The Chemical Industries of Belgium, Holland, Norway, and Sweden," "Cottonseed Products," "Dyestuffs for American Textile and other Industries," "Foreign Trade in Denatured Alcohol," "Foreign Trade in Paints and Varnishes," "Foreign Salt Market and Industry," "South American Market for Soap," "Some Aspects of the Iron and

Steel Industry in Europe," "The Sugar Industry," "The Pottery Industry," "Potash Production in California and Potash from Kelp," "The Dyestuff Situation in the United States," "Artificial Dyestuffs used in the United States," etc. Its latest publication is an exhaustive "census" of colors, entitled "Artificial Dyestuffs used in the United States; Quantity and Value of Foreign Imports and Domestic Production during the Fiscal Year 1913-14."

The utility of the daily **COMMERCE REPORTS** to the manufacturing chemist, the dealer in his products, or the exporter of chemicals, has not yet been fully appreciated by this branch of industry. Almost every issue contains something of value in this line.

The Journal of Industrial and Engineering Chemistry, published by the American Chemical Society, furnishes in its monthly issues a summary of the articles of importance to the chemist, which appeared during the month previous in **COMMERCE REPORTS**. The following taken at random from one of the numbers of the past year presents a fair record of the extent and variety of the information in this special field, gleaned in the course of a single week from all parts of the world by Government representatives, and promptly placed at the service of the American chemical industry:

Conditions in the Swedish Iron Industry have improved.

Efforts are being made to establish a cyanide factory in Russia for the benefit of the gold-mining industry.

A new gas plant is to be erected in Colon, from which the gas will also be piped to the city of Panama.

The price of gas from the municipal plant of Nottingham, England, ranges from 36 to 60 cents per 1,000 cubic feet. A marked increase in the consumption of gas for industrial purposes is noted. A chemical works is maintained for the recovery of the by-products.

Efforts are being made to promote the cultivation in Florida of the Chinese wood oil tree (*Aleurites cordata*), from the nut of which the Chinese wood oil is extracted. The United States imports annually 5,000,000 gallons of this oil, valued at \$2,000,000; it is used in the varnish industry.

The annual production of paper in the United States is over \$300,000,000, as given in a report of the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce upon "The Paper and Stationery Trade of the World." Annual exports were only \$21,000,000, but are increasing.

The rubber production of the estates in the Malay States is increasing. The average yield per acre is from 300 to 350 pounds.

The consumption of American cottonseed oil in the Netherlands is increasing, due to the shortage of copra oil, palm-kernel oil, neutral lard, oleo oil, etc.

Recent rulings of the Steamboat-Inspection Service include the following regarding transportation on passenger vessels: Thermit may be shipped in tight metal containers. Fuming sulfuric acid may be shipped in separately packed containers of not over 5 pounds each, or in 1-pound bottles packed with other chemicals, except chlorates, etc.

Norway's supply of rutile is insufficient to meet an increased demand in Europe, so that efforts are being made to obtain American rutile.

The supplements to **COMMERCE REPORTS** also contain valuable information on the chemical trades and industries in the different countries and consular districts; also detailed statistics regarding the export of chemical products to the United States.

**Sample Room in New York—Meetings of Chemical Societies.**

The Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce is taking active steps to further an aggressive movement for extending the foreign markets for the products of the domestic chemical industry. It has organized an extensive sample room in connection with its district office in the customhouse, New York City, in which exhibits,

collected at home and abroad, will show the character and extent of the demand for chemicals in various countries, especially in Latin America, the Orient, and Africa, favorite brands, customary containers, etc.

During the week of the National Exposition of Chemical Industries the following chemical organizations hold their annual meetings at New York: The American Chemical Society (8,100 members), the American Electrochemical Society, and the Technical Association of the Pulp and Paper Industry. Sessions will be held at Columbia University, the Chemists' Club, and the Grand Central Palace. It is expected that about 2,500 chemists will be in attendance at these gatherings.

### MANUFACTURING SODIUM CARBONATE AND SILICATE OF SODA.

[Consul Homer M. Byington, Leeds, England, Aug. 11.]

The attention of the Leeds consulate has recently been called to a newly patented method for manufacturing a form of sodium carbonate, hitherto not produced on an industrial scale, and an improved method of making silicate of soda. The inventor states that he would be glad to hear from American firms interested in such patents. The new processes are as follows:

Past attempts to produce a sodium carbonate containing 5 molecules of water have yielded a salt which would cake into bricklike hardness, even after having been ground into very fine powder. In the process in question, a mixture of 106 parts of 58 per cent alkali and 90 parts of water is introduced into a Pfeleiderer machine, which is kept in motion at a determined speed. As a result an absolutely stable carbonate, containing 5 molecules of water, is obtained in the form of a powder which shows no tendency to cake. It does not absorb moisture from the atmosphere, nor does it effloresce. For the manufacture of bleaching sodas containing sodium silicate, this powder is mixed with the required quantity of powdered silicate, made by the process described further on. The mixture never cakes, is always ready, and is easy to use. It serves admirably in the manufacture of scouring powders and soap powders, furnishing products which never cake. In fact, for all purposes requiring the use of soda the new product gives excellent results. It is not so caustic as ordinary 58 per cent alkali. It dissolves more readily than other forms of soda, is easily handled, and never cakes.

#### Improved Manufacture of Silicate of Soda.

By the newly patented method silicate of soda is made in a form that is much more marketable, and more easily used than is the case with the current commercial forms of water glass. There is a considerable saving in freight, packages, and handling. The cost of manufacture is much lower than by other methods now in use and the plant required is exceedingly simple and cheap, occupying a very small space.

The process of manufacture is much similar to that employed in making the sodium carbonate described above. Silicate glass is introduced into a pulverizing machine of approved type together

with a certain amount of water. This amount depends upon the strength of the silicate of soda desired. The revolution of the machine brings about a gradual pulverization and hydration of the silicate. After the operation has continued for some time, the contents of the machine, which resemble milk in appearance, undergo a special treatment causing solidification. This solid form of soluble silicate can be easily ground into powder. It can also be prepared in a liquid, or gelatinous condition. It is neutral and the solution can be concentrated to any required point. The solid silicate can be packed in crates or boxes. The freight upon such inexpensive packages is almost negligible. Among the advantages claimed for this new process over other methods now in current use are: Lower cost of production, cheaper packages, easier handling, lower freightage, and a much greater facility of utilization.

Among the uses of sodium silicate, in which such an improved form of preparation offers distinct economy, are the following: The manufacture of concrete and artificial stone; of fire clay; of grindstones and emery wheels; of acid-resisting cements for jointing, insulating purposes, and waterproofing walls; of fireproofing; of steam-pipe covering; of asbestos slates, uralite, etc.; in the textile trade as a sizing, bleaching, or fixing agent; as a very valuable detergent and scourer; for rendering fabrics incombustible; as a sizing material for paper; for water paints and enamels; for drain-pipe cements; as a detergent and filling agent in soaps; for preserving eggs.

### **NEW AGRICULTURAL FERTILIZER TRIED IN SPAIN.**

[Consul General Carl Bailey Hurst, Barcelona, July 5.]

The scarcity of artificial fertilizers in Spain has led to the closer study of such material at hand as can be utilized in domestic agriculture. In spite of the fact that large potash deposits exist near Barcelona no serious attempt has as yet been made, owing to war conditions, to bring potash compounds on the market. Along another line an eminent Spanish chemist, Dr. Conrado Granell, has, in lectures and pamphlets, recently called the attention of the Spanish public to his experiments in securing from sea water a potassium compound termed "marine kainit" and described its application to field and garden use. This practical scientist has outlined the method for making his plan a commercial success.

#### **Potash from Sea Water.**

At many places along the Spanish coast common salt is obtained from sea water by simple evaporation, the most economical method known, and notably facilitated in this region by the prevalent high temperature and by the absence of rain. Ordinary salt is precipitated first, being less soluble than the compounds of magnesia and potash. The operation is carried on in shallow tanks, to which sea water is admitted from time to time as evaporation proceeds. The mother liquor, ordinarily returned to the sea after the common salt has been deposited, contains in solution various salts of potash and magnesium capable of recovery on continued evaporation.

In former years mineral kainit from Germany, consisting chiefly of potassium chloride and magnesium sulphate, and partly refined sul-

phate of potash, were regularly imported and no necessity existed for utilizing the residue from the salt gardens. To-day these latter are regarded as of great importance to Spanish agriculture. The method of recovery is as follows: The mother liquors from the salt gardens are run into tanks and submitted to further evaporation. After a certain amount of the solids present have been deposited the residual liquor is evaporated to dryness by a special process. The solid residue thus obtained closely resembles in composition mineral kainit. It contains about 12 per cent of potash. The entire cost of production is exceedingly slight. As bearing closely on this question, a comparison of the saline contents of the waters of the Atlantic and of the Mediterranean is furnished in the following table:

Saline content.	Atlantic Ocean.	Mediterranean Sea.	Saline content.	Atlantic Ocean.	Mediterranean Sea.
	<i>Per cent.</i>	<i>Per cent.</i>		<i>Per cent.</i>	<i>Per cent.</i>
Chloride of sodium.....	77.03	77.07	Alkaline bromides.....	1.30	0.40
Chloride of potassium.....	3.88	2.48	Sulphate of magnesium.....	5.29	8.34
Chloride of magnesium.....	7.86	8.76	Sulphate of calcium.....	4.63	2.76

Also carbonates, nitrates, iodides, etc., in small quantities.

#### Kainit for Agricultural Purposes.

The use of mineral kainit as a fertilizer has been found eminently satisfactory in Spanish agriculture. All ordinary field crops, root crops, leguminous crops, fruits, and flowers contain a considerable quantity of magnesia as well as of potash. Kainit frequently gives better results than fertilizers containing exclusively sulphate or muriate of potash. Salts of soda, especially sodium chloride, in small quantities, are known to facilitate the decomposition of organic substances. They act as food for plants, contribute to the destruction of insects, stimulate the development of the roots, and augment their power of resistance to atmospheric changes and absorption of moisture from the atmosphere. Plants assimilate kainit readily owing to its easy solubility. At the same time it causes certain reactions in the soil, liberating in a soluble form certain amounts of silica and of phosphates. These salts are also valuable accessories to nitric fermentation. The new, so-called marine kainit, the possibilities of which are now strongly urged in Spain, is claimed to be superior in many respects to mineral kainit, and to be exceptionally suitable for dry farming, on account of its hygroscopic properties.

The importance of marine kainit to Spanish agriculture is enhanced by its adaptability in the manufacture of other fertilizers. It is claimed that by the suitable mixture of kainit with acid phosphate and ammonium sulphate, a product is obtained closely approximating to the requirements of an ideal fertilizer. By using kainit it is claimed that there will be no need of nitrates, as the salts present undergo a rapid conversion into nitrates through the agency of the nitrifying organisms present in the soil. The advantages claimed for marine kainit are such that its value might advantageously be studied in connection with the manufacture of salt from sea water on the California coast and elsewhere.

## FOREIGN MARKETS FOR AMERICAN CHEMICALS.

[Commercial Agent Thomas H. Norton.]

Never before in our industrial history has the American manufacturer sought with more energy to gain a foothold in foreign markets. Never before have the opportunities for success in this field been so marked.

A titanic struggle is slowly sapping the strength of the chief European rivals of our country. Their power to maintain successful and prolonged competition is steadily diminishing day by day.

Two leading manufacturing nations, Germany and Austria-Hungary, are practically shut off from international markets. The ability to manufacture in other European nations is seriously impaired through the lack of workmen, through the difficulty of securing raw materials, through the more or less serious dislocation of the whole machinery for effecting the world's exchanges.

In the midst of this uncertainty, this disorganization, which prevails to a greater or less degree in the various European centers of production, it is a patriotic duty of American branches of manufacture to strive by every honorable means in their power to gain a permanent foothold in markets of all countries, neutral or belligerent.

What are the American manufacturers of chemicals doing to win new customers for their wares?

In order to answer this question we must first establish the extent to which American chemicals were purchased in foreign countries prior to the great war. Next we can note the temporary effect of the war on our trade in chemicals. Finally, we should ascertain along what lines of least resistance an export trade in American chemicals can most easily and effectively be built up.

## American Exports of Chemicals Prior to the War and During the War.

The following table gives the principal items of export during the fiscal years ended June 30, 1914, 1915, and 1916, enumerated under the head of "Chemicals, Drugs, Dyes, and Medicines" in the statistical reports of the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce:

Articles.	1914		1915		1916	
	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.
Acids:						
Sulphuric.....lbs.	12,131,750	\$125,892	46,771,510	\$516,436	82,020,246	\$1,990,532
All other.....		357,035		2,611,741		22,717,335
Alcohol, wood.....gals.	1,586,776	652,486	944,374	428,546	1,472,258	857,161
Ba'ing powder.....lbs.	2,725,964	790,374	3,376,780	881,879	3,969,985	860,118
Bark, extracts of, for tanning.....		639,941		2,226,457		5,902,799
Calcium, carbide.....lbs.	32,945,649	962,040	35,772,897	1,097,852	37,873,692	1,211,297
Copper sulphate (blue vitriol).....lbs.	7,375,775	330,007	10,238,808	445,890	17,978,242	2,469,437
Dyes and dyestuffs.....		356,919		1,177,925		5,102,092
Glassing.....lbs.	224,665	1,832,686	102,184	919,831	256,082	1,597,506
Lime, acetate of.....	68,160,224	1,660,933	24,673,247	486,405	18,804,972	961,645
Medicines, patent or proprietary.....		6,721,978		7,130,379		8,397,071
Petroleum jelly, etc.....		661,880		838,842		1,089,315
Roots, herbs, and barks, n. a. s.....		513,071		700,080		768,977
Sodium compounds.....				3,141,021		12,649,886
Sulphur, crude.....tons	110,022	2,018,794	48,391	885,756	68,796	1,329,692
Washing powder and fluid.....lbs.	12,761,968	535,635	14,096,317	635,478	7,875,317	355,926
All other.....		9,019,552		22,476,269		66,090,426
Total.....		27,079,092		46,380,396		124,362,167

It will be noticed that the fiscal year ended June 30, 1916, witnessed notable increases in the amount exported for the following articles: Sulphuric and other acids, dyes and dyestuffs, copper sulphate, sodium compounds, tanning extracts, and miscellaneous chemicals not specifically designated.

The table shows that the value of chemicals exported in 1916 is nearly five times that of the wares sold in 1914. Whether there is a corresponding increase in amount is doubtful for most articles. In the case of sulphuric acid the quantity has increased nearly ninefold, the value sixteenfold.

#### Exports of Chemicals for One Month.

The variations in trade are somewhat more sharply marked if a comparison be made between the exports during the months of June, 1914, 1915, and 1916. This is illustrated by the following table:

Articles.	June, 1914.		June, 1915.		June, 1916.	
	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.
<b>Acids:</b>						
Sulphuric, lbs.....	647,498	\$5,948	5,931,208	\$63,516	9,421,735	\$204,084
All other.....		23,102		354,501		3,778,024
Alcohol, wood, galls.....	165,463	62,709	58,508	30,108	115,961	81,131
Baking powder, lbs.....	249,446	74,634	820,963	85,142	404,848	111,353
Bark, extracts of, for tanning.....		69,634		506,289		520,147
Calcium carbide, lbs.....	1,996,632	57,978	3,251,754	92,633	5,654,223	184,183
Copper sulphate, lbs.....	281,445	12,265	144,268	9,115	2,089,243	406,344
Dyes and dyestuffs.....		40,880		204,732		782,646
Ginseng, lbs.....	31,680	244,145		9,088		36,670
Lime, acetate of, lbs.....	6,908,360	112,743	2,589,641	73,950	2,986,842	205,996
Medicines, patent or proprietary.....		521,309		780,811		922,678
Petroleum jelly, etc.....		50,094		88,923		109,113
Roots, herbs, and barks.....		39,057		77,149		57,516
Sodium compounds.....				684,355		1,563,185
Sulphur, crude, tons.....	9,342	173,125	1,637	35,088	7,374	133,193
Washing powder and fluid, lbs.....	1,508,998	59,402	1,322,231	59,715	270,229	9,248
All other.....		876,409		3,114,756		6,732,011
<b>Total.....</b>		<b>2,423,203</b>		<b>6,337,906</b>		<b>15,880,396</b>

The export of June, 1916, is over six and one-half times greater than that of 1914; while the figure for 1915 has been more than doubled. The ratio of increase in value is for sulphuric acid 34, for all other acids, 164.

The Department of Commerce does not include with "chemicals, drugs, dyes, and medicines" the shipments of explosives, which increased in value from \$6,272,000 in 1914 to \$41,476,000 in 1915 and to \$467,082,000 in 1916, nor the heavy exports of cement, fertilizers, inks, mineral oils, paints, pigments, varnish, perfumery, soap, and a few other items closely allied to the chemical schedule, but in which the increases in the volume of export are not so striking.

It is quite evident that, apart from munitions, the war has brought about a very pronounced growth of our chemical exports both in volume and in value. It is unfortunately impossible at present to have the complete data now being collected so that we may gain an adequate idea of the geographical distribution of the increase in exports during the past year. For the year 1915, however, we have the necessary information. It may be briefly summarized as follows:

The increased export of sulphuric acid went chiefly to France and Great Britain. Mexico increased its purchases 50 per cent; Cuba, 25 per cent. China purchased the acid for the first time in our country—to the amount of 280 tons.



In the case of "all other acids," France and Great Britain were again the heavy purchasers. Greece took a relatively large amount, for the first time. Canada increased its import by 50 per cent and Mexico more than doubled its customary purchases. Japan was for the first time a heavy buyer, and there was a notable demand throughout the Far East, Oceania, and South Africa.

The increased sale of copper sulphate (blue vitriol) was chiefly in Greece, Italy, Canada, Mexico, Argentina, Brazil, Dutch Guiana, and Uruguay.

#### **Exports of Dyestuffs, Sodium Compounds, Tanning Extracts, Etc.**

The noteworthy export of dyestuffs (chiefly vegetable colors) went mostly to Great Britain. France, Italy, Spain, Japan, and Canada were also heavy buyers.

Sodium compounds were bought largely by France, Great Britain, the Netherlands, and Norway in Europe, and by Canada, Mexico, Cuba, and Latin America. Japan and Russia likewise absorbed notable amounts.

The increased export in tanning extracts went to nearly every quarter of the globe. Many countries were purchasers for the first time.

The large item of miscellaneous chemicals, not specially designated, includes heavy sales to Great Britain, France, Italy, Russia, Canada, Cuba, China, Japan, and Australia, and noteworthy quantities to most countries in Latin America, Africa, Asia, and Oceania.

The lack of specific information on the items representing, in 1916, a total export of \$56,000,000, under the blanket designation of "all other chemicals," is greatly to be regretted at this conjuncture.

#### **Markets Open to American Chemicals.**

And now, how can we most effectively build up an export trade in chemicals?

Evidently the existence of a world-wide war presents peculiar opportunities which can be utilized with perfect freedom, in the firm conviction that no ethical law is violated. With the friendliest of feelings toward Briton and Teuton, and the allies of both, we recognize that each of the two countries, ordinarily so prominent in the export of chemicals, is now unable to meet fully the normal demands upon its productive capacity. A strong effort, on the part of American manufacturers of chemicals, to fill these demands is undoubtedly dictated by the circumstances, and it is likewise our duty to aim to build up permanent trade relations in the fields in question. It is most deplorable and unfortunate, from the standpoint of humanity, that such intense bitterness is awakened by the great conflict across the water. For years it will influence currents of trade; on the advent of peace, entire nations will apparently refuse to purchase the products of certain other nations.

#### **Imports of Chemical Products by Countries.**

It is desirable in this connection to gain a general idea of the full extent of the world's markets for chemical products, including under this designation chemicals proper, drugs, dyes, and fertilizers. In 1906 the data of the various countries accustomed to keep statistics which carefully covered their chemical imports were collated, and are given in the table below. While actual figures have materially increased since the date in question, the relative position of

different lands, as consumers of chemical products of foreign origin, is probably but little altered during the past decade.

Country.	Value of imports.	Country.	Value of imports.	Country.	Value of imports.
<b>EUROPE.</b>		<b>NORTH AMERICA.</b>		<b>ASIA.</b>	
Austria-Hungary.....	\$20,386,000	United States.....	\$78,207,000	China.....	\$10,804,000
Belgium.....	28,814,000	Canada.....	10,933,000	India.....	9,245,000
Bulgaria.....	718,000	British West Indies.....	523,000	Dutch East Indies.....	5,514,000
Denmark.....	3,897,000	Mexico.....	4,688,000	French Indo-China.....	1,149,000
France.....	32,900,000	Costa Rica.....	113,000	Japan.....	13,536,000
Germany.....	70,394,000	Cuba.....	2,081,000	Korea.....	202,000
Greece.....	1,180,000	French Colonies.....	237,000	Siam.....	261,000
Italy.....	14,647,000				
Netherlands.....	132,679,000	<b>SOUTH AMERICA.</b>		<b>OCEANIA.</b>	
Norway.....	1,039,000	Argentina.....	4,466,000	Australia.....	569,000
Portugal.....	1,864,000	Brazil.....	4,293,000	New Zealand.....	1,733,000
Roumania.....	1,191,000	Chile.....	1,657,000		
Russia.....	16,081,000	British Guiana.....	409,000	<b>AFRICA.</b>	
Finland.....	206,000	French Guiana.....	27,000	British South Africa.....	987,000
Servia.....	245,000	Peru.....	925,000	Mauritius.....	590,000
Spain.....	10,224,000	Uruguay.....	784,000	Algeria.....	1,645,000
Sweden.....	4,095,000			Tunis.....	238,000
Switzerland.....	8,621,000			Egypt.....	3,307,000
United Kingdom.....	75,113,000				

Summarized, the countries of the world purchased, 10 years ago. chemicals, drugs, dyes, and fertilizers to the following extent:

Europe.....	\$433,204,000	Oceania.....	\$2,322,000
North America.....	96,782,000	Africa.....	6,767,000
South America.....	12,661,000		
Asia.....	40,731,000	Total.....	592,467,000

To this international market the United States brought for sale, in 1906, wares to the value of about \$41,000,000, or 7 per cent of the whole.

Such is the field in which our manufacturers of chemicals are to extend their efforts. It is the trade with Latin America, with Asia, with Africa, and with Oceania that they should seek to win. The potential purchasing power of these portions of the globe amounted in 1906 to over \$74,000,000. Unquestionably, in Europe itself markets will open to us which have hitherto been closed.

Germany has contributed to the international traffic chemical wares valued at \$111,000,000 annually, or 17 per cent of the entire amount. The United Kingdom contributed chemicals valued at \$63,019,000, or 11 per cent of the total amount.

Those regions which have hitherto secured their supplies chiefly from Germany are naturally the ones, under existing circumstances, in which the most earnest efforts should be made to cultivate new trade relations.

## OFFICES OF THE BUREAU OF FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC COMMERCE.

### DISTRICT OFFICES.

NEW YORK: Room 409, Customhouse.  
 BOSTON: 1801 Customhouse.  
 CHICAGO: 504 Federal Building.  
 ST. LOUIS: 402 Third National Bank Building.  
 ATLANTA: 521 Post Office Building.  
 NEW ORLEANS: 1020 Hibernia Bank Building.  
 SAN FRANCISCO: 302 Customhouse.  
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### COOPERATIVE OFFICES.

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 CINCINNATI: Chamber of Commerce.  
 CINCINNATI: C. N. O. & T. P. Ry. Co.  
 LOS ANGELES: Chamber of Commerce.  
 PHILADELPHIA: Chamber of Commerce.  
 CHATTANOOGA: South American Agent, Southern Ry. Co.  
 PORTLAND, OREG.: Chamber of Commerce.  
 DAYTON: Greater Dayton Association.

**TANNING EXTRACTS MADE FROM HEMLOCK BARK.**

[Consul Edward A. Dow, St. Stephen, New Brunswick, Canada, Aug. 14.]

Since June 10, 1916, the export of tanning extracts from Canada has been forbidden, except to other parts of the British Empire. There is, thus far, no limitation to the export of hemlock bark and other sources of tannin.

In consequence of the increased cost of tanning extracts in Canada, obtained largely from the United States, more than usual attention has been devoted to the utilization of the local supplies of hemlock bark. Large quantities of the bark are now being regularly stripped and furnished to tanners.

A prominent Canadian tanning firm furnishes the following statement:

We know of no firms now buying extracts in Canada, Canadian tanners as a rule buying in the United States or through American firms. Oak extract is bought direct from the extract factories in the United States, as well as liquid quebracho extract. Solid quebracho extract is imported from South America through American (importing) firms. These are the principal extracts used in Canada which come from the United States. Valonea and gambler extracts are bought largely through European firms.

It is said that most of the hemlock timber in Canada is in Ontario and Quebec. While oak and chestnut are occasionally used, hemlock is more plentiful and the bark is possibly better adapted for tanning. Hemlock bark would probably sell for about \$8 per cord f. o. b., at points in this district, about 500 to 500 miles from Boston.

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**CENSUS OF ARTIFICIAL DYESTUFFS.**

The census of artificial dyestuffs used in this country during the year preceding the war is now in type and will be issued by the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce some time in the very near future. Page proofs will be available for examination at the Bureau on and after Monday, September 25. It was originally intended to supply sets of page proofs to inquirers, but the demands have been so numerous that this plan had to be abandoned.

This census is in the main a detailed statistical study of American dyestuff imports, prepared by Dr. Thomas H. Norton at the request of American manufacturers and consumers of dyestuffs.

**Necessity for the Census.**

The necessity for a complete enumeration of the artificial coloring matters regularly consumed by the various manufacturing industries of this country soon became evident when these branches were threatened in 1914 by a dyestuff famine as a result of the war.

First and foremost came the matter of quantity. What is the total annual consumption of artificial colors in the United States? How many different dyes are in current use? What is the average annual consumption of each of these dyes?

There are nearly 1,000 coal-tar dyestuffs of recognized standing in the tinctorial world, i. e., their chemical composition, or at least the methods of preparation are publicly known. About twice as many are regularly manufactured and enter into international trade. Regarding the preparation or the composition of these latter, little or nothing has been published. Many colors of both categories are encountered commercially in the form of several marks or brands.

These represent slight modifications of the primary dye, sometimes in regard to shade, often in regard to convenience of application. The form in which a dye is prepared for use on cotton may not be the best form for the needs of the silk dyer. The requirements of the feather dyer may be quite different from those of the manufacturer of ink.

It is essential that the organizers of a national color industry know how much annually is consumed of each primary dye, and how much of each minor modification is employed. Without such data the prospective manufacturer is at a loss to calculate the size and number of the units to be constructed for the production of any given dye. He is at an equal loss as to the equipment necessary to manufacture it in the different modifications of current use.

#### **Industry One of Great Complexity.**

Again, the industry is one of great complexity, involving a high degree of coordination and of careful planning to avoid material loss in the way of by-products. In the various steps, intervening between a coal-tar "crude" and a finished dyestuff, each chemical reaction in the sequence is apt to produce certain percentages of closely allied compounds, isomeric substances as a rule. These latter may possess the same general chemical composition as the product more directly sought. The arrangement of the atoms in the molecule is, however, quite different. As a result, physical and chemical properties are totally unlike those characterizing the main substances. By-products possess, as a rule, distinct technical and commercial value. One may serve to make an entirely different dyestuff, another may be the raw material for manufacturing a valued medicinal; a third may be employed in the production of a photographic developer, etc.

It is now generally recognized that any intelligent effort to build up a comprehensive, self-contained American coal-tar chemical industry must rest upon the solid foundations of accurate, statistical data concerning the American market for artificial colors. In no other way can the creators of such an industry avoid duplication, overlapping, waste, and blundering, tentative struggles to adjust productive mechanism to a vague, indefinite demand. Without such fundamental data the future industry will be heavily handicapped by permanent overhead charges, accumulated as the result of being forced to feel its way in the dark, chemically, mechanically, commercially.

#### **How the Census Was Taken.**

In taking the present census, it was necessary, first of all, to decide upon the *modus operandi*. The suggestion was made that the required information might be secured by appeals to all consumers of artificial colors.

A careful analysis of the problem showed that any such method of collecting data was impracticable. It would be impossible to secure a complete list of all users of dyestuffs, in scores of trades and manufacturing branches. Assuming that figures could be secured from all users of colors, their compilation would be a herculean task. Suppose that 5 tons of Congo red are consumed annually in this country. This amount might be divided up among several thousand consumers in lots ranging from 5 to 100 pounds.

The method adopted by the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce was much more simple, direct, and accurate. It was decided to use the data based upon the imports of artificial colors into this country during the 12 months ending June 30, 1914—a month before the outbreak of the present war. The remaining tenth is covered by the returns of the Bureau of the Census for the domestic coal-tar industry, covering the production of the calendar year 1914. No serious interference in the output of American colors occurred until after the beginning of 1915.

With the cordial cooperation of the Secretary of the Treasury all the invoices for the year in question were sent by the collectors of customs at the various ports of entry to a central point, where the essential data were transcribed. These include weight, value, and price. Some 37,500 different entries, each covering these three items, were necessary.

**Entries Under 5,670 Heads—Different Trade Names.**

These entries are found under about 5,670 heads, each representing a distinct commercial designation. It must not be inferred, however, that 5,670 different colors come into consideration. Many standard dyes are manufactured by a number of firms in the same country, as well as in various countries. Frequently, several or all of the competing manufacturers use entirely different trade names for identical wares.

Thus, the red color, known chemically as sodium  $\alpha$ -naphthalene-azo- $\alpha$ -naphthol-disulphonate, is manufactured under the name of palatine red by the Badische Co. The Bayer Co. sells it under the name of naphthorubine. Primuline is encountered commercially also as polychromine, thiochromogen, aureoline, and sulphine. Malachite green, a favorite color, is found under 38 different designations, some representing very slight variations in the exact chemical composition.

The reduction of this extensive vocabulary down to a limited list of well-defined dyes has required highly specialized editing. The arrangement and the full use of synonyms are such as to render the "census," in its completed form, of the greatest utility not only to all engaged in the manufacture of artificial dyestuffs, and especially in planning for the establishment of a comprehensive American color industry, but also to all dealers in the wares and to all consumers of dyeing materials.

**Domestic Production—Chart of Coal-Tar Products.**

In addition to the complete and detailed list of all imported dyestuffs, with quantities and values for the fiscal year 1913-14, the work contains full data on the limited domestic production prior to the war, tables of the imports of coal-tar crudes and intermediates for the year 1913-14, studies on the prices of coal-tar dyes and on their marks, and an exhaustive bibliography of the subject. These are supplemented by a diagram showing the diversified uses of the many products obtained from coal tar, and by a large chart exhibiting the derivation of the leading synthetic colors—the genealogical tree, as it were, of the great, chromatic chemical clan. The volume will contain more than 250 pages. Announcement will be made later of the price and date upon which the finished report may be obtained. In the mean time all interested persons are invited to examine the proofs at the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce.

## FOREIGN TRADE OPPORTUNITIES.

Reserved addresses may be obtained from the Bureau and its district offices. Request for each opportunity should be on a separate sheet and state opportunity number. The Bureau does not furnish credit ratings or assume responsibility as to the standing of foreign inquirers; the usual precautions should be taken in all cases.

*Cinchona bark*, No. 22491.—An American export and import firm is in receipt of samples of cinchona bark, of which product one of its customers in Brazil has a considerable quantity for sale. Samples and full information will be supplied by the firm in the United States.

*Drugs, liquors, jewelry*, No. 22492.—An Uruguayan merchant, who is now in the United States, wishes to get in touch with American manufacturers and exporters of hardware, dry goods, drugs, liquors, and cheap jewelry. Reference.

*Tanning extracts*, No. 22493.—An American consular officer in the Netherlands reports that a firm in his district wishes to communicate with American producers and exporters of tanning extracts, especially chestnut and oak. The firm wishes the exclusive agency for the Netherlands. It buys on its own account and pays cash against bills of lading. Correspondence may be in English. Bank references.

*Saffron*, No. 22494.—A firm of exporters in Spain informs an American consular officer that it is desirous of entering into business relations with American importers of saffron. Correspondence should be in Spanish or French. References.

*Aniline dyes*, No. 22495.—An American consular officer in Spain writes that a commission firm in his district is desirous of importing, on a commission basis, aniline dyes for use in the textile industry. Correspondence should be in French or Spanish. References.

*Chemicals and drugs*, No. 22496.—A firm in Chile writes an American consular officer that it wishes to be placed in touch with American producers and exporters of the following drugs and chemicals: Sulphuric acid, in carboys of 1 cwt. 3 qrs., specific gravity, 1.84, pure and commercial; castor oil, water clear, tins of 25 kilos net; nitric acid, commercial and pure, bottles of 5 kilos; creolin; sulphuric ether, C. P.; glycerin, water clear, 50 pounds net in tins; morphine hydrochloride; morphine sulphate; resorcin; benzoate of soda; sulphogualacolate of potassium; salicylate of soda; sodium bromide; potassium bromide; quinine; acetyl-salicylic acid (aspirin). Correspondence may be in English.

*Superphosphate*, No. 22497.—An American consular officer in Spain states that a firm in his district is desirous of purchasing, as soon as possible, 10,000 tons of superphosphate. Offers by cable are urgently requested. Correspondence, etc., may be in English. Bank references.

*Acetic acid*, No. 22498.—An American consular officer in the British Isles reports that a wholesale dye and color merchant would like to receive quotations on 80 per cent acetic acid, packed in barrels. Quotations are desired c. l. f. English ports for immediate delivery.

*Chemicals, etc.*, No. 22499.—A firm in Switzerland informs an American consular officer that it is desirous of being placed in communication with American manufacturers and exporters of the following chemicals: Aluminum fluoride; sodium fluoride; calcium fluoride; aluminum phosphate; aluminum hydrate; phosphoric acid. Samples, together with prices f. o. b. New York, should be sent at once. Correspondence may be in English.

*Chemicals and drugs*, No. 22500.—A prominent firm of importers and exporters in Spain informs an American consular officer that it desires to export the following chemical products, as well as to secure an agency for their sale in Spain: Phosphates; permanganate of potash; quinine hydrobromate; metol; raw materials for perfumery; pharmaceutical and chemical products in general. Correspondence may be in English. References.

*Bichloride of mercury*, No. 22501.—An American consular officer in Argentina transmits the name and address of a firm in his district which is desirous of receiving offers from American manufacturers of bichloride of mercury in powdered form, and in packages of 5 to 10 kilos. Correspondence in Spanish. References.

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No. 225 Washington, D. C., Monday, September 25 1916

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## RELAXATION OF BRITISH EMBARGO ON SHEEPSKINS.

[Cablegram from American consul general, London, Sept. 22.]

Applications to the War Trade Department for the exportation of pickled grains and fashes (split sheepskins) will now be considered.

## FOREIGN TRADE OF FRANCE FOR EIGHT MONTHS.

[Cablegram from the American consul general at Paris, dated Sept. 22.]

\*Based upon the 1914 price rate, France's foreign commerce for the first eight months of 1916, was: Exports \$433,056,102 against \$371,033,429 for the same period in 1915; imports \$1,254,121,913 against \$980,186,012. Exports of food products were valued at \$54,803,894 against \$71,090,006; industrial materials, \$88,683,693 against \$79,863,014; manufactures, \$259,233,354 against \$199,744,385; postal packages, \$30,335,161 against \$20,336,024. Imports of food products for the eight months amounted to \$354,745,001 against \$294,696,911 in 1915; industrial materials, \$515,956,357 against \$384,621,594; manufactures, \$383,420,555 against \$300,867,507. To correct for present prices officially estimated necessary add 91 per cent to imports, 50 per cent to exports, making estimated total figures exports \$649,584,153 against \$556,550,143; imports, \$2,395,372,854 against \$1,872,155,283; balance of trade for 1916 minus \$1,745,788,701 usual conversions.

## REMOVAL OF RUSSIAN EMBARGO ON FURS.

The Russian commercial attaché in New York states that the unrestricted exportation of the following furs from Russia is now permitted: Sea beaver, Russian sable, black fox, blue fox, otter, ermine, marten, and fitch. Firms in the United States desiring to import the foregoing are therefore no longer obliged to file applications with the commercial agent of the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce in New York or to follow the procedure required in the case of goods under embargo in Russia.

**AUGUST FOREIGN TRADE STATISTICS.**

American exports in August last set a new high record, rising to 510 million dollars and exceeding by 35 million the former record made in May, and by 45 million the total for June, 1916. Preliminary figures announced to-day by the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce of the Department of Commerce show exports valued at \$509,778,680, compared with \$260,609,995 in August, 1915, and \$110,367,494 in August, 1914. For the year ended with August exports exceeded 4½ billion dollars in value, exceeding by 1½ billion the total for the corresponding period one year ago and by 2½ billion that for a like period two years ago.

August imports aggregated \$199,247,391 in value, being about 47 million dollars less than the high record shown by June but exceeding any previous August. This year's monthly total compares with 142 million in August, 1915, and 130 million in August, 1914. Twelve months' imports to August 31 of the present year totaled 2½ billion dollars, which was 625 million more than the total for the preceding year and 388 million more than that for a like period two years ago.

Of the August imports, 66.5 per cent entered free of duty, compared with 67.5 per cent in August, 1915.

The favorable trade balance for August was 311 million dollars, comparing with an export balance of 119 million in August, 1915, and an import balance of 19 million in August, 1914. For the 12 months to August 31, 1916, the export balance was 2,465 million dollars, as against 1,363 million in the preceding year and 374 million two years ago.

The net inward gold movement for the month of August was 29 million and for the year 410 million dollars, a record total. Last year the net inward gold movement was 146 million and two years ago a net outward movement of 95 million. Gold imports in August were \$41,238,716, compared with \$61,641,191 in August, 1915, and \$3,045,219 in August, 1914. Gold exports in August were \$11,780,129, against \$1,128,428 in August, 1915, and \$18,125,617 in August, 1914. The year's gold imports were \$518,451,553, as against \$244,035,950 last year and \$59,312,328 two years ago; while gold exports in 1916 were \$108,104,549, compared with \$97,749,270 last year and \$153,984,944 for the 12 months ending with August, 1914.

**RECORD SHIPMENT FROM ANTOFAGASTA TO UNITED STATES.**

[Consul Thomas W. Voetter, Antofagasta, Chile, Aug. 24.]

Several large shipments from Antofagasta to the United States have been made recently, but the largest and most valuable was taken by the steamship *Sherman*, of the Chile Exploration Co., sailing from this port on August 23, 1916, for New York. The entire cargo consisted of 437,050 kilos (1 kilo=2.2 pounds) of copper bars, 367,397 kilos of copper matte, 2,619,928 kilos of copper cathodes, 20 tons of tin ores, 333 bales of hides, 17,839 kilos of iodine, 997,000 kilos of copper ores, and eight Vicuña rugs, with a total value of \$2,230,912 American gold.



### AMERICAN COTTON GOODS FOR CEYLON.

One of the most interesting features of the cotton-goods trade in Ceylon, on which Special Agent Ralph M. Odell, of the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, has made a report, is the partiality shown by the natives for American gray drills. The success of this line is conclusive proof, says the American representative in his review of conditions, that American cotton goods can be sold in that part of the world in the face of the most severe competition. Attempts to develop the trade in English and Japanese goods as substitutes for American gray drills have always failed, for the product from this country is well known, and dealers say that the quality has always been maintained.

Mr. Odell is positive that there is an opportunity to introduce other lines on the island. It is a question of offering grades that appeal to the popular fancy and then keeping the quality uniform. Once a grade is well and favorably known it is very hard to displace. The suggestion is also made that the American manufacturer take steps to deal direct with importers in Ceylon and not depend on indirect relations through India.

Ceylon purchases a trifle more than \$4,000,000 worth of cotton goods from abroad annually, and of this amount the United States furnishes some \$75,000 worth. Gains made now will be permanent, if proper methods are pursued. The largest demand is for gray and white shirtings and drills, cambrics, lawns, muslin and mulls, dhooties, sarongs, and camboys, and prints. American manufacturers are urged to make a special study of these lines, as they offer the best opportunity for satisfactory business.

Copies of the bulletin, which is entitled "Cotton Goods in Ceylon," Special Agent Series No. 123, may be purchased at the nominal price of 5 cents each from the Superintendent of Documents, Washington, or from the nearest district office of the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce.

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### COLOMBIA OFFERS MARKET FOR CARNIVAL GOODS.

[Vice Consul Claude E. Guyant, Barranquilla, Aug. 29.]

Every year the city of Barranquilla has a carnival that is the principal event in the city's public and social life. The holidays commence January 20 (San Sebastian's Day), and each Thursday, Saturday, and Sunday from that date up to the three days' carnival in March is declared a feast day. During the carnival itself masks are worn and all kinds of carnival goods—confetti, serpentines, paper hats, balloons, etc.—are extensively used.

Local merchants will soon begin stocking up for next year's celebration, and American manufacturers of this class of goods would do well to send catalogues, samples, and prices to the Barranquilla firms that handle these wares. [Their names may be obtained from the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce or its district and cooperative offices by referring to file No. 80209.] Samples can be sent as third-class mail and should be marked "muestras sin valor" ("samples without value").

Confetti, serpentines, paper toys, etc., pay an import duty of 6.8 cents a pound; masks, one of 45.4 cents.

**TWO HUNDREDTH ANNIVERSARY OF BOSTON LIGHT.**

A small bronze tablet, bearing the inscription, "Boston Light, built at this place by the Province of Massachusetts, was first lighted September 14, 1716, Old Style, destroyed 1776, and rebuilt 1783," and in small letters beneath, "This tablet has been placed by the United States Lighthouse Service September 25, 1916, in commemoration of the two hundredth anniversary of the first lighthouse in America," was unveiled to-day at Boston Light Station, at the entrance to Boston Harbor, Mass.

Secretary of Commerce Redfield invited as his guests the governor of Massachusetts, the entire Massachusetts delegation of Senators and Representatives in Congress, the chairmen of the Appropriations Committees of the Senate and House, of the Senate Committee on Commerce, and the House Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce, the mayor of Boston, officials in charge of various Government offices in Boston, representatives of Boston commercial, maritime, and historical organizations, representatives of the press, and officers of the Department of Commerce and the Lighthouse Service.

**Trip to Island on Lighthouse Steamer.**

The official party was taken to the island on which the station is located by the lighthouse steamer *Mayflower*. The whole program was informal. The tablet had been placed just inside the entrance to the tower. Brief remarks were made by Governor McCall of Massachusetts, on behalf of the State; Mayor Curley of Boston, on behalf of the city; Mr. Worthington C. Ford, on behalf of the Massachusetts Historical Society, and Secretary Redfield, on behalf of the department and the Lighthouse Service.

Boston Light has had an eventful and interesting history during its 200 years of existence. First built by the Province of Massachusetts at a cost of £2,385, it was captured and recaptured several times in the early days of the Revolution, and finally demolished by the British in 1776 at the time of the evacuation of Boston. It was rebuilt on the same site in 1783, immediately after the close of the war, and with eight other colonial lights then in operation was taken over by the General Government in accordance with the act of Congress of August 7, 1789.

**Station Essentially Modern and Up to Date.**

The height of the tower was increased in 1859, and the buildings have been renovated and the apparatus and equipment improved from time to time as needed, so that despite its age the light station is for all practical purposes essentially modern and up to date. It displays an incandescent oil-vapor light, giving a white flash of 100,000 candlepower every 30 seconds, visible 16 miles in clear weather, and as an auxiliary aid in foggy weather sounds a powerful first-class steam siren, with a double blast of five seconds each every minute.

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Advances by the Canadian Government in 1915 for seed grain and equipment in Western Canada totaled over \$11,000,000, and at date 20 per cent has been paid back. Nearly all the advances were made in Saskatchewan.

**SPANISH CUSTOMHOUSE RECEIPTS IN 1915.**

[Consul General Carl Bailey Hurst, Barcelona, Aug. 24.]

The total receipts of the Spanish customhouses amounted in 1915 to \$24,026,163, in contrast to \$35,345,218 in 1914, a falling off of over \$11,000,000. The decrease was due to the abnormal conditions occasioned by the European war, paralyzing imports from certain warring nations, and also to the removal of Spanish import duties on a number of leading commodities, notably wheat, corn, and coal. The lifting of the duty on wheat alone caused a loss to the national fisc of nearly \$6,000,000.

The Provinces contributing most largely to the customs revenue were Barcelona, with over \$9,000,000, followed by Vizcaya, with about \$2,700,000, and Guipuzcoa, with \$2,000,000, while the remaining Provinces brought in lesser amounts.

The revenue from duties on imports of cereals other than wheat has averaged during the past five years about \$670,000, and in 1915 it fell to about \$140,000. Duties on codfish averaged \$2,480,000, and in 1915 fell to \$2,080,000. On the other hand, the duties on coffee, which during the past five years amount on an average to \$3,900,000, increased in 1915 to \$4,790,000, while duties collected on cocoa rose from an average of \$1,170,000 to \$1,200,000 in 1915.

The revenue from export and transportation taxes also decreased during 1915, compared both with the previous year and the average revenue from these sources during the past five years.

**MINERAL PRODUCTION OF PERU.**

[Consul General William W. Handley, Callao-Lima.]

In his annual message to Congress the President of Peru discussed the mineral wealth of this Republic and gave the following figures of production during the last two calendar years (the quantities being stated in kilos of 2.2046 pounds and metric tons of 2,204.6 pounds):

Minerals.		1914		1915	
		Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.
Gold.....	kilo.	1,500	\$1,022,125	1,670	\$1,108,637
Silver.....	do.	286,600	4,856,636	293,000	4,404,182
Copper.....	ton.	27,090	7,447,419	34,319	11,834,373
Lead.....	do	3,048	142,486	2,750	125,355
Mercury.....	kilo.	700	1,012	700	1,012
Bismuth.....	do.	11,187	23,845		
Zinc.....	ton.			19	973
Vanadium ore of 45 per cent.....	do.	14	3,163	3,145	682,610
Tungsten ore of 65 per cent.....	do.	196	96,184	371	350,358
Molybdenum ore of 82 per cent.....	do.			274	6,983
Antimony ore of 45 per cent.....	do.			403	17,782
Borates.....	do.	1,263	73,756		
Salt.....	do.	25,933	88,342	25,729	87,645
Mineral waters.....	do.		11,237		
Coal.....	ton.	283,890	998,445	289,000	1,016,800
Petroleum.....	do.	252,666	5,525,282	285,000	6,687,098
Totals.....			20,285,931		26,324,008

a Value of petroleum calculated after refining.

### PLANS FOR INVESTIGATING EUROPE'S LUMBER MARKETS.

The Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce is endeavoring to hasten the selection of the men who are to make the European lumber investigation that is to be conducted under the joint auspices of the Bureau, of the Lumber Manufacturers' Association, the Federal Trade Commission, and the United States Forest Service.

A remarkably large number of experts took the examination that was given preliminary to the appointment of the trade commissioners for this investigation. Those who passed most creditably are to receive an oral examination at Washington before a board composed of representatives of the lumbermen and officials of the three Government branches concerned.

#### To Select Men With Wide Practical Experience.

Five men are to be chosen and their appointments will be based upon the fact that they are especially qualified to secure and report detailed information about the requirements of European lumber consumers, and the methods and capacity of European lumber producers. The entire expenses of one commissioner are to be paid by the Government, while the cost of the others, including the services of a Russian interpreter, will be borne by the National Association of Lumber Manufacturers. All will be appointed by the Department of Commerce, and the department will make every effort to get men with wide practical experience in the lumber industry.

Before the end of November, these commissioners should be conferring with manufacturers throughout the country to ascertain precisely what information the latter consider to be of the greatest value to them. After these preliminary conferences, the commissioners will at once start for Europe.

One man will make a study of the lumber requirements of the United Kingdom, Holland, and France. One will cover the market of southern Europe and northern Africa, including Spain, Italy, Greece, Algiers, and Egypt. Another will be required for the Central Empires, covering the markets of Germany and Belgium and perhaps Turkey and the production of southern Germany and Austria. The fourth commissioner will go to Norway and Sweden to make an estimate of the lumber-producing power of those countries, and the fifth is scheduled to cover Russia, Siberia, and Roumania, where is situated, supposedly, the world's great timber supply of the future.

The investigation, under the direction of a committee of representative lumbermen, is to be one of the most thoroughgoing and comprehensive ever undertaken. It may extend over two years.

#### Complete Study of European Building Trades.

The American commissioners will make a complete study of the European building trades, the kinds, qualities, and dimensions of lumber that are most popular for all sorts of construction, such as heavy mill, bridge, wharf, and railroad construction, shipbuilding, car building, barn and farmhouse construction, and house and office construction of every kind, including portable houses, inside trim, door, sash, and blind requirements—in fact, every market in which the American producer is interested. A special study will be made of the furniture trade, the methods and requirements of cabi-

netmakers and carpenters, the use of American oak, gum, and other hardwoods, and the demand for soft and hard varieties of these American woods. Even the names and addresses of lumber importers, large users, etc., will be furnished, together with the character of their supplies.

During the progress of their investigations the commissioners will make preliminary reports on the more important phases of the work, and these reports will be bulletined at once to the lumber associations and distributed by them to their members. On their return they will tour the country, according to the usual practice of the Bureau's special agents, advising with the lumber manufacturers as to the most profitable opportunities in European markets.

### **REGULATION OF THE AUSTRIAN MERCHANT MARINE.**

[Ambassador Frederic C. Penfield, Vienna, Aug. 14.]

Under an Imperial decree relating to the shipping of merchandise between foreign ports and the assignment of cargo space for foreign countries, which was promulgated by the Austrian Ministry of Commerce on August 5, it is provided:

Paragraph 1.—Conclusions of legal transactions pertaining to shipments of merchandise at sea on Austrian vessels from one foreign port to another or the assignment of cargo space on Austrian merchant vessels to persons and enterprises having their legal residence in foreign countries, particularly renting and chartering agreements, are prohibited until further order. Agreements concluded contrary to this prohibition shall be void.

Par. 2.—Exceptions from this prohibition may be granted by the Ministry of Commerce either in individual cases or in general for specified journeys or for larger groups of such business transactions. Such permits will not be refused if shipments of merchandise are involved which are destined for the treaty-customs territory of the Austro-Hungarian Monarchy or in case of exportations from this Monarchy.

Par. 3.—The preceding provisions apply also to seagoing merchant vessels under construction or which are being fitted out on account of enterprises having their legal residence in Austria.

Violations of the decree will be punishable by fines not exceeding 5,000 crowns (\$1,015) or imprisonment of not more than six months' duration.

### **CANADA INCREASES USE OF AMERICAN GASOLINE.**

[Consul Felix S. S. Johnson, Kingston, Sept. 12.]

The consumption of American gasoline in Canada this year has been greater than ever before. To date the amount used is 25 to 30 per cent larger than last year. In an average year the consumption in Canada is about 60,000,000 gallons. With an increase of 25 per cent the consumption this year will be about 75,000,000 gallons. Throughout the period of high prices gasoline has been cheaper in the Province of Ontario than elsewhere.

For purposes of comparison with Canadian prices the imperial gallon must be used as a basis. This is one-fifth larger than the wine gallon, and would bring the American price to 27.6 cents per gallon. To this must be added the duty of 2.5 cents per gallon and freight to the amount of 1.25 cents per gallon. This would bring the cost of Canadian gasoline to 31.35 cents per gallon ex tank to garages. The war tax of 7½ per cent is also levied. There are indications that present prices will go down as a result of poor weather and the increased production of crude oil.

## PRODUCTION AND USES OF INDIAN TURMERIC.

(Consul Lucien Memminger, Madras.)

Turmeric (*Curcuma longa*) is regarded by some botanists as a native of India, but the finest qualities were introduced into India from China or Cochin China. The plant is nowadays extensively cultivated all over India for its rhizomes (root stock). There are two forms, the hard, highly-colored rhizome used as a yellow dye-stuff and the fairly soft, pale-colored, edible root that is employed as a condiment.

With regard to commercial qualities an authority says the Chinese and especially the Formosan turmeric is considered to be the best, with the Indian produced in Bengal, Pegu, and Madras ranking next. So different are some of the forms of turmeric that it has often been urged they must be produced from botanically distinct varieties. In European trade the China, Madras, Cochin, Bengal, and Java grades are recognized. Cochin turmeric is a globular tuber and usually appears on the market cut into slices. It is edible, and is possibly to some extent often *C. angustifolia* (Indian arrowroot) or *C. montana* rather than *C. longa*.

Some writers state, however, that the special qualities of the dye rhizome are more a question of age than of specific distinctions. If left in the soil for a longer period or if dried and stored for some time before being used the tubers assume the dye condition. Exports to the United States have been nearly all for use as a dye. Shipments are in two solid forms, either as rhizome "fingers," which are big, hard, and heavy pieces of root, or as "bulbs," a small, round form. The total exports to the United States from all ports in the Madras Presidency for the six months ended June 30, 1916, were 1,745,924 pounds, valued at \$108,733.

### Cultivation of Turmeric in Madras Presidency.

The districts in the Madras Presidency where turmeric is chiefly cultivated are Erode, Trichinopoly, Karur Salem, Nellore, Cochin, and Cuddapah. The yearly output for the Presidency is estimated roughly at about 3,000 tons, but a good deal of obscurity prevails as to the production and yield of this crop. The returns are given in maunds, a measure that may vary from 82 to 25 pounds; it is often not possible to discover whether the figures refer to dry or green tubers; and, lastly, ignorance prevails regarding the races of plant grown.

In Coimbatore it is said that turmeric is grown with yams, maize, castor, etc., the rhizomes being planted on ridges in June and July and dug up in March and April. As a rule turmeric is not grown more than once in three years and is followed by raggee and paddy. The cost of cultivation seems to be about \$38 per acre and the yield from 3,000 to 5,000 pounds of prepared turmeric (value \$39 to \$65) and 6,250 pounds of yams (value about \$65). The plant occupies the ground for nearly a year. When prepared as a condiment the root is called, in the vernacular (tamil), manjal, and when prepared as a dye it is saya manjal. Turmeric is often planted on land where sugar cane grew the preceding year and is deemed a meliorating crop.

**Methods of Preparing the Rhizome.**

Various systems of preparing the rhizome for the market are practiced. In Bengal they are cleaned, stripped of the fibrous roots, and heated gradually in earthen pots the mouths of which are carefully closed by lids. The rhizomes are thus stewed in their own juice. Afterwards they are dried in the sun for nearly a week, being protected at night from dew. In Madras the rhizomes are boiled in water and dried in the sun. In the Punjab the drying is done by artificial heat.

When intended to be used as a dye the rhizomes are boiled a second time and powdered while still wet, and a decoction is made of this paste with water. Formerly turmeric dye was very largely used in India at marriage ceremonies, but this practice has considerably declined of late. On ceremonial occasions it was also largely employed to rub on the skin and is so used to this day.

**Use as a Dye and in Medicine and Chemistry.**

The dye attaches itself readily to wool, silk, or cotton, and mordants are rarely required. Calcutta dyers, however, obtain a brilliant yellow by mixing turmeric with carbonate of soda. The principal use of turmeric in India at the present day is as an auxiliary to such other dyes as al (*Morinda citrifolia*), safflower (*Carthamus tinctorius*), and lac (*Tachardia*), and in the production of shades of green along with indigo. It is still fairly largely employed in calico printing and in coloring native-made paper. In Bengal it is extensively employed in dyeing cotton cloths and toys and other articles of sola pith (*Eschynomene aspera*). In the United Provinces it is said to be more commonly used as a condiment than as a dye, and is, as a rule, grown along with *Colocasia antiquorum*.

In Europe turmeric is still employed in dyeing compound shades of wool usually in conjunction with orchil (a purple lichen dye from *Rocella tinctoria*) and indigo extract. It is rarely used on silk. In medicine turmeric is employed as an aromatic stimulant, and in chemistry to make turmeric paper, the latter being used as a common test for alkalis the chemical action of which turns the paper from a yellow color to brown or red. Turmeric is also said to be employed in the adulteration of mustard and to color varnishes. The ports to which turmeric is most shipped are Marseilles, Genoa, London, New York, and formerly Hamburg and Trieste. As a rule turmeric is sold in Europe in powdered form.

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**VESSEL SUNK BY A WHALE.**

A report has been made to the Steamboat-Inspection Service that on June 2, 1916, while the motor vessel *W. S.*, of 20 gross tons, was on its way with a cargo of general merchandise from San Diego, Cal., to Mazatlan, Mexico, a whale came up under the vessel when it was about 7 miles west of Geronimo Island, Mexico, and knocked a hole in the craft, which filled so rapidly that it quickly sank. The crew took to the lifeboat 10 minutes after the accident, the water then being nearly up to the decks of the vessel, and the men were afterwards picked up by Capt. M. W. Maccree, of the motor vessel *Ramona*. No lives were lost.

## RUSSIAN TRADE OVER THE ASIATIC FRONTIERS.

[Explanatory Memorandum of the Russian Minister of Finance to the Draft Budget of the Empire for 1916.]

In the Russian trade over the Asiatic frontiers the decrease in exports, in consequence of the war, was observed principally on the inland Transcaucasian and the Caspian frontier. In 1914 the exports through these frontiers amounted to \$23,020,500 (at the normal exchange rate of \$0.515 to the ruble), as compared with \$25,904,500 in 1913. The greatest decline was in exports of sugar, cottons, and wheat flour to Persia and of sugar, kerosene, and rice to Turkey. Besides this, there was a decrease in the exports over the East-China frontier (Siberia and the Amur), which amounted to \$8,291,500 in 1914, as compared with \$9,682,000 in 1913, and over the Afghan frontier, which amounted to \$2,523,500, as against \$3,038,500 in 1913. In both cases the decrease in the value of exports was caused chiefly by the decline in exports of cotton textiles. A slight increase is noticeable only in the exports across the Persian frontier from Central Asia (\$4,853,500 in 1914, as compared with \$4,326,000 in 1913), and across the Chinese frontier from Central Asia (\$5,716,500 in 1914, as compared with \$5,613,500 in 1913).

The value of the principal exports over all the Asiatic frontiers in 1913 and 1914 was as follows:

Articles.	1913	1914	Articles.	1913	1914
Butter .....	\$706,000	\$515,000	Matches .....	\$464,000	\$361,000
Cement .....	103,000	155,000	Oil, kerosene .....	721,000	979,000
Cereals .....	2,369,000	2,163,000	Oil cake .....	103,000	108,000
Cigarettes .....	464,000	464,000	Salt .....	46,000	41,000
Cotton textiles .....	21,270,000	18,334,000	Sheep .....	361,000	515,000
Fish, salt and smoked .....	309,000	309,000	Spirits and vodka .....	309,000	258,000
Glass manufactures .....	361,000	300,000	Sugar .....	10,970,000	10,588,000
Hides .....	464,000	515,000	Zinc ore .....	412,000	308,000
Iron manufactures .....	979,000	618,000			

### Fluctuations in Imports.

Russian imports over the Asiatic frontiers in 1914 were distributed as follows: Western Chinese frontier (into Central Asia), \$7,313,000, as compared with \$6,798,000 in 1913; eastern Chinese frontier (into Siberia and the Amur), \$27,244,000, as compared with \$25,029,000 in 1913 (including Irkutsk and Tchelyabinsk inland customs); and Pacific ports, \$17,047,000, as compared with \$14,060,000 in 1913. The greatest increases in imports were as follows: Western Chinese frontier, wool, silk textiles, and cotton; eastern Chinese frontier, tea and grain; Pacific ports, rice, tea, leather goods, building materials, copper and copper manufactures, wire and wire manufactures, chemicals, dyes, sesame oil, bean oil, writing paper, cotton, wadding, woolen textiles, etc. The following imports showed decreases: Over the Caucasian frontier the total figures were \$19,570,000 in 1914, as against \$20,291,000 in 1913, the decrease being principally in dried fruit and nuts; over the Central Asian frontier imports declined from \$12,875,000 in 1913 to \$10,661,000 in 1914, the principal decreases being in green tea, cattle, peltry, dried fruit, and nuts.

The value of the principal imports over all the Asiatic frontiers in 1913 and 1914 is shown in the following table:



Articles.	1913	1914	Articles.	1913	1914
Carpe's, woolen.....	\$670,000	\$618,000	Leather, kid, etc.....	\$464,000	\$618,000
Cattle, horned:			Machinery and apparatus.	2,884,000	3,000,000
Large.....	3,657,000	3,245,000	Meat, fresh.....	1,967,000	1,606,000
Small.....	3,039,000	1,731,000	Nuts.....	1,442,000	1,185,000
Coal.....	412,000	361,000	Oils, vegetable.....	361,000	618,000
Cotton.....	7,159,000	7,931,000	Poltry (sheepskins, kara- kul).....	3,502,000	3,000,000
Cotton textiles.....	670,000	567,000	Rice.....	3,605,000	4,687,000
Eggs.....	670,000	721,000	Salt.....	587,000	824,000
Fish and lobsters.....	1,648,000	1,906,000	Seals.....	670,000	824,000
Flour.....	155,000	155,000	Silk cocoons.....	1,803,000	62,070
Fruit and berries, fresh, salted etc.....	927,000	927,000	Silk and half-silk textiles.	515,000	773,000
Fruit, dried.....	4,481,000	3,811,000	Tax.....	16,223,000	16,789,000
Grain.....	4,790,000	4,996,000	Timber.....	464,000	412,000
Hay and straw uncleaned.	155,000	258,000	Wadding, hydroscopic.....		273,000
Hides, dry-salted, wet- salted, and raw.....	464,000	567,000	Wire goods, iron, steel, and copper.....	381,000	670,000
Iron.....	721,000	721,000	Wool, unwashed.....	3,554,000	4,584,000
Iron and steel manufac- tures.....	618,000	618,000	Woolens.....	206,000	773,000

### MINERAL STATISTICS FOR VANCOUVER ISLAND.

[Consul R. B. Mosher, Victoria, British Columbia, Canada, Sept. 1.]

The net value of the 1915 mineral output of Vancouver Island, with the exception of coal, is estimated at \$900,000 gross. The high price of metals, especially copper, has greatly stimulated the development of prospects containing copper ores. Shipments of copper ore to the amount of 532 tons were made from one mine to the Tacoma smelter, and the returns showed 8 per cent copper, with other values about 50 cents per ton.

There are two large and well-equipped cement plants, both situated on Saanich Inlet, Vancouver Island. The Victoria Portland Cement Co. is expected to have an output of about 120,000 barrels of Portland cement, valued approximately at \$200,000, in the production of which about 30,000 tons of limestone and a proportionate tonnage of clay were quarried. This year's output is only about a quarter of that of 1912, but is probably all the market will absorb. The Associated Cement Co. made about 156,000 barrels of cement, worth approximately \$265,000, which is not half the company's output for last year.

#### Output of Products from Various Companies.

The Rosebank Lime Co., Esquimalt, produced burnt lime to a value of about \$20,000. Sir John Jackson (Ltd.) quarried, at Albert Head, about \$220,000 worth of riprap and about \$5,000 worth of crushed rock for the company's use in the breakwater which it is constructing for the Dominion Government at Victoria. The Producers' Sand & Gravel Co. sold approximately \$55,000 worth of sand and gravel, chiefly for use in concrete work. Of pottery, tile, etc., there was produced during the past year material valued at between \$55,000 and \$60,000, chiefly by the British Columbia Pottery Co., whose plant is situated in the Victoria District. In normal times this district produces a large number of red brick, etc., but it is estimated that the past year's production did not exceed \$35,000 in value, produced chiefly by the Victoria Brick Co., the Pioneer Brick Co., and the Baker Brick & Tile Co.

## SPAIN PROVIDES FOR QUICKER DISTRIBUTION OF COAL.

[Consul General Carl Bailey Hurst, Barcelona, Aug. 21.]

The scarcity and high price of coal in Spain has led the Government to present a law to the Cortes, the provisions of which, it is hoped, will relieve the local fuel situation. Pending enactment of the proposed law the Government, by royal order, published August 19, has made regulations adapted to overcome some momentary difficulties.

It appears that at Barcelona there are large numbers of cars loaded with coal which have been refused acceptance by the consignees owing to the poor quality of the coal. This practically immobilizes cars absolutely necessary in moving coal from the mines to industrial centers of the country. Accordingly, the railroads transporting the coal will be obliged to demand a certificate from the mine whence the coal proceeds showing quantity, to whom consigned, and by whom, so that in case it is not of the grade ordered the consignee may take up the case with the shipper. If the coal is not discharged by the consignee within 12 hours the railroad company will proceed to unload it at the expense of the consignee, without responsibility for loss or damage, unless this can be attributed to bad faith or negligence of employees.

Each individual shipment must be kept separate, in order to permit the consignee to claim indemnification from the shipper. If the docks and freight yards of the transporting company are not large enough to permit of separately storing these shipments, more space may be rented at the expense of the consignee. Each coal-transporting company must reserve a certain number of trains for coal, which they shall load to the maximum, and they shall inform the Ministry of Public Works within 15 days as to the number of cars needed by them for this purpose. In this way it may be arranged, if necessary, for one company to lease cars from another that has no immediate use for them.

## IRON AND STEEL BUSINESS IN RUSSIA.

[British (Government) Board of Trade Journal, Sept. 8.]

The British commercial attaché at Petrograd has forwarded the following statistics showing the orders received by the Russian "Prodamet" iron and steel selling syndicate during the first six months of 1914, 1915, and 1916:

Articles.	Jan. 1-June 30, 1914.	Jan. 1-June 30, 1915.	Jan. 1-June 30, 1916.
	<i>Short tons.</i>	<i>Short tons.</i>	<i>Short tons.</i>
Sheet iron.....	181,169	149,846	115,919
Girders.....	153,130	106,034	11,329
Sleepers.....	26,193	33,543	21,729
Hoop iron.....	71,164	61,346	14,386
Angle, band, and section iron.....	540,637	537,964	632,711
Rails:			
Light.....	27,900	13,862	51,517
Heavy.....	209,855	245,341	123,107
Total.....	1,227,066	1,147,936	979,888

## ESTIMATES OF NEW DOMINICAN SUGAR CROP.

[Vice Consul Carl M. J. von Ziehlinski, Santo Domingo, Sept. 7.]

Estimates of the 1916-17 sugar harvest in the Santo Domingo consular district are 155,231 bags, or nearly 18 per cent, in excess of the production of 1915-16, and 280,713 bags, or 37 per cent, above the output of 1914-15. Comparative figures for the three years named (the quantities being stated in bags of about 310 pounds each) follow:

Estates.	1914-15	1915-16	1916-17
<b>MACORIS DISTRICT.</b>			
	<i>Bags.</i>	<i>Bags.</i>	<i>Bags.</i>
Consuelo .....	184,703	213,000	230,000
Santa Fe .....	109,500	125,000	130,000
Angelina .....	109,500	109,500	110,000
Porvenir .....	78,500	106,500	106,000
Quisqueya .....	60,000	69,000	90,000
Cristobal Colon .....	39,000	60,000	80,000
Total .....	581,203	682,700	746,000
<b>SANTO DOMINGO DISTRICT.</b>			
San Isidro .....	65,000	80,982	70,000
Italia .....	51,000	61,933	80,000
San Luis .....	30,000	32,000	60,000
San Jose .....		4,500	35,000
Total .....	146,000	158,425	245,000
<b>AZUA DISTRICT.</b>			
Ansonia .....	10,064	14,650	15,000
Azuano .....	6,000	10,750	15,000
Ocoa .....	9,000	11,235	12,000
Total .....	25,064	36,644	42,000
Grand total .....	752,267	877,769	1,033,000

The data for the coming crop has been carefully compiled from information obtained from the managers or owners of the several estates, and past experience has shown their estimates to be reliable and conservative.

**Substantial Increases Expected.**

San José is a new estate, and next year's output will probably be somewhat near its present capacity of production. San Luis estimates an output about twice the size of that of 1915-16, which is chiefly due to the enlarged area under cultivation.

Azuano, Cristobal Colon, Quisqueya, and Italia estimate increases ranging from 30 to 40 per cent. Smaller increases are expected on the other plantations, and in one instance even a slight decrease. In addition to the estates named there is also the new Macoris Sugar Co. [See COMMERCE REPORTS for Apr. 18, 1916, p. 235.]

Sugar cane only is exported from La Romana plantation to Porto Rico, and the entire output during the season of 1915-16 amounted to about 140,000 tons. The estimate of the new crop is about 180,000 tons.

The Department of Commerce announces the publication by the United States Coast and Geodetic Survey of a new chart, No. 578, "South Shore of Long Island, Inland Waters from Shinnecock Bay to Great South Bay," scale 1-40,000 (1.6 inches to the statute mile), price, 50 cents.

**CANADA'S FINANCIAL RETURNS.**

[Monetary Times of Canada, Sept. 8.]

The revenue of the Dominion of Canada for the fiscal year ended March 31 last provided for the Government's expenditures, including capital outlay on public works, railways, canals, and railway subsidies; provided interest due on account of war loans; and gave \$1,830,000 further to apply on account of war purposes. This is shown in the revised statement of revenue just issued. The total revenue for the fiscal year was \$172,147,838, of which \$121,077,000 was collected through the customs and excise duties, the balance being payments for services rendered in connection with the post office, public works and railways, and miscellaneous.

The expenditures are as follows: Ordinary account, \$130,350,726; war, \$166,197,755; public works and railways, \$38,566,950; railway subsidies, \$1,400,171; total, \$336,515,602. The total expenditure for the 12 months exceeded the revenue by \$164,367,000.

**Increase in Revenue.**

Comparing the revenue for the five months ended August 31 of the current fiscal year with those of the previous fiscal year, the results are as follows:

Items.	Apr. 1-Aug. 31, 1915-16.	Apr. 1-Aug. 31, 1916-17.	Items.	Apr. 1-Aug. 31, 1915-16.	Apr. 1-Aug. 31, 1916-17.
Customs .....	\$35,520,184	\$53,029,771	Miscellaneous: .....	\$3,488,293	\$3,982,989
Excise .....	8,417,074	9,770,129	Total .....	60,089,196	64,185,805
Post office .....	6,509,779	6,950,000			
Public works, etc.	6,043,863	10,442,916			

The revenue for the current year to date was \$24,096,000 greater than in the corresponding five months of 1915-16. The items representing payments for services rendered, such as those representing taxation, show such substantial gains that they may be regarded as evidence that, despite the adverse effects of the war, the volume of business being done is much greater than that transacted 12 months ago.

**Decrease in Expenditures.**

The expenditures for the same two periods of five months were as follows: Ordinary services, \$38,870,712 in April-August, 1915-16, and \$38,906,257 in April-August, 1916-17; public works, etc., \$13,330,670 in the 1915-16 period and \$8,015,701 in the 1916-17 period; railway subsidies, \$567,989 in the five months of 1915-16 and \$363,478 in the corresponding period of 1916-17; total, April 1-August 31, 1915, \$52,769,371, and April 1-August 31, 1916, \$47,285,436.

The outlay on the services noted during the current year was \$5,484,000 less than in the corresponding period of 1915, and was \$36,900,000 less than the revenue. The outlay on the war was \$76,310,719, so that the deficit between regular income and total outlay was about \$40,000,000.

During the current fiscal year, therefore, the revenue is providing for all expenditures and about \$7,000,000 a month to meet war outlays that are now in excess of \$15,000,000 a month.

**AMERICAN CONSULAR OFFICERS ON LEAVE OF ABSENCE.**

The following American consular officers are on leave of absence in the United States, and will be glad to confer with business men and commercial organizations relative to conditions in their respective jurisdictions. The consul's time is available primarily for personal interviews. He has limited facilities for correspondence, and except in urgent cases letters should be directed to the consulate.

Name.	Post.	Expiration of leave.	Address.
Jewell, John F.....	Chefoo, China.....	Oct. 1	Galena, Ill.
Hazeltine, Ross.....	Port Antonio, Jamaica.....	do.....	Department of State, Washington, D. C.
Lafuz, James Oliver.....	Karachi, India.....	Sept. 30	C/o University Club, Kansas City, Mo.
Leonard, Walter A.....	Colombo, Ceylon.....	Oct. 14	Essex, Iowa.
Osborne, John Ball.....	Havre, France.....	Oct. 21	Department of State, Washington, D. C.
Pike, William J.....	St. Gall, Switzerland.....	Nov. 1	Do.
Armstrong, John S.....	Bristol, England.....	do.....	1200 Eutaw Place, Baltimore, Md.
Henry, Frank Anderson.....	Puerto Plata, Dominican Republic.....	Oct. 1	C/o Hollowell & Henry, 27 Pine Street, New York City.
Masterson, William W. s.....	Durban, South Africa.....	Sept. 30	
Gracey, Wilbur T. s.....	Seville, Spain.....	Oct. 30	Department of State, Washington, D. C.

\* Consul Masterson informs the Bureau that he will be in New York City from Sept. 26 to 30, during which period he will be pleased to meet those interested in South African commercial matters. Communications should be sent to the Bureau's district office, Room 409, Customhouse, New York City.

\* Consul Gracey will be glad to have conferences with American exporters in eastern cities interested in the Spanish trade during his visit in the United States.

**NEW SPANISH BUSINESS FOR AMERICAN FIRMS.**

The effectiveness of the cooperation that exists between the American Consular Service and the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce is opening up new foreign business for the manufacturers of the United States is well exemplified in a report from Consul Wilbur T. Gracey, of Seville, Spain, who, under date of July 27, writes:

A local hardware dealer, who recently visited the United States, informed me upon his return to Seville that as a result of the consulate's letters of introduction to the officers of the Department of Commerce in New York and elsewhere he had been placed in touch with American hardware manufacturers from whom he made purchases amounting to over \$50,000, and that he had contracted for a large future supply of similar goods.

Upon the recommendation of the Seville consulate another local merchant, the owner of a large bazaar, recently visited the United States. He, too, carried letters of introduction to Department of Commerce officials. He now reports that during his stay in the States he bought over \$50,000 worth of goods of the various lines in which he is interested from firms with which interviews were arranged by the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, and made contracts for further supplies.

**OFFICES OF THE BUREAU OF FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC COMMERCE.****DISTRICT OFFICES.**

**NEW YORK:** Room 409, Customhouse.  
**BOSTON:** 1801 Customhouse.  
**CHICAGO:** 504 Federal Building.  
**ST. LOUIS:** 402 Third National Bank Building.  
**ATLANTA:** 521 Post Office Building.  
**NEW ORLEANS:** 1020 Hibernia Bank Building.  
**SAN FRANCISCO:** 307 Customhouse.  
**SEATTLE:** 848 Henry Building.

**COOPERATIVE OFFICES.**

**CLEVELAND:** Chamber of Commerce.  
**CINCINNATI:** Chamber of Commerce.  
**CINCINNATI:** C., N. O. & T. P. Ry. Co.  
**LOS ANGELES:** Chamber of Commerce.  
**PHILADELPHIA:** Chamber of Commerce.  
**CHATTANOOGA:** South American Agent, Southern Ry. Co.  
**PORTLAND, OREG.:** Chamber of Commerce.  
**DAYTON:** Greater Dayton Association.

## FOREIGN TRADE OPPORTUNITIES.

Reserved addresses may be obtained from the Bureau and its district offices. Request for each opportunity should be on a separate sheet and state opportunity number. The Bureau does not furnish credit ratings or assume responsibility as to the standing of foreign inquirers; the usual precautions should be taken in all cases.

*Drugs, chemicals, etc.*, No. 22502.—A firm in Spain informs an American consular officer that it wishes to import chemical products, aniline dyes, drugs, etc., on a commission basis. Correspondence should be in Spanish or French. Reference.

*Alcohol*, No. 22503.—An American consular officer in the United Kingdom reports that a firm in his district wishes to consider offers of commercial and denatured alcohol. Prices should be c. l. f. British ports, if possible.

*Colors and varnishes*, No. 22504.—A firm of importers and exporters in Spain informs an American consular officer that it is desirous of securing an exclusive agency for the sale of aniline colors of all kinds, raw materials to produce aniline colors, colors for mosaic printing, colors and varnishes for wood finishing, automobiles, etc. Correspondence may be in English. References.

*Cottonseed oil*, No. 22505.—An American consular officer in Argentina writes that a firm in his district which is now engaged in representing American manufacturers of drugs and chemicals, edible products, etc., is desirous of representing American exporters of cottonseed oil. Correspondence may be in English.

*Veneers*, No. 22506.—The Bureau is in receipt of a letter from a firm in Canada which desires to get a list of veneer manufacturers. The firm is in the market for a large quantity of birch, beech, elm, or ash veneer,  $\frac{3}{4}$  inch thick.

*Photographic supplies*, No. 22507.—An American consular officer in Switzerland writes that an established firm in his district wishes to receive quotations, etc., from American manufacturers and exporters of photographic plates and films. Correspondence should be in French or German.

*Dates and figs*, No. 22508.—A company in Cuba writes the Bureau that it wishes to communicate with packers and exporters of dates and dried figs.

*Rope, twine, etc.*, No. 22509.—An American consular officer in Norway writes that there is a great shortage of manila rope, twine, fishing nets, and lines, and cotton and linen canvas. The names and addresses of a number of importers are transmitted with the report. Correspondence may be in English.

*Rice*, No. 22510.—A firm in China informs an American consular officer that it wishes to find a market in the United States for unpolished and polished rice. References.

*Thread and twine*, No. 22511.—The commercial attaché of the Department of Commerce in France transmits the name and address of a business man in that country who desires to represent American manufacturers and exporters of hemp and flax twine, rope, and thread.

*Condensed milk*, No. 22512.—The Bureau is informed that a company in Porto Rico wishes to represent American exporters of condensed milk.

*Machinery*, No. 22513.—An American consular officer in Spain writes that a business man in his district wishes to communicate with American manufacturers of machinery for making lead seals and fasteners. Correspondence should be in Spanish.

*Church vestments, etc.*, No. 22514.—A commission firm in France informs an American consular officer that it wishes to represent American manufacturers and exporters of church vestments and ornaments.

*Needles*, No. 22515.—An American consular officer in French Indo-China reports that the manager of an export and import firm in his district wishes to be placed in communication with American manufacturers of all kinds of hand-sewing needles.

PRINCETON, N. J.

# COMMERCE REPORTS



DAILY CONSULAR AND TRADE REPORTS  
ISSUED DAILY BY THE BUREAU OF FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC COMMERCE  
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

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No. 226 Washington, D. C., Tuesday, September 26 1916

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## EMBARGO IN FRENCH COLONIES.

[Cablegram from American Consul General, Paris, Sept. 21.]

A decree of September 14 prohibits the exportation from French colonies and protectorates, except Tunis and Morocco, of radioactive uranium-bearing ores. This prohibition is subject to the usual exceptions.

## LONDON BANK TO OPEN BRANCH IN BELFAST.

[Consul Hunter Sharp, Belfast, Ireland, Sept. 6.]

The contemplated opening of a branch in Belfast of the London City and Midland Bank—which was established in 1836 and has a subscribed capital of \$93,185,400—has caused considerable interest in local commercial and banking circles. Although premises have been secured, it is understood that the bank will not commence business until after the war.

## LABOR CONDITIONS IN AMSTERDAM.

[Consul Frank W. Mahin, Amsterdam, Netherlands, Aug. 30.]

A report from the Amsterdam trades union shows steadily improving conditions this year. The membership was 30,182 on January 1 and 32,479 on July 1. The number of unemployed decreased between those dates from 4,996 (of whom 4,033 were diamond workers) to 3,748 (of whom 3,034 were diamond workers). The number of partly unemployed was 650 on January 1 and 231 on July 1.

The small percentage of unemployment of workers in iron foundries and machinery factories in January had entirely disappeared in July. In general building operations, unemployment had practically disappeared as regards carpenters and painters in July, but conditions as to other workers in this line were still unfavorable.

**TEA TRADE OF FOOCHOW.**

[Consul Albert W. Pontius, Foochow, China, Aug. 10.]

At the commencement of 1916 there were on hand in Foochow about 30,000 half chests of congou, 5,000 half chests of souchong, and 53,000 half chests of oolong tea, as against none a year previous. (Half chest=44 to 53 pounds.) With the exception of some 15,000 half chests of oolong, practically all of the stocks were cleared off by the end of May. Almost all of the oolong is shipped to the United States.

New teas of the first crop appeared in June, the season being late. The total arrivals showed that an increased yield of 20 per cent in the first crop was had in comparison with the yield of the preceding year. The market opened with the high prices of last year, but soon dropped to the normal standard of two years ago.

The second crop proved more or less of a failure in the yield, and the third crop will likewise prove very short. The total yield of the first and second crops will be 50,000 half chests less than last year. The total stocks to date are 98,000 half chests of congous and 33,000 half chests of souchongs. Stocks of pekoes are small. Oolongs come with the third crop, and, as already mentioned, the yield for the present season will not be large.

High freight charges and unfavorable exchange rates have spoiled the trade for the present season's teas to a large extent. Comparing prevailing freights with those of a year ago, the rate to Australia advanced from 37s. 6d. to 54s. (from \$9.10 to \$13.15); to London, from 70s. to 110s. (from \$17 to \$26.75); and to New York, from 60s. to 70s. (from \$14.60 to \$17). A sudden scarcity of shipping in July soon sent the rate to New York to 120s. (\$29.20), but the rate has again dropped to 70s. owing to the appearance of additional vessels on this run.

Having reference only to the quantity of tea (of both old and new crops) shipped during the first seven months of 1916, it is evident that cargoes showed an actual increase of about 100 per cent. Some 8,000,000 pounds of black tea and 2,800,000 pounds of green tea were exported from Foochow in the first half of the current year.

**EXPORTS OF COTTON.**

According to reports received by the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce of the Department of Commerce, the exports of cotton during the week ending September 23, 1916, at the 12 principal customs districts of the United States were as follows:

Districts.	Bales.	Districts.	Bales.	Districts.	Bales.
Georgia.....	14,513	Philadelphia.....	300	San Francisco.....	11,500
Massachusetts.....	714	South Carolina.....	100	Washington.....	6,085
Maryland.....	6,419	Virginia.....	28,644	Total.....	122,690
New York.....	22,177	Galveston.....	25,378		
North Carolina.....	6,700	New Orleans.....			

The exports of 122,690 bales of cotton during the past week make the total since August 1, 1916, approximately 757,390 bales. Exports of cotton for the corresponding periods of the preceding year were, respectively, 129,707 bales for the week and 437,205 bales in the cotton year.



**IMPROVED HONGKONG INSPECTION OF GOODS FOR U. S.**

[Consul General George E. Anderson, Hongkong, British China, Aug. 12.]

A notable advance in the system of inspection of goods for shipment to the United States under American authority has been successfully inaugurated at Hongkong. While the first purpose of the change is the more perfect control of quarantine and health matters, the system also effects improvement in the packing and the condition of goods bound for the United States.

Heretofore quarantine and other inspection of American-bound goods at Hongkong has been confined almost entirely to the ordinary disinfection of merchandise of a nature to carry disease, to the fumigation of the ships periodically, and to protecting the ships so far as possible from infection from rats and other vermin by rat guards and similar precautions. It has been realized, however, that so long as goods were brought to ships for loading in lighters from the West River country, and, indeed, from parts of Hongkong, there was always danger of the introduction of plague rats or of other disease carriers from such lighters.

**Additional Precautions to be Taken.**

By agreement made with all the steamship lines transporting goods to the United States it has now been arranged that hereafter no goods will be received aboard ships bound for the United States, the Philippines, or other American territory which have not been inspected by a representative of the Public Health Service and passed by such representative by formal indorsement on all shipping orders. The inspection requires that all foodstuffs shall be in rat-proof packing; i. e., in tight cases, barrels, kegs, buckets, cans, or in closely woven baskets with tops of wood or screening wire, and that all cargo shall be so packed as to be rat proof so far as possible. All cargo must also come from lighters that have been fumigated under the direction of the United States Public Health Service.

While these requirements involve some additional time and expense in the handling of cargo for the United States, the shipping companies have come to feel that in the long run their patrons will be better served by meeting them. American importers of goods from or through Hongkong will have less occasion for making claims for damaged cargo and damage from rats or other vermin, while expensive fumigation or other requirements of quarantine and delay and expense due to questions of admission in the United States will be minimized.

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**FINANCES OF BUENOS AIRES PROVINCE.**

The Governor of the Province of Buenos Aires, in a recent message to the Provincial Legislative Assembly, presented a statement of the financial condition of the Province, with a proposed budget for 1917. The total revenues of the Province for the coming year are estimated at \$25,849,639, and the total expenditures at \$25,835,155. The Governor points out that 42 per cent of the total revenues will be required for the interest and amortization of the public debt. The River Plate Review of August 18 gives a list of the internal and external debts of the Province, which reach a total of \$177,336,276.

**CROP CONDITIONS IN THE BERGEN DISTRICT.**

[Consul Charles Forman, Bergen, Norway, Aug. 28.]

There is a good hay crop in both Amts, and so far as the fjords are concerned the year may be considered a good average one. For Ytre Sogn it is a banner year. As the harvesting was favored by good weather, the quality was also good. Those who began harvesting early were less fortunate both as regards quality and quantity. The aftermath promises to be very good. Since most farmers on account of the high prices of fodder have reduced their stocks of animals, and since the high price of animals prevents the stocks being renewed, there will be much hay for sale this year. These facts are presented in articles in *Morgenavisen* and *Annonce-Tidende*.

Especially in Søndre Bergenhus Amt early potatoes are produced, and more were grown than previously, but many of them were frozen after setting out in the first part of April. The yield will therefore be less than an average one. For ordinary potatoes it promises to be an ordinary year in the inner fjords and less than an ordinary year for the coast districts.

**High Prices Bring More Land into Cultivation.**

The high prices of grain (oats, barley, rye, and wheat) have caused considerably more land to be put in cultivation both in the Nordfjord and the Sognefjord, but less in the other fjords; in the coast districts nothing beyond the ordinary amounts. In those districts the farms are small and the soil ill adapted for producing cereal crops. The damage that the fields suffered from heavy rain early in August has now been repaired, and the yield gives evidence of being a good average. From the south side of the Sognefjord the promise is still better. It depends now only on good weather for harvesting the grain.

Winter rye is especially promising, and the farmers in an increasing degree will apply themselves to the cultivation of this grain.

It is a poor year for pears, apples, and plums, and there is so little fruit on the trees that one must go back several years to find parallel conditions. This is attributed to two causes. Last year was uncommonly good for fruit, and experience has shown that the year following a good year will be less productive. Farmers say that the trees rest. Rain and wind during the blossoming time also did much harm. In the Sognefjord the trees were injured by insects. There have been many currants and cherries, but a reduced quantity of the other kinds of berries, and especially few gooseberries.

**Increase in Production of Vegetables.**

The cultivation of vegetables has had a great increase in both Amts, and especially in the districts close to Bergen the yield has been very good. The quality is considered exceptionally fine.

While the outlook for the harvest is thus on the whole very good, it is extremely difficult to procure help on the farms. Harvesting hands demand in many places 6 to 8 crowns (\$1.60 to \$2.14) per day and board, and girls demand up to 25 crowns (\$6.70) per month and board. It is also very difficult to obtain working people, so the farmers have been hampered to an extreme degree. This has caused delays

in harvest work, and in many places it is impossible fully to cultivate the farms. The result is the more regrettable, as much higher prices are being paid this year for all country produce.

The lack of help on the farms has led to procuring a quantity of agricultural machinery by which considerable labor can be saved.

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### COTTON STANDARDS AVAILABLE FOR GROWERS.

In an attempt to produce a more exact classification of cotton in place of the approximations to grades now often employed in gin, street, and warehouse sales, the Office of Markets and Rural Organization of the United States Department of Agriculture is co-operating with the States Relations Service of that department in placing in the hands of county agents in the cotton-producing sections, sets of practical forms of the official cotton standards of the United States.

The forms are furnished only after the agents have given satisfactory assurances that they will be kept in a place accessible to cotton growers, in the care of a competent custodian who does not profit directly from trading in cotton. More than 60 sets already have been shipped to county agents. It is expected that more than 100 will soon be placed in this way. Each set of the practical forms consists of the nine grades of white cotton. They remain the property of the United States Government. In arranging for the keeping of the standards in the counties, such agencies as banks, chambers of commerce, boards of trade, and stores whose proprietors do not trade in cotton, have been approved.

It is believed that the presence of a set of the practical forms in each county, where farmers may examine and become familiar with them, will be a valuable educative force in grading.

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### CONDITION OF EGYPTIAN COTTON CROP.

The Alexandria General Produce Association issued its monthly crop report for Egyptian cotton under date of September 4, 1916. The statement of conditions in Lower Egypt and in Upper Egypt and Fayoum, as quoted from this report by the Textile Mercury, of Manchester, England, is as follows:

*Lower Egypt.*—Weather during August somewhat refreshed. There have been some damp nights; nevertheless the cotton plants have progressed satisfactorily. The few foggy mornings already reported had no serious result for the crop. Bollworm and pink worm continue to cause some damage; opinions greatly differ as to amount of pods damaged, which, however, is higher than the previous month. Water irrigation abundant; irrigation effected normally. However, there have been some cases of cultivators who have irrigated land too copiously, causing falling of pods. First picking will begin in a few days and will become general between September 10 and 15—in advance of 1915.

*Upper Egypt and Fayoum.*—The temperature has been somewhat cooler than before; however, this did not hinder the normal development of the cotton plants. Bollworm and pink worm reported in greater quantity than last month. The damage caused seems of little importance. In some districts falling of pods reported, owing to local climatic conditions. First picking already begun and will become general in a few days. Water irrigation abundant. Irrigation effected normally except in a few cases.

**NOTES FROM NEW SOUTH WALES.**

[Consul General J. I. Brittain, Sydney, New South Wales, Australia, Aug. 23.]

**New Commonwealth Bank Building in Sydney.**

The new central banking room of the Bank of the Commonwealth of Australia was officially opened on August 22. It is housed in the bank's now 10-story building, the construction of which was begun in 1913. This building, which occupies one of the most prominent sites in Sydney and is the city's nearest approach to a "skyscraper," is built of steel and concrete faced with Australian sandstone and granite and is thoroughly modern in both design and furnishings. The ground on which the structure stands cost \$500,000; the contract price for the building was over \$800,000.

This new building contains not only the head offices of the Commonwealth Bank, but the Savings Bank Department as well. The present number of savings depositors is 289,815, with balances aggregating \$47,023,422. This central bank has 36 branches in the Commonwealth and 2,684 savings-bank agencies. The aggregate balance sheet as published last June was approximately \$200,000,000. The staff comprises 684 people—568 men and 116 women.

**Railway and Tramway Returns.**

The official report of the New South Wales Railways and Tramways Commission, just published, shows a deficit for the twelvemonth ended June 30, 1916, of \$668,934. The deficit of the railways was \$1,088,874, while the tramways made a profit of \$419,940. In 1914-15 the profit for the combined services amounted to \$325,102.

A number of railway extensions are under construction, while others have been authorized. In consequence of the war, and owing to the difficulties of obtaining supplies, the improvements have not been advanced as rapidly as desired, especially the proposed steel bridge connecting Sydney with the North Shore, the installation of electricity on suburban lines, and the construction of the Sydney underground railway.

The total earnings of the tram lines for the year ended June 30, 1916, were \$5,799,057. During that year 292,021,774 passengers were carried on the tram lines, as compared with 289,282,845 in 1914-15; the steam railways carried 92,850,838 passengers, against 88,774,451. No passengers were fatally injured by accident to trains.

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**Prince Edward Island Exports to the United States.**

Consul William A. Pierce, at Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island, reports that the exports to the United States for the current year to September 1 are about equal to those for the whole year 1914 and exceed by about \$100,000 those of the year 1915. If the increased rate of exportation for 1916 is consistently maintained until the end of the year the total exports to the United States will exceed \$500,000. The larger exports for 1916 consisted of lobsters and fox skins. The American markets have taken most of both of these leading products of the island.

**THE GERMAN BEEKEEPING INDUSTRY.**

[Vice Consul Ernest L. Ives, Breslau, Aug. 28.]

The German beekeeping industry dates back to the beginning of the thirteenth century and at that time was especially important around the city of Nuremberg, where there were large forests and tracts of heather and cranberry bushes which were considered ideal for beekeeping. During the thirteenth century the "Imperial Bee Garden" was established at Erlangen.

The gathering of honey was at first confined wholly to the wild product found in the forests, but as the industry gained in importance hives of various kinds were constructed and put into use, and bees gradually became domesticated. About the year 1300 there were 92 bee farms in and around 27 villages in the neighborhood of Nuremberg. Beekeepers were under the protection of the law and had to pay a special money tax to the authorities or its equivalent in honey.

**Honey the Only Sweetening in Early Times.**

Beekeeping was especially important as honey was the only sweetening stuff. Besides wine, sour honey water, called "Met," was much in favor and was exported to Constantinople and Palestine. Beeswax was the only material used for making candles for the church. It was also used for wax writing tablets, plasters, etc. A swarm of bees commanded a high price at that time, as it is known from an ancient document that a beehive was sold for 3 gulden while a cow cost only 5 gulden.

Later, about the middle of the sixteenth century, with the clearing of the forests and the cutting up of the wooded tracts into farms, beekeeping began to lose its importance as an industry. Honey was imported from abroad, "Met" was replaced by beer (the districts of important "Met" production became the centers for beer brewing), and other sweetening stuffs, such as cane sugar, were introduced.

**Present Status of the Industry.**

It is estimated that the present yearly production of honey and wax in Germany has a value of \$5,000,000 to \$7,000,000. The following table shows the number of beehives and their value, according to the census of December 2, 1912:

Districts.	Number.	Value.
Silesia .....	188, 169	\$1, 035, 433
Prussia .....	1, 509, 596	6, 728, 667
Total, all Germany .....	2, 698, 337	15, 470, 000

According to the Statistische Jahrbuch für den Preussischen Staat, published in 1915, \$6,021 was transferred from the general fund for the promotion of agriculture to the Silesian beekeepers in 1913, as against \$10,448 to East Prussia and \$190 to the Rhine Province.

**"Wandering Carts" for Transporting Bees.**

German apiarists keep their bees in wooden hives of different kinds. The enlargeable wooden hive with movable combs and separate parts

for breeding and storing purposes are preferred now. To make beekeeping more profitable, it has been suggested that beekeepers travel with their hives to districts of good meadows and few bees. Cheap freight rates are granted to apiarists, and it is known that every year about 375,000 beehives are transported in special trains to the heaths near Luneberg and Oldenburg.

Special "wandering carts" have been invented which have a row of hives on either side, the space in the middle of the cart being used to store separators and other necessary equipment. These carts are mounted on four wheels and are drawn by men or horses.

Beekeepers complain of the competition of cheap foreign honey, artificial honey, and honey powders, which are sold at very low prices. (At the present time about 200 factories are manufacturing artificial honey and honey powders in Germany.)

#### **Beekkeepers' Societies—Insurance.**

The beekeepers have their own societies throughout the country and hold regular meetings. In 1914 it was decided to unite all societies in one large union, with branches throughout Germany. The general union has suggested that a law be enacted which protects beekeepers against the competition of foreign honey of inferior quality. They also want to propose a law against "foul brood," such as already exists in some other countries.

For the benefit of beekeepers the society established a bee garden at Koenigsberg, East Prussia, with the assistance of the Government. This garden serves also for experimenting.

There are insurance companies for the beekeepers, one of which is very popular in North and Middle Germany. Beehives are insured at 3 pfennigs (0.7 cent) per hive and per year.

#### **Imports of Honey and Artificial Honey.**

The following table shows the quantity of honey and artificial honey imported during the first six months of 1913 and 1914 and the chief supplying countries:

Imported from—	January to June—		Imported from—	January to June—	
	1913	1914		1913	1914
	<i>Pounds.</i>	<i>Pounds.</i>		<i>Pounds.</i>	<i>Pounds.</i>
United States.....	449,062	406,751	Mexico.....	294,758	276,459
Hawaii.....	337,748	210,712	Haiti.....	269,184	328,017
France.....	358,030	212,004			
British West Indies.....	210,762	266,068	Total quantity im-		
Chile.....	579,154	647,496	ported.....	4,373,730	4,884,515
Cuba.....	1,477,538	1,669,323	Total value.....	\$269,178	\$300,894
Dominican Republic.....	187,965	229,281			

Exports of German honey and artificial honey amounted to 2,615,100 pounds in the first six months of 1913, value \$97,342, and to 2,445,124 pounds, value \$87,584, in January-June, 1914.

#### **Purchases of Foreign Wax and Comb.**

The following table shows the imports into Germany of the crude wax of bees and other insects and of combs without honey during the first half of 1913 and 1914 and the principal countries of origin:

Imported from—	January to June—		Imported from—	January to June—	
	1913	1914		1913	1914
	<i>Pounds.</i>	<i>Pounds.</i>		<i>Pounds.</i>	<i>Pounds.</i>
France.....	54,013	50,496	Morocco.....	80,243	93,917
Great Britain.....	60,848	14,550	Portuguese East Africa.....	138,891	145,726
Italy.....	126,795	66,800	Portuguese West Africa.....	111,994	153,442
Netherlands.....	18,294	14,330	British India.....	231,926	311,513
Austria-Hungary.....	36,817	74,236	Brazil.....	66,359	138,009
Portugal.....	144,841	309,308	Chile.....	72,532	19,842
Spain.....	108,027	129,191	Cuba.....	209,219	149,253
Turkey.....	55,777	84,437	Dominican Republic.....	205,471	153,883
Abyssinia.....	286,058	412,044			
British East Africa.....	86,659	35,054	Total quantity im- ported.....	2,545,875	3,219,608
German East Africa.....	201,809	317,245	Total value.....	\$29,906	\$1,049,580
Madagascar.....	233,469	358,912			

The exports of German wax and empty combs—which went mainly to Austria-Hungary and Russia—totaled 1,637,373 pounds, value \$538,594, and 2,456,368 pounds, value \$876,078, during the first six months of 1913 and 1914, respectively.

Honey imported in beehives with living bees—brought chiefly from the Netherlands—amounted to 6,393 pounds, value \$714, in the first six months of 1913, and to 19,180 pounds, value \$1,904, during the like period of 1914.

#### Prices of German Product.

There are numerous ways of separating the honey from the comb, but the centrifugal process is considered the most satisfactory and practical, as the honey won by this method is pure, being free from other ingredients, and the empty combs with the frames may be used again. This particular honey is known as "Schleuderhonig," and ordinarily retails at 24 cents a pound.

The present price of honey is about 65 cents a pound. This extraordinary increase in price is mainly due to the very poor honey harvest of the spring and summer of 1915 and 1916 and to a falling off in imports. Beekeepers state that the humidity in May was very favorable for the growing of grain and grass, but affected considerably the gathering of honey. Apiarists in North Germany hope that a rich heather blossom will enable the bees to increase the production.

#### Criticism of Methods of Collecting the Honey.

As previously mentioned, large quantities of honey have been imported from America. Beekeepers complain of the competition of this honey, which is sold at very low prices on account, as is claimed, of its "inferior quality." It is stated that honey in wooden tubs is imported by wholesale dealers at a price of \$3.80 to \$4.75 per 110 pounds. Adding the costs of packing and transportation, it can be retailed at \$0.10 to \$0.13 per pound. This low price is said to be due to the methods of collecting the honey in the countries of origin, the swarm being killed by sulphuric acid; this affects the aroma of the honey, which is also contaminated by the corpses of bees, chrysalises, and other impurities, whereas German honey is won by the centrifugal process. Further, the German product is usually packed in glass jars and cans. Recently tubes containing one-eighth to one-half a pound have been much in use. Wooden tubs are not

considered practical for the transportation of honey, since wood is said to spoil the flavor.

The best honey imported from the United States is packed in tin canisters containing about 55 pounds, two canisters being usually packed together in a wooden box. Honey from South America is imported in tubs of 165 to 220 pounds.

#### **Customary Terms.**

The usual purchasing conditions are c. i. f. Hamburg or Bremen, cash in marks upon delivery, with a 12 per cent allowance for tare, though the selling terms in Germany are generally 60 to 90 days with 2 per cent discount for cash payment.

Breslau dealers are desirous of getting in touch with American exporters and of making direct purchases. They suggest that the following changes be made with regard to terms of sale:

1. Real tare should be allowed instead of percentage tare, as during the summer months the honey tends to ferment and therefore the kegs may be only partly filled, the purchasers thereby encountering a loss which they claim is greatly to their disadvantage.

2. American exporters quoting prices should quote per pound or kilo (kilo=2.2046 pounds) instead of per gallon, as honey is sold per pound or kilo in Germany.

Water traffic from Hamburg and Bremen is convenient and rates are reasonable for this class of goods, especially during the summer months, the present rate being \$0.127 per 100 pounds from Hamburg.

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### **COMMERCIAL AND AGRICULTURAL COOPERATION.**

An address on agricultural and commercial cooperation was delivered yesterday before the Association of Commercial Organization Secretaries, in session at Cleveland, Ohio, by Secretary of Agriculture D. F. Houston. He emphasized the need that business men should give increased attention to agriculture and rural life, and that their constructive interest and support should be enlisted for the improvement of conditions in the country districts. He said in the course of his address:

There are many things that commercial organizations and business men may well consider. Each urban community might well, in cooperation with leaders in the surrounding districts, undertake a careful survey for the purposes of better production and better organization. It may assist in the securing of a good county agent where there is none and effectively cooperate with him. Business men and business organizations may help work out better wholesale and retail markets for farm products, farmers' community buildings may be planned and established, and good roads radiating into the back country may be promoted to mutual advantage. Bankers in many parts of the country may be brought to see that by their wise use of credit will be determined the question whether or not the rural districts shall have a well-balanced, prosperous agriculture. In some States the banking associations have effectively organized State committees, composed of a member from each county, for the betterment of rural life. A peculiar opportunity is afforded for the sympathetic and constructive assistance of the banker and the business man in connection with the inauguration of the farm-loan act and the formation of local associations and in the furtherance of cooperation among farmers for the betterment of production and marketing.



**SIAM ACTIVE IN CARE OF PUBLIC HEALTH.**

[Vice Consul Carl C. Hansen, Bangkok, July 21.]

For many years the Siamese Government has taken special interest in perfecting medical and sanitary arrangements. A notable advance was achieved by the completion of the Bangkok waterworks, which made available for public use pure water filtered by an American system of sand filters. Two large and well-equipped Government hospitals have also been opened for public service within the past two years. A vaccination campaign against smallpox is now being extended throughout the country.

At the Royal Medical College a prominent medical teacher from the United States has been added to the faculty, and two other American doctors are lecturers in the college, the president of which is now on a visit to the Philippine Islands for the purpose of studying American medical teaching and the system of public health carried out there. The sanitary department has recently secured the services of two expert medical men from the United States. Representatives of the Rockefeller Foundation have lately visited Siam.

**Large Amount of Literature Received.**

In response to an article, "Scientific instruments for Siam," published in *COMMERCE REPORTS* of February 2, 1916, catalogues and other literature to a large amount have been received from American manufacturers of such apparatus. The literature was filed in the commercial reading room attached to this consulate and trade lists giving an outline of the catalogues and the names of the firms were widely distributed. As a result, the reading room was visited by a large number of dealers and other interested persons, who announced their intention to place substantial orders for goods with the firms represented.

**CUBAN IMPORTS OF EGGS INCREASE.**

[Consul Edward A. Dow, St. Stephen, New Brunswick, Canada, Sept. 14.]

The special representative of New Brunswick in Cuba reports upon the increased importation of eggs into Cuba, notwithstanding the Cuban Government's efforts to increase domestic production. As a means to this end practical work has been carried on at experiment stations, and lectures and printed matter have been used to show farmers the advantages to themselves and to the island of raising more chickens and increasing the production of eggs.

In 1915 Cuban imports of eggs amounted to more than 5,500,000 dozen, of which about 99½ per cent came from the United States. The consumer pays high prices, sales being now made at 48 cents for home products when fresh, and at 35 to 40 cents per dozen for imported eggs. Nearly all eggs arrive via the new car ferry, in refrigerator cars, chiefly from Chicago, St. Louis, and other western points.

The President of the Republic shows a personal interest in egg production. His model farm near Habana has about 5,000 chickens ready for market and a daily production of about 60 dozen eggs.

[Article on the Cuban markets for eggs and poultry were published in *COMMERCE REPORTS* for Dec. 14, 1915, and Aug. 10, 1916.]

**PORT REGULATIONS AND CHARGES IN CUBA.**

[Consul Henry M. Wolcott, detailed as vice consul, Habana, Sept. 8.]

Foreign vessels entering Cuban ports pay tonnage dues at the rate of 10 cents per net ton, the total dues collected in any one year not to exceed \$1 per net registered ton. The following vessels are exempt from the payment of tonnage dues:

Ships belonging to a foreign neutral Government and not dedicated to commerce.

Yachts belonging to an organized yacht club of a foreign neutral nation.

Ships entering Cuban ports on account of stress of weather or for other causes beyond their control.

Vessels entering any port of entry of Cuba are subject to the payment of the following port improvement dues: Each steamer on entry, \$8.50; each sailing vessel on entry, \$4.25; for each ton of cargo discharged from a steamer, \$0.25; for each ton of cargo discharged from a sailing vessel, \$0.125; for each ton of coal discharged from a steamer, \$0.125; for each ton of coal discharged from a sailing vessel, \$0.10.

**Requirements for Pilotage and for Landing Cargo.**

The maximum for pilotage from sunrise to sunset is \$34. Pilotage is doubled at night. It is compulsory to take a pilot. The rate is the same inward and outward. For moving ships in the harbor the charge is one-half of the regular pilotage inward or outward.

The docks at which cargo may be landed are: The Port of Habana Docks; Muelles y Almacenes de Atarés (Atarés Wharf & Warehouse Co.); Almacenes de Deposito de la Habana, commonly known as "San Jose" Docks; Habana Central Docks.

Should a vessel not go to the dock, but discharge cargo into lighters, the lighterage is for the account of the steamer at a cost of from 80 cents to \$1, American currency, per 1,000 kilos (kilo=2.2 pounds), and upon discharge of the cargo at a public wharf the cost of assorting and separation, including tally clerks, is approximately 20 cents per 1,000 kilos. Lighters are plentiful in the harbor of Habana, and arrangements may be made for them to reach the steamer's side immediately upon dropping anchor.

Tugs are not necessary for docking steamers, except when the wind is exceptionally strong. The charge for the services of a tug in connection with docking a vessel is from \$40 to \$50, and tug-boats are always available. As there are no strong currents or tides in the port of Habana, vessels may usually go to and from the dock at any time without difficulty.

**Stevedores, Fresh Water, Coal, and Manifests.**

The charge for stevedores is usually about 28 cents per 1,000 kilos, but if the steamer goes to the dock stevedores are furnished there, and the cost is somewhat in excess of this rate. Wages of stevedores are about \$2.50 a day on board steamer or \$2 on the dock. Work for overtime, or between 5 p. m. and 6 a. m., is subject to double charge.

The cost of fresh water f. o. b. steamer is \$1.25 per ton. A good quality of coal is always available at Habana. There are three

coal companies in the city. Vessels must bring an original and extra copy of the ship's manifest, certified by the Cuban consul at port of departure. Passenger lists must be in quadruplicate, in accordance with the prescribed form.

[A list of coal companies in Habana may be obtained from the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, its district or cooperative offices. Copies of the printed tariffs of charges of the Port of Habana Docks Co. and of the Muelles y Almacenes de Atarés (Atarés Wharf & Warehouse Co.) may be inspected at the same offices. Refer in each instance to file No. 80282.]

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### RECORD SHIPMENTS OF OIL FROM TAMPICO.

[Consul Claude I. Dawson, Tampico, Mexico, Aug. 7.]

Declared exports of crude oil and petroleum products from the Tampico district to the United States in August amounted to 2,115,082 barrels, against 1,578,827 barrels in July, an increase of 536,255 barrels, or 34 per cent. Tampico shipped 1,502,238 barrels, Tuxpam 612,844 barrels in August, compared with 1,093,339 and 485,488 barrels, respectively, in July.

Shipments to points other than the United States were reported as 159,632 barrels from Tampico and 598,225 from Tuxpam. The gross shipments from the district therefore reached 2,872,939 barrels, against the July total of 2,548,178 barrels.

The Tampico movement included 111,000 barrels of distillate, 28,539 of naphtha, 71,000 of reduced crude, 58,000 topped crude, and 81,582 of fuel oil. Crude oil only was shipped from Tuxpam; but it should be explained in this connection that shipments from Tuxpam to Puerto Mexico are usually transfers from the producing to the manufacturing branch of the same concern for subsequent exportation in altered form.

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### DECLARED EXPORTS FROM RIGA IN 1915.

[Consul Douglas Jenkins, Riga, Russia, July 25.]

Merchandise declared at the Riga consulate for export to the United States in 1915 amounted to only \$23,436, as compared with \$7,128,564 in 1914 and \$15,849,128 in 1913. The shipments in 1915 were made early in that year and consisted solely of furs sent by post at full rates, and books valued at \$1,573. This consulate has not been called upon to certify an invoice since April, 1915. There were no shipments to the Philippine Islands, Hawaii, or Porto Rico.

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### Sugar Crop of Australia.

Consul General J. I. Brittain, at Sydney, reports under date of August 22 that in the northern sugar-growing district of Australia the crops were making good progress, and prospects for the planting of a good area next season were bright. In some instances the mills have started, but on account of the rains there has been no anxiety to push too rapidly the crushing season. The crops will be better than last season.

**EXPORTS FROM SANTO DOMINGO TO UNITED STATES.**

Vice Consul Carl M. J. von Ziehlinski, Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, Sept. 4.]

The following statement shows the articles and their values invoiced at the American consulate general at Santo Domingo for the United States for the first six months of 1916, compared with the same period in 1915. The amount invoiced with an option of reshipment is also given:

Articles.	Jan.-June, 1915.	Jan.-June, 1916.	Articles.	Jan.-June, 1915.	Jan.-June, 1916.
Cacao .....	{ \$170,210	\$122,707	Minerals:		
a 2,886		a 3,391	Copper .....		\$14,527
Cigarettes .....	{ 335		Samples .....	76	
Coffee .....	{ 106,836	121,749	Personal effects .....		1,067
a 2,690		a 1,237	Sugar .....	{ 724,939	596,155
Divi-divi .....		450	c 184,638		b 126,562
Gum and rosin .....	141	506	c 225,597		c 225,597
Hides and skins:			Tobacco leaf .....		2
Cow hides .....	19,789	18,425	Tortoise shell .....	25	
Goatskins .....	{ 7,198	7,795	Wax .....	{ 7,009	10,561
	a 86		a 1,049		
Honey .....	{ 856	268	Woods:		
a 394			Fustic .....		205
Household goods .....		352	Logwood .....	29	98,406
Leather .....		377	Mahogany .....	1,553	
Mangrove bark .....		260	Other .....		25
Metals, old:			Total .....	1,230,870	1,346,200
Copper .....	211	4,758			
Other metals .....		722			

\* Option of reshipment to Europe.

b Option of reshipment.

c Option of reshipment to Canada.

The articles invoiced at Santo Domingo for Porto Rico during the same period in 1915 were valued at \$13,398, while in the present year they amounted to \$12,043.

The most noticeable increase in the exports to the United States was in dyewoods, and especially logwood. The high prices prevailing in the American market and the great demand for dyestuffs helped to boom the business in this district. (In this connection reference is made to reports published in *COMMERCE REPORTS* for Mar. 30 and April 26.)

An increase of about 12 per cent is registered in the exports of coffee and a small increase in sugar, wax, and other products of minor importance. Cacao showed a considerable decrease, also honey and hides.

**NEW 10-SHILLING BANK NOTES IN NEW ZEALAND.**

[Consul General Alfred A. Winslow, Auckland, Aug. 16.]

The New Zealand Government has authorized all of the banks of issue in the Dominion to issue 10-shilling bank notes to take the place of gold half-sovereigns, which are becoming very scarce. Gold has almost entirely been withdrawn from circulation. The smaller change is of silver.

The United States Coast and Geodetic Survey has issued a supplement to its catalogue of charts, coast pilots, and tide tables for 1916. The pamphlet is Serial No. 51. Copies may be obtained from the survey at Washington or from its agencies.

# AMERICAN CONSULAR OFFICERS ON LEAVE OF ABSENCE.

The following American consular officers are on leave of absence in the United States, and will be glad to confer with business men and commercial organizations relative to conditions in their respective jurisdictions. The consul's time is available primarily for personal interviews. He has limited facilities for correspondence, and except in urgent cases letters should be directed to the consulate.

Name.	Post.	Expira- tion of venue.	Address.
Jewell, John F.....	Chefoo, China.....	Oct. 1	Galea, Ill.
Haveltine, Ross.....	Port Antonio, Jamaica	...do....	Department of State, Washington, D. C.
Laing, James Oliver.....	Karachi, India.....	Sept. 30	C/o University Club, Kansas City, Mo.
Leonard, Walter A.....	Colombo, Ceylon.....	Oct. 14	Essex, Iowa.
Osborne, John Ball.....	Havre, France.....	Oct. 21	Department of State, Washington, D. C.
Pike, William J.....	St. Gall, Switzerland..	Nov. 1	Do.
Armstrong, John S.....	Bristol, England.....	.....	1200 Eutaw Place, Baltimore, Md.
Henry, Frank Anderson....	Puerto Plata, Do- minican Republic.	Oct. 1	C/o Hollowell & Henry, 27 Pine Street, New York City.
Masterson, William W. s.....	Durban, South Africa.	Sept. 30	
Gracey, Wilbur T. s.....	Seville, Spain.....	Oct. 30	Department of State, Washington, D. C.
Donaldson, Chester.....	Port Limon, Costa Rica.	Nov. 12	31 Bruce Avenue, Yonkers, N. Y.

\* Consul Masterson informs the Bureau that he will be in New York City from Sept. 26 to 30, during which period he will be pleased to meet those interested in South African commercial matters. Communications should be sent to the Bureau's district office, Room 409, Customhouse, New York City.

\* Consul Gracey will be glad to have conferences with American exporters in eastern cities interested in the Spanish trade during his visit in the United States.

## American Wares Find Favor in Spain.

Consul General Carl Bailey Hurst, of Barcelona, reports that, despite prevailing high freight rates, which militate against the importation of all foreign merchandise, American goods are rapidly coming into that section of Spain in greater quantities. One of the new articles introduced through the efforts of Consul General Hurst was metal eyelets, an order for 1,000,000 of which was placed in the United States by a Barcelona firm.

Consul Wilbur T. Gracey, of Seville, reports that certain lines of clocks, watches, artistic metal goods, leather goods, thermos bottles, garters, suspenders, and novelties are among the American wares that have made their appearance in that Spanish port during the last few months.

## OFFICES OF THE BUREAU OF FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC COMMERCE.

### DISTRICT OFFICES.

NEW YORK: Room 409, Customhouse.  
BOSTON: 1301 Customhouse.  
CHICAGO: 304 Federal Building.  
ST. LOUIS: 402 Third National Bank Building.  
ATLANTA: 521 Post Office Building.  
NEW ORLEANS: 1020 Hibernia Bank Building.  
SAN FRANCISCO: 307 Customhouse.  
SEATTLE: 849 Henry Building.

### COOPERATIVE OFFICES.

CLEVELAND: Chamber of Commerce.  
CINCINNATI: Chamber of Commerce.  
CINCINNATI: C., N. O. & T. P. Ry. Co.  
LOS ANGELES: Chamber of Commerce.  
PHILADELPHIA: Chamber of Commerce.  
CHATTANOOGA: South American Agent, South-  
ern Ry. Co.  
PORTLAND, OREG.: Chamber of Commerce.  
DAYTON: Greater Dayton Association.

## FOREIGN TRADE OPPORTUNITIES.

Reserved addresses may be obtained from the Bureau and its district offices. Request for each opportunity should be on a separate sheet and state opportunity number. The Bureau does not furnish credit ratings or assume responsibility as to the standing of foreign inquirers; the usual precautions should be taken in all cases.

*Wire netting*, No. 22516.—The Bureau is in receipt of a letter from a firm in Canada which desires to receive the names and addresses of American manufacturers of wire similar to a sample which may be examined at the Bureau or its district offices. (Refer to Miscellaneous No. 152.)

*Paper*, etc., No. 22517.—A merchant in France informs an American consular officer that he desires to be placed in direct communication with American manufacturers and exporters of news-print paper, wrapping paper, paper bags, and paper envelopes. Samples, together with prices, conditions of sale, etc., should be sent at once.

*Cigarettes*, No. 22518.—An American consular officer in a French insular possession writes that a firm in his district wishes to enter into commercial relations with American manufacturers and exporters of cigarettes. Exclusive agency rights are desired. Information should be given as to kinds and sizes of packages, and c. i. f. prices should be quoted, if possible. Correspondence in English.

*Mining supplies*, No. 22519.—The commercial attaché of the Department of Commerce in France transmits the name of a mining engineer in Spain who desires to represent American manufacturers and exporters of mining supplies. The man is also in a position to investigate for American capitalists mining possibilities and conditions in Spain. Correspondence may be in English. Additional information, together with a photograph of the man, has been placed on file in the Bureau and its district offices. (Refer to file No. 1822.)

*Glass, earthenware, etc.*, No. 22520.—An American consular officer in the Netherlands reports that a firm in his district desires to import household articles, such as glass, earthenware, porcelain, tin-plate ware, wooden ware, brushes, and enameled kitchen utensils. Correspondence may be in English. References.

*Machinery*, No. 22521.—A planter in an insular possession informs an American consular officer that he wishes to receive catalogues, price lists, etc., from American manufacturers of machines for decorticating fiber. Correspondence should be in Portuguese or French. The man also desires to communicate with importers of flax.

*Electrical generators and turbines*, No. 22522.—A Norwegian engineering firm has advised an American consular officer that it desires to communicate with American manufacturers of electrical generators and electrical and steam turbines. Catalogues, price lists, and full information should be sent. Correspondence may be in English.

*Sporting goods, etc.*, No. 22523.—An American consular officer in Spain writes that a business man in his district desires quotations on apparatus and tools for restringing tennis rackets, rackets, balls, and racket gut. Correspondence should be in Spanish.

*Agricultural machinery, etc.*, No. 22524.—A company in France writes an American consular officer that it wishes to represent American manufacturers and exporters of dairy and agricultural machinery. Correspondence should be in French. Reference.

*Bathing suits*, No. 22525.—An American consular officer in the Far East writes that a firm in his district is in the market for American bathing suits for men. Illustrated catalogues, details as to weights, shapes, etc., should be sent. The American consular officer has transmitted the name of a firm in New York City through which orders will be placed.

*Machinery*, No. 22526.—A firm in the United States writes the Bureau that its branch office in Brazil desires to receive full information relative to machinery used in the manufacture of bath towels and making spools for thread.

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No. 227 Washington, D. C., Wednesday, September 27 1916

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### EMBARGO ON CHEESE IN ITALY.

[Cablegram from American Embassy, Rome, Sept. 25.]

Under date of September 21 the Foreign Office notifies the Embassy that the exportation of cheese of all kinds has been prohibited.

### BRITISH LICENSES TO IMPORT TOBACCO.

[Cablegram from American Consul General, London, Sept. 25.]

Regulations for the importation of tobacco into Great Britain between June 1, 1916, and May 31, 1917, have been amended so that importers of cigar tobacco may obtain import licenses based on their average imports for 1913, 1914, and 1915 instead of for 1915 only.

### FOREIGN SECURITIES IN SPAIN.

[Consul General Carl Bailey Hurst, Barcelona, Aug. 21.]

A royal order published on August 19 establishes regulations for the application of the royal decree of June 14 last, which provided for the presentation to the Cortes of a law prohibiting the introduction into Spain of foreign securities. [See COMMERCE REPORTS for July 13, 1916.] The present royal order authorizes the enforcement of the provisions of the pending law, which are as follows:

First. It is prohibited by Article 1 of the projected law to advertise, issue, put into circulation or on sale, mortgage, or introduce on the Spanish market foreign Government bonds or the stocks, bonds, or securities of non-Spanish companies or corporations. However, if desirable, the Council of Ministers may, at the suggestion of the Ministry of the Treasury, concede exceptions in this respect. Applications for such concessions must be presented to the Treasury Department or the Dirección General de la Deuda y Clases Pasivas at Madrid, where they will be inscribed in a special register in the charge of the Treasury Department, and upon its authorization the paper in question may be put into circulation.

Second. Foreign securities domiciled in Spain previous to June 15 last may be freely negotiated, and all business in connection therewith transacted, including the renewal of deposits or of loans guaranteeing the securities, where the original documents bear a date previous to June 15, 1916.

Third. When impossible to establish the conditions called for by the foregoing regulations in any other way a certificate of an authorized agent, broker, or notary, or of the issuing corporation, will be accepted.

Fourth. The importation into Spain by Spanish citizens of foreign securities, whether public securities, stocks, or bonds, such as referred to in the first

regulation, which these citizens had acquired or had deposited previous to June 15, will be authorized in every case upon application in duplicate on a prescribed printed form, to be accompanied by a certificate showing the date of purchase. The prescribed form for application for this authorization will be furnished free of charge.

Fifth. Foreign companies or persons, as well as Spanish companies domiciled abroad, wishing to introduce their securities into Spain must notify the Dirección General de la Deuda y Clases Pasivas of their intention by filing a printed declaration in duplicate, setting forth the number and class of the securities, their origin and destination, and the probable date of their arrival in Spain. These declarations will be numbered and registered and the duplicate returned to the applicant, who, when in possession of this document showing that he has fulfilled the requirements of the law, may freely introduce the respective securities.

Sixth. Fines will be imposed for infractions of this law.

### UKULELE OUTPUT IN HAWAII INCREASED.

[A. P. Taylor, correspondent, Honolulu, Sept. 9.]

At the end of August, 1915, manufacturers of ukuleles in the Hawaiian Islands were turning out about 500 or 600 instruments per month. At the end of August, 1916, the output was extended to 1,600 per month, with demands from mainland music dealers which could not be met.

There are eight principal manufacturers of ukuleles in Honolulu, with a scattering of instruments coming from small makers in the other islands. Each manufacturer has turned his small workshop into a factory, adding new workers and increasing the plant as rapidly as possible. In the first week of September a company was organized in Honolulu with plans to manufacture from 1,000 to 2,000 ukuleles per month with improved machinery, the workers to be Hawaiians and Portuguese. This company plans not only the manufacture of ukuleles, but also to purchase completed material from other makers.

The originator of the ukulele, a Portuguese who is now head of a manufacturing company, is still an active worker in his own factory, and turns out about 700 instruments per month. Another Honolulu firm produces about 400 a month.

#### Highest-Priced Products Heavily Beaded.

The Hawaiians and Portuguese of Hawaii claim that the instruments made by them, principally of koa wood, are seasoned and properly prepared. The prevailing local prices for ukuleles range from \$3.75 to \$16 and \$20. The highest-priced products are heavily beaded. The tone is one of the most important items in the construction of the ukulele, and the Hawaiians and Portuguese claim that this is obtained only with the use of properly seasoned koa wood and proper attention paid to shaving the wood and fitting it.

The plans of the new companies forming, and of old factories being enlarged, will give an output close to 3,000 per month, or 36,000 per year.

[Previous reports relating to the manufacture of ukuleles in Hawaii were published in *COMMERCE REPORTS* for Sept. 18, 1915, and Feb. 21, 1916.]



**FOREIGN TRADE OF ITALY.**

[Consul Arthur C. Frost, detailed as vice consul, Genoa, Aug. 23.]

There was a considerable decline in the exports from Italy during the first five months of 1916 compared with the corresponding period in 1915, while the imports showed a marked increase. The exports reached a total of \$189,301,876, a decline of \$48,133,141 from the statistics of the same period of 1915. The imports amounted to \$449,700,843, an increase of \$85,817,091.

Almost one-half of the imports into Italy came from the United States, exceeding in amount the total imports from Great Britain, France, Argentina, British India, and Switzerland. These countries follow the United States in the order named. The imports from the United States for the first five months of 1916 more than doubled the figures of 1915 for the same period, and represented a gain greater than the combined increases in imports from Great Britain, France, Switzerland, and Argentina, whose gains were in the order mentioned.

In exports from Italy the United States stood fourth, being preceded by France, Great Britain, and Switzerland. The exports showed increases, in the order named, to Switzerland, Great Britain, France, and Argentina. The exports to the United States, however, declined.

**Imports and Exports by Countries.**

The figures of imports and exports with the leading countries are as follows:

Countries.	Imports from—		Exports to—	
	Jan.-May, 1915.	Jan.-May, 1916.	Jan.-May, 1915.	Jan.-May, 1916.
France .....	\$10,500,000	\$36,604,000	\$33,639,900	\$41,748,000
Great Britain .....	34,645,000	85,900,000	27,348,100	35,638,000
Switzerland .....	5,058,600	11,346,000	18,652,600	33,912,000
Argentina .....	24,472,400	30,117,000	7,913,000	12,995,000
United States .....	92,331,200	191,325,000	24,298,700	21,382,000

**SHIPBUILDING IN NOVA SCOTIA.**

[Consul E. Verne Richardson, Moncton, New Brunswick, Canada, Sept. 19.]

Continued activity is reported from the shipyards along the bay shores of Cumberland and Colchester counties in Nova Scotia. The keel has just been laid at Port Greville of a three-master schooner of 400 tons. Another vessel of similar class at the same place is rapidly nearing completion. At Spencers Island a schooner of 425 tons is now in frame. This is the first ocean-going craft to be built there in 15 years. The *Glooscap*, one of the largest sailing ships ever built in Canada, was the product of that town's skill. A schooner of 430 tons is nearly ready for launching at West Advocate. Its three masts, 90-foot Oregon pine sticks, will be stepped in a few days.

All of these vessels are being built primarily for the lumber trade, and have been specially designed to meet the requirements of that service.

**THE WOOL INDUSTRY IN SASKATCHEWAN.**

[Consul John A. Gore, Regina, Saskatchewan, Canada, Sept. 14.]

Great benefit has been reaped by the sheepmen of the western Provinces during the past three years from the activities of the live-stock branch of the Canadian Department of Agriculture. Under the cooperative plan evolved by the Dominion Government, associations have been formed in all the Provinces under rules of the live-stock branch, and the woolgrower ships his wool direct to the association in which he is enrolled. The branch at Ottawa furnishes the services of expert wool graders to the associations without charge, and the graders classify the wool as it is received and put it in a good marketable condition. It is then offered for sale to both dealers and manufacturers, the names of whom are supplied by the markets branch. Sealed bids are received and the wool is disposed of to the highest bidder, a separate price being paid for each grade.

As a comparison it may be stated that early in 1914, when the grading and cooperative selling were first started, growers were receiving 10 to 12 cents a pound for their wool sold in an ungraded condition in small lots, whereas in the same season the wool that was graded and marketed under the department's plan realized from 20 to 22 cents a pound, while the 1915 clip brought an average price of 26.9 cents a pound, and the 1916 production 32.2 cents a pound. Of course, the war was responsible for at least a portion of the increase in price, but some of the gain must certainly be credited to the better manipulation of the wool under the Government's supervision and more systematic manner of marketing it.

In 1915, the clip in Saskatchewan netted 169,045 pounds, and in 1916 it rose to 175,554 pounds, these quantities having been sold by the Saskatchewan association to American buyers and shipped to the United States. Woolgrowers in this Province have largely increased their flocks this year, and a much greater yield may be expected for the season of 1917.

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**GROWTH IN VALUE OF NEW BRUNSWICK IMPORTS.**

[Consul Edward A. Dow, St. Stephen, New Brunswick, Canada, Sept. 15.]

Figures obtained from the Canadian collectors of customs at the principal two ports in the St. Stephen district show a growth in value of imports. Even greater proportionate increases are noted in the amounts of duty collected, a result to be expected in view of the surtax of either 5 or 7½ per cent ad valorem placed on nearly every class of goods imported here, even on those otherwise free of duty. While the proportions of these imports coming from the United States are not now available, estimates and figures obtained in the past show that American goods represented about three-fourths of the total value. A slightly greater share of duty is paid on goods coming from that country. The July statistics for Fredericton and St. Stephen, compared with those for the corresponding month last year, were: Imports, July, 1915, \$100,527; July, 1916, \$170,892; duty collected July, 1915, \$13,194; July, 1916, \$22,445.

**MARKETS FOR AMERICAN FOUNTAIN PENS.****NORWAY.**

[Consul Charles Forman, Bergen, May 23.]

There is a good market in the Bergen consular district for fountain pens. German, English, and American makes are sold. American pens are considered the best and the demand for them is particularly marked. Considerable competition is to be encountered by a new-comer in the field, as the market is well supplied, but it is believed that an attempt to secure business would be justified. The prices of the most popular pens range from \$2 to \$4 apiece. A pen selling at 7.50 crowns (\$2.01) has the widest sale.

Fountain pens are dutiable under No. 220 of the Norwegian import tariff at the rate of 1 crown per kilo (\$12.16 per 100 pounds). This rate is the same for all countries. There is no deduction of tare for pasteboard boxes, cartons, or paper wrappings.

In order to get the best results in Norway an exclusive agency should be granted to some Norwegian firm. An agency might be located at Christiania, with the exclusive right to sell goods in eastern Norway, and another in Bergen, with exclusive rights for the western part of the Kingdom, care being taken that the respective districts are clearly defined, or if preferred a single agency for all Norway might be located either at Bergen or Christiania.

**Filling Orders from Stock of Goods in London.**

It would be feasible to establish an agency in London with traveling salesmen to canvass the Scandinavian countries and fill orders from a stock of goods in London. Another possible plan would be to establish the central distributing point in Copenhagen. Although fountain pens are successfully sold in Norway by firms whose central offices are in other countries, it is believed that if a good agent can be obtained in Norway it is best to have representation here.

One local importer sells a pen he has had manufactured to his order bearing a name of his selection which he considers has advertising value. If a similar course is to be followed, the name chosen might be of some noted person in statesmanship, literature, or other branch of art, or some field of activity which would give distinction to the pen.

Dealers are allowed a discount of 30 to 45 per cent. A credit of 60 to 90 days is extended, or  $2\frac{1}{2}$  to 5 per cent is allowed for payment in 30 days. Prices may be in either crowns or dollars, and may be f. o. b. shipping point. Quotation of prices c. i. f., if practicable, might prove to be advantageous.

**Language to be Used in Correspondence.**

The English language may be employed in writing to Norwegian business men. They are accustomed to doing business in English. but no doubt it would be better to address them in their own language. In selling an article in which there is as much competition as in fountain pens, there would be some advantage, though possibly not of the highest importance, in using the Norwegian language.

Credit information may be obtained through the banks or through a credit agency. Bonnevie Angells Bureau in Bergen does a business

similar to Dun and Bradstreet. The principal banks in Bergen are the Kreditbank and the Privatbank.

[A list of wholesale and retail dealers in Bergen who are in a position to handle fountain pens may be obtained from the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, its district or cooperative offices. Refer to file No. 77400.]

#### HAITI.

[Consular Agent St. Charles Villedrouin, Jeremie, May 23.]

##### **American Goods Control Market.**

There is a growing demand for fountain pens and ink pencils among all classes of people in Jeremie and the surrounding district. American goods of this class have been the only ones sold here, although only one manufacturer is represented locally.

Pens and ink pencils are not specified in the Haitian tariff and are probably dutiable as articles not specified at 20 per cent ad valorem, increased by surtaxes to about 25 per cent ad valorem.

Goods imported into this district are usually bought through commission houses at New York City, whose terms of sale are about 30 days' credit with a commission of 2½ per cent or 1 per cent for cash, generally without discount or with only a part of the discounts allowed by the manufacturers. Importers here would prefer, when making orders for cash, to deal directly with manufacturers, but many of them complain of the time taken for the execution of orders. Prompt execution would certainly facilitate export business.

Correspondence in French is preferred, but whenever that is impracticable, it is much better to conduct it in English than in Spanish. Catalogues, also, when printed in Spanish are not understood here. No attention is paid to them or they are thrown into the waste basket.

On account of the war, the West Indies Royal Dutch Line is the only one that plies between the United States and this district, affording a fortnightly service.

#### FRANCE.

[Consul William H. Hunt, St. Etienne, July 5.]

##### **American Pens at Moderate Prices Would Have Wide Sale.**

There is a large demand for fountain pens in the St. Etienne district. The product of one American manufacturer occupies first place in this market. Active competition by French fountain pens gains force from the low prices at which they are sold. The price of American fountain pens in France is 25 francs (\$1.82), whereas the prices of the best French pens range from 13.50 to 17.50 francs (\$2.60 to \$3.38). If good fountain pens could be offered in this market at these prices, and if branches where pens could be speedily repaired and replaced were established, probably it would be possible to develop considerable American business.

Fountain pens are classified under No. 636 of the French general tariff and pay an import duty of 0.75 franc each (about \$0.14). This is the maximum rate of duty applicable to fountain pens imported direct. The gold pen points must be sent, after the liquidation of the customs duties, to a bureau of guaranty to be stamped and put under control.

**Problem of Repairing Should Be Considered.**

At present American goods are imported through Bordeaux or Marseille. It is better to quote prices c. i. f. one of these ports instead of f. o. b. In order to secure a firm footing in this market it will be necessary for an American firm either to open its own branch in France or grant an exclusive agency to some established business house. The problem of repairing fountain pens and supplying repair parts should be considered. The American fountain-pen companies now doing business in France have successfully pursued these methods. The general agencies of the American companies are at Paris. St. Etienne is not important enough as a center to serve as the seat of a general agency.

The usual terms of sale in France are 60 to 90 days' credit with 2 per cent discount for cash, which is considered to include payment at any time within 30 days after invoice date. There is not a wide knowledge of English in French provincial business circles, and it would be preferable that correspondence should be conducted in French.

[A list of firms in St. Etienne, France, which might be interested in purchasing American fountain pens may be obtained from the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, its district or cooperative offices. Refer to file No. 78790.]

**MANCHURIA.**

[Consul A. A. Williamson, Dairen, July 11.]

**Some Shops Make a Specialty of Fountain Pens.**

Fountain pens have a wider sale in Dairen than might be expected in a city of its size. While no figures are obtainable to show the value of imports of these goods, fountain pens are on sale at nearly every book and stationery shop in the city, and some shops make a specialty of them, carrying a fair variety of styles and makes.

Most of the pens are bought from distributors in Japan, who generally get the sole agency for all Japan and then put them on the market in the various cities. It is exceptional for Dairen to import fountain pens directly from abroad, for this city is an "outport" in many branches of trade. Nevertheless, one firm, about five or six years ago, imported a brand of American pens directly from the manufacturer and sold a large number. The demand for that grade fell off with the coming of the self-filler in the cheaper grades, for it is in the cheaper grades of pens that the larger demand now exists.

**Gains Made by Goods of British Manufacture.**

American pens have been largely supplanted in recent years by pens of British manufacture, particularly a pen well known in the East, which comes here from Japan, where a Tokyo firm is the sole agent. Retail prices per pen range from \$1.40 to \$2 for the cheaper grades and \$4.50 to \$6.50 for the better grades.

Firms desiring to meet the demand should see that their customers' ideas are met. Many buyers will probably desire the cheaper pens, while a few higher grades may be required for the well-to-do. Pens covered with silver filigree work are on the market. The local trade will probably demand both pens with fine nibs and those with stub points, as it is not uncommon for Japanese business men who use

English to carry two pens, a fine-pointed one for their personal English correspondence and a stub point for writing Chinese characters. As improvements are made, the dealer or jobber should be advised, as the up-to-date article is most easily sold.

[Lists of distributors of fountain pens in Japan, of retailers at Dalren, of the best-selling British pens, and of pens on the market in Dalren may be obtained from the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, its district or cooperative offices. Refer to file No. 79005.]

### AMERICAN CONSULAR OFFICERS ON LEAVE OF ABSENCE.

The following American consular officers are on leave of absence in the United States, and will be glad to confer with business men and commercial organizations relative to conditions in their respective jurisdictions. The consul's time is available primarily for personal interviews. He has limited facilities for correspondence, and except in urgent cases letters should be directed to the consulate.

Name.	Post.	Expira- tion of venue.	Address.
Jewell, John F.....	Chefoo, China.....	Oct. 1	Galena, Ill.
Hazeltine, Ross.....	Port Antonio, Jamaica.....	do.....	Department of State, Washington, D. C.
Laing, James Oliver.....	Karachi, India.....	Sept. 30	C/o University Club, Kansas City, Mo.
Leonard, Walter A.....	Colombo, Ceylon.....	Oct. 14	Essex, Iowa.
Osborne, John Ball.....	Havre, France.....	Oct. 21	Department of State, Washington, D. C.
Pike, William J.....	St. Gall, Switzerland.....	Nov. 1	Do.
Armstrong, John S.....	Bristol, England.....	Oct. 1	1200 Eutaw Place, Baltimore, Md.
Henry, Frank Anderson.....	Puerto Plata, Do- minican Republic.....	Oct. 1	C/o Hallowell & Henry, 27 Pine Street, New York City.
Masterson, William W.....	Durban, South Africa.....	Sept. 30	Department of State, Washington, D. C.
Gracey, Wilbur T.....	Seville, Spain.....	Oct. 30	31 Bruce Avenue, Yonkers, N. Y.
Donaldson, Chester.....	Port Limon, Costa Rica.....	Nov. 12	

\* Consul Masterson informs the Bureau that he will be in New York City from Sept. 26 to 30, during which period he will be pleased to meet those interested in South African commercial matters. Communications should be sent to the Bureau's district office, Room 409, Customhouse, New York City.

\* Consul Gracey will be glad to have conferences with American exporters in eastern cities interested in the Spanish trade during his visit in the United States.

### OPPORTUNITY FOR GOLD MINING IN SOUTH AFRICA.

The Government of the Union of South Africa calls for tenders for the leasing of two large gold mining areas, comprising some 2,460 claims, on the Far East Rand, Transvaal, for exclusive rights to mine precious metals. Applications must be received by the Government Mining Engineer, New Law Courts, Johannesburg, not later than noon on October 31, 1916.

For the development and proper equipment of mines in the two areas, a total of some \$10,000,000 will be required.

Blue-print maps of the claims, copies of the lease, and other literature may be examined at the district office of the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, 409 Custom House, New York, N. Y. (Refer to file No. 80513.)

[Reports on the gold-mining areas of the Far East Rand were published in COMMERCE REPORTS for June 27, and Aug. 14, 1916.]

**SUMAC CULTIVATION IN SICILY.**

[Consul Samuel H. Shank, Palermo, Italy, Aug. 10.]

There are two species of sumac grown in Sicily, the wild and the cultivated. The wild variety has a short stalk, small leaves attached two by two to a short stem, the leaves sparse covered with a white fuzz on both sides, the stem with no small leaves near its base. The cultivated plant (*Rhus coriaria*) has a longer stem than the wild, its leaves are larger and are covered with fuzz only on the lower side, and the stem of the leaf has small leaves along its entire length.

Sumac requires a dry, loose soil. The best is a clay soil with lime and silica mixed. It does not grow well in damp, compact ground. The soil may be rich or poor, so long as it is dry. However, the best sumac is grown on soil of volcanic origin. This soil, together with much heat, produces the greatest amount of tannin. The heat is perhaps the most important element in the production of tannin. In Sicily sumac is grown at all elevations up to 2,000 feet.

**Cultural Methods.**

Sumac is planted in furrows 8 inches wide, 6 inches deep, and 27 inches apart, the plants being placed 27 inches apart in the furrow. The sprouts should be taken from a full-grown plant and care exercised that the roots are entire. They must be a year old. The planting is usually done in December or January. The ground should be plowed twice about four to six months previous to the planting. The plants should be cut down to within 6 inches of the ground.

During the first year the ground should be spaded six times, immediately after the planting, in February, April, May, June, and September. The first three spadings should be deep, the others only light. During the second year there should be three spadings, in January, March, and May. In December the little shoots that have appeared at the foot of the plant should be cut off. Sumac should be cultivated alone. The shade of trees retards development and reduces the amount of tannin.

**Harvesting the Crop.**

The gathering of the leaves takes place when they commence to turn yellow, usually in July and August. Some growers cut the twigs off near the stem and send them in this form to the thrashing floor, where the leaves are separated from the stems by beating or by thrashing with horses. However, this is not a desirable method, as it does not produce a good quality. The best method is to gather the crop in three periods. First the leaves near the stalk up to about the middle of the limb are gathered. Twenty or twenty-five days later half of the remaining leaves are gathered. A few days after this the ends of the twigs are cut off. This method gives two or three qualities of sumac, but as it requires a great deal of time and labor, the usual method is to cut off the whole plant near the ground. The twigs are piled on a floor and are turned three or four times a day with a fork.

After the leaves are separated from the wood they are taken to the mill, where they are packed in bales or ground for shipment. There is no treatment at the mill which affects the amount of tannin contained in the sumac.

**KINO MANUFACTURE IN NORTH MALABAR.**

[Consul Lucien Menninger, Madras, India.]

Inquiries have been received from American firms dealing in crude drugs requesting information as to whether certain botanical gums, seeds, and herbs used in pharmacy may be obtained from the Madras Presidency. Although South India is not at present an important export center for crude drugs other than *nux vomica*, *senna* leaves, and *cinchona* bark (this last-named exported to Great Britain), there seems to be a possibility that trade in other botanical drugs may develop, as several varieties are produced in the region and are either not fully utilized for commercial purposes at present or else form part of a general stock sent to northern ports for distribution.

The difficulty in the way of trade is said to be that gum is generally not systematically produced and hardly anywhere are the forests so exclusively of one gum-yielding tree as to admit of a large uniform and constant supply of any particular gum. Gum when detected is gathered casually by women and children or by the shepherds and sold in small quantities to the nearest shopkeeper. It is next conveyed to the dealers and so on through many hands until diversified gums, the produce of a wide area, get intermixed. This relates more particularly to the Indian "gum ghati" of commerce.

**South Indian Gums and Resins.**

Information obtained by the consulate would seem to indicate that among gums and herb extracts produced to some extent in South India are copal (the white dammar, or Malabar tallow, of South India); black dammar (*C. strictum*); euphorbia, one variety of which, not uncommon in South India, is known as the milk hedge or milk bush and is a source of gutta percha as well as of medicine; gambogia (occasionally found on the west coast and in the Nilgiris); mamiran, one of the 12 species of barberry plant, extracts from which are particularly used in medicine in applications to the eye; kino (*Pterocarpus marsupium*). Of these the trees producing white dammar, black dammar, and kino are common in South India.

The production of Indian kino on a commercial scale and the introduction into the European market of an improved supply from India has been largely the result of the work of forestry officers of the local Government. The manufacture of kino from the juice of *P. marsupium*, as conducted in the district of North Malabar, is thus described by Sir George Watt:

**Preparing the Gum—Shipping Centers.**

The season for collecting is in the dry weather during February and March, when the trees are in blossom. The right to tap the trees is put up at auction. In other cases the tapping is conducted by rangers, under the supervision of the district forest officers. According to the approved method a longitudinal cut about 1½ feet long is made with an ax or knife through the bark of the tree, and side cuts are made to lead into this. A bamboo tube is then fixed at the bottom of the main incision to catch the juice. In about 24 hours the flow of gum ceases and the bamboo is taken down. When several of these bamboo tubes are nearly full they are carried to headquarters and emptied into a large caldron and the juice boiled. During the boiling the impurities which rise to



the surface are skimmed off. When sufficiently concentrated the gum is exposed to the sun in shallow vessels until dry enough to crumble to pieces. It is then weighed and packed away in boxes.

Another method, more recently adopted in North Malabar, is to dry the juice in shallow trays in the shade. The trays are arranged on tiers or shelves in a shelter constructed of bamboo and the dust excluded by muslin-covered doors. The gum is poured into the trays in layers about one-eighth of an inch thick and takes seven or eight days to dry, producing a dark ruby kino of great purity. The yield has been found to be about 1½ pounds of juice per tree, equivalent to three-fourths pound of the dried gum, ready for medicinal purposes. The yield of dry kino from the liquid exudation depends on the consistency at the time of collection, but is usually 50 per cent.

In North Malabar alone it is stated that about 2,000 pounds of kino can be procured annually at a price of 3 to 4 annas (\$0.06 to \$0.08) a pound, but, generally speaking, there is scarcely any demand for the article except by the Medical Store Departments of Calcutta, Madras, and Bombay. Malabar kino finds an outlet in the ports of Calicut and Tellicherry. The Native State of Travancore exports its produce through Cochin and Alleppey, while gum collected in South Kanara is dispatched through Mangalore. Much of the kino is known as "Cochin grain," probably because Cochin is the principal port of call. Medicinally kino is used as an astringent.

#### **Kino as a Dyeing and Tanning Substance.**

Kino has been examined with a view to discovering its value as a tanning material, and some authorities consider that it would be suitable for use as such provided it could be obtained at a sufficiently low cost to enable it to compete with other tanning materials. Experiment seems to prove that the kino prepared by the method of merely drying the juice in the sun is the best for use as a tan. The bark of the tree is occasionally used for dyeing, containing a brownish-red coloring matter which produces reddish-fawn colors with tassar silk.

After teak and blackwood, kino wood is said to be the most important in South India and to be in great demand for door and window frames, posts and beams, furniture, agricultural implements, and cart and boat building. It has a high reputation in the manufacture of double-headed drums, being regarded as specially sonorous.

The butea gum tree, Bengal kino, or bastard teak, found throughout the plains of India proper and Burma, yields a gum sometimes used as a substitute for kino.

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### **NATIONALITY OF SEAMEN.**

The total number of seamen shipped and reshipped on American ocean vessels (counting repeated shipments) by United States shipping commissioners during the fiscal year ended June 30, 1916, was 252,681. Of these 76,956 were born Americans, 31,877 naturalized Americans, 33,139 Spaniards, 29,523 British, 25,194 Scandinavians, 12,415 Germans, 7,949 Russians, and the remainder of all other nationalities. Americans thus comprised 43 per cent of the total, compared with 47 per cent in 1914 before the war.

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### **DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE RECEIVES GRAND PRIZE.**

Secretary of Commerce Redfield has received a letter from H. J. Penfield, secretary of the Panama-California International Exposition, held at San Diego, Cal., saying:

It is my pleasure to advise you that the Department of Commerce has been awarded a grand prize by the superior jury of awards—the Lighthouse Service and the Bureau of Standards a gold medal each, and the Bureau of Fisheries a grand prize for their splendid participation in the exposition.

**FOREIGN TARIFFS.****CANADA.**

[Supplement to Canada Gazette, July 1.]

**Bounty on Zinc.**

A Canadian act of May 18, 1916, provides that when the standard price of zinc or spelter on the London market falls below £36 9s. 3d. per ton of 2,240 pounds, a bounty equivalent to the difference may be paid on zinc and spelter mined and produced in Canada which contains not more than 2 per cent of impurities. Such bounty is not to exceed 2 cents per pound, however, nor is it to be paid during the continuance of the war, or after July 31, 1917. The total amount payable under the act is \$400,000.

**MEXICO.**

[Consul Wm. W. Canada, Vera Cruz, Aug. 18.]

**New Customs Tariff.**

A new customs tariff has been promulgated by the Carranza Government by a decree issued July 31, 1916, and is to come into effect November 1, 1916. The surtax of 10 per cent of the duties, which has been levied since 1912, is abolished, but from the revised schedules of duties on animal and vegetable products it appears that the new law will result in a decided increase in the rates of duty on most articles. Reduced rates are prescribed in the case of comparatively few articles included in these schedules, the reductions applying almost entirely to food products and raw materials. In addition to the changes in import duties, articles 214-216 of the former customs law, providing for the free admission of samples of small value, are repealed.

[Copies of all the schedules of the new tariff have not yet been received. Upon receipt of the entire law a further notice will be published in COMMERCE REPORTS.]

**NICARAGUA.**

[La Gaceta, July 17.]

**Authorization of Tariff Increase.**

A Nicaraguan law of July 7, 1916, in effect from the date of publication, authorizes the collection of 80 per cent instead of 60 per cent of the duties prescribed by the customs tariff of December 15, 1908. This increase, if put into effect by the President, is to apply to all articles imported into the Pacific ports, with the exception of sugar, flour, common soap, and plain cotton fabrics not exceeding 24 inches in width. The purpose of the law is to raise funds for the conversion of the internal debt. [Such an increase in duties was authorized by a law of Nov. 10, 1913, but the higher rates were apparently never put into effect. For previous notices, see Foreign Tariff Notes No. 10, p. 84, No. 12, p. 159, and No. 13, p. 189.]

**PERU.**

[El Peruano, July 22.]

**Export Duties on Rubber.**

Export duties on all classes of rubber exported through the port of Mollendo or through the ports of the Madre de Dios, Yavari, Purús, and Yuruá Rivers, are established by a Peruvian decree of

July 12, 1916. The duties are fixed at 2 per cent for rubber quoted in London at from 25 to 36 pence per pound, 4 per cent for that quoted at from 37 to 48 pence, and 6 per cent for that quoted at 49 pence per pound or more. The London quotations, with a reduction of 30 per cent, are to be taken as the basis for levying the duties. The duty on common rubber is to be further reduced by 30 per cent.

[The Peruvian duties under the present law are the same as those levied in Bolivia on exports of rubber under the law of Nov. 13, 1913 (see Foreign Tariff Notes No. 13, p. 201). Dissatisfaction with the law has been expressed on the ground that it increases the difficulty of competition with the rubber producers of Brazil.]

#### URUGUAY.

[Diario Oficial, July 20, 1916.]

##### **Proposed Reduction in Duties on Silk Goods.**

A measure has been introduced in the Uruguayan Congress proposing to substitute an ad valorem duty of 12 per cent for the present duties based on fixed valuations applicable to a number of kinds of silk goods. The classes of goods affected are gloves, handkerchiefs, veils, tulle, satin, and various silk fabrics, whether of pure silk or containing other fibers in a proportion not exceeding 70 per cent. The present duties, except those on gloves, are 31 per cent on a fixed valuation ranging from 6 to 30 pesos per kilo, and to these are added surtaxes amounting to 14 per cent of the official valuation.

#### VENEZUELA.

[Consul Homer Brett, La Guaira, Aug. 21.]

##### **Reduction on Fuel Oils.**

A presidential decree of August 19, 1916, reduces the import duty on crude petroleum and heavy mineral oils not specified in the tariff from 0.10 to 0.0125 bolivar per kilo (from \$1.37 to \$0.1725 per 100 pounds, including surtaxes). Such products have also been exempted from consumption taxes by another decree of the same date. These concessions have been made in order to conserve the forests of the country by making available other fuel than wood and wood charcoal. The price of coal has become almost prohibitive since the outbreak of the war, although coal is on the free list. It is interesting to note that this is the first instance in which a duty of less than 0.05 bolivar per kilo (the rate applicable to articles included in the first class of the customs tariff) has been prescribed.

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#### NEW CIVIL CODE OF VENEZUELA.

A new civil code passed by the Congress of Venezuela and approved by the President is published in a special edition of the Diario Oficial of August 31. This code, which becomes effective December 19 of the present year, replacing the civil code of 1904, includes regulations governing sales, mortgages, registrations, executions, making of contracts, and payment of obligations. The code (in Spanish) may be consulted at the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce or its district or cooperative offices. Refer to file No. 80460b.

**SHIPBUILDING ACTIVITIES ON UPPER FIRTH OF FORTH.**

[Consul H. D. Van Sant, Dunfermline, Scotland, Sept. 4.]

The new ship *Countess of Mar and Kelly*, of 2,200 tons, intended for the general-cargo trade, has been launched at Alloa, on the upper Forth, in the Dunfermline consular district. As this was the first important launching at Alloa of the new Forth Shipbuilding & Engineering Co., interest was widespread in this locality, and there was a large concourse of spectators.

The steamship is 285 feet long, 42 feet 6 inches molded breadth, and 22 feet 6 inches upper-deck depth. It is said that several vessels of similar size are to be built at this point in the near future, and that hereafter merchant shipbuilding on a largely increased scale will be inaugurated on the upper Forth, some 10 miles above the Rosyth naval base.

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**OPENING OF RIVER PORT AT LIBOURNE.**

[Vice Consul Frank C. Lee, Bordeaux, France, Sept. 6.]

It has been announced that the chamber of commerce at Libourne, a river town about the same distance inland as Bordeaux but on the Dordogne, the other branch of the Gironde River, has voted to put that port in condition for river transportation. Because of its minor importance, the port has fallen into disuse, but at present it may prove very valuable in supplementing the shipping facilities of Bordeaux. If improvements are made as planned, river boats and small vessels can easily be handled. Operations are to begin immediately.

Libourne is the center of a large wine-growing region.

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**THE YORKSHIRE HONEY HARVEST.**

[Vice Consul Charles E. Taylor, Leeds, England, Sept. 2.]

A contributor to the Yorkshire Post reports as follows on the honey harvest in the Leeds consular district:

Yorkshire honey is likely to be very scarce this season. The heather is fully a fortnight late in blooming, and this in itself nearly always means a poor yield of honey from the moorland apiaries. The heather bloom on the North Yorkshire moors is very poor, indeed; in fact, the higher reaches are practically devoid of bloom, and it is the higher altitudes that produce the best and largest crop of honey.

The yield is bound to be small, and one bee keeper of long experience estimates that 10 to 15 pounds per hive will be a very good yield for the season. More than half the stocks taken on the moors will not give any surplus at all.

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**TO DISCUSS DEFINITIONS AND STANDARDS FOR SPICES.**

A public hearing on definitions and standards for spices will be held in New York on October 16, 1916, at 10 a. m. by the joint committee on definitions and standards representing the United States Department of Agriculture, the Association of Official Agricultural Chemists, and the Association of American Dairy, Food, and Drug Officials. The hearings will be held in the office of the United States Food and Drug Inspection Laboratory, Room 1012, Appraiser's Stores, Christopher and Washington Streets.

**PROPOSALS FOR GOVERNMENT SUPPLIES AND CONSTRUCTION.**

[Correspondence should be direct with the offices named, and specifications can usually be obtained at the points where the goods are to be delivered or the work is to be performed. In cases where the time limit is too short to permit firms to submit tenders, they should ask to be placed on the mailing lists of such offices to receive notices calling for future supplies or work of a similar nature.]

**Signal Corps supplies**, No. 3622.—Sealed proposals will be received at the office of the Chief Signal Officer, War Department, Washington, D. C., until October 3, 1916, for furnishing the Signal Corps with plugs for target range outlet boxes, and metal terminal boxes. Further information may be had on application to the above-named office. (Proposal No. 854.)

**Shipbuilding ways and appurtenances**, No. 3623.—Sealed proposals will be received at the Bureau of Yards and Docks, Navy Department, Washington, D. C., until October 21, 1916, for extension to shipbuilding ways and appurtenances at the navy yard, Boston, Mass. Plans and specifications may be obtained on application to the Bureau of Yards and Docks.

**Construction work**, No. 3624.—Sealed proposals will be received at the Watervliet Arsenal, Watervliet, N. Y., until October 23, 1916, for extensive alterations to existing structures at Watervliet Arsenal, and the erection of new ones in accordance with plans and specifications which may be obtained on application to the above-named arsenal.

**Signal Corps supplies**, No. 3625.—Sealed proposals will be received at the office of the Chief Signal Officer, War Department, Washington, D. C., until October 13, 1916, for furnishing the Signal Corps with single head receivers, ringers, screwplugs, caps, rings, slides, generators, plugs, cups, condensers, carbide charges, and transmitters. (Proposal No. 853.)

**Clinical thermometers**, No. 3626.—Sealed proposals will be received at the Medical Supply Depot, United States Army, Fort Mason, San Francisco, Cal., until October 4, 1916, for furnishing and delivering at warehouse "D," transport dock, Fort Mason, San Francisco, Cal., 200 clinical 5-inch thermometers. Further information may be had on application to the above-named office.

**Portland cement**, No. 3627.—Sealed proposals will be received by the Lighthouse Inspector, New Orleans, La., for furnishing 1,500 barrels of Portland cement to Galveston, Tex., prepaid. Further information will be furnished on application to the above-named office.

**Porcelain strips**, No. 3628.—Sealed proposals will be received at the office of the Chief Signal Officer, War Department, Washington, D. C., for furnishing porcelain standard terminal strips. (Proposal No. 855.)

**Groceries and supplies**, No. 3629.—Sealed proposals will be received at the Office of the Quartermaster, 308 Gumbel Building, Kansas City, Mo., until September 29, 1916, for furnishing on or before October 5, 1916, white corn meal, yellow corn meal, green tea, vinegar, oleomargarine, sirup, bacon, canned cherries, ham, jam, green peas, and strawberry preserves. Further information may be obtained from the above-named officer.

**Brass ferrules, etc.**, No. 3630.—Sealed proposals will be received at the Office of the Chief Signal Officer, War Department, Washington, D. C., until October 5, 1916, for furnishing ferrules, pins, tubes, slides, plates, etc. (Proposal 856.)

**Post-office construction**, No. 3631.—Sealed proposals will be received at the Supervising Architect's Office, Treasury Department, Washington, D. C., until October 31, 1916, for the construction, complete, of the post office at Woodbury, N. J. Drawings and specifications may be obtained from the custodian of site at Woodbury, N. J., or from the above-named office.

**Gravel**, No. 3632.—Sealed proposals will be received by the lighthouse inspector, New Orleans, La., for furnishing 770 cubic yards of gravel to Galveston, Tex., prepaid. Further information may be obtained from the above-named officer.

**Post-office equipment**, No. 3633.—Sealed proposals will be received at the Supervising Architect's Office, Treasury Department, Washington, D. C., until November 13, 1916, for the installation, complete, of the mechanical equipment, except elevators and lighting fixtures, in the post office and courthouse at Birmingham, Ala., in accordance with drawings and specifications, copies of which may be obtained from the custodian of the site at Birmingham, Ala., or at the above-named office.

## FOREIGN TRADE OPPORTUNITIES.

Reserved addresses may be obtained from the **Bureau** and its **district offices**. Request for each opportunity should be on a separate sheet and **state opportunity number**. The **Bureau** does not furnish credit ratings or assume responsibility as to the standing of foreign inquirers; the usual precautions should be taken in all cases.

*Flour-mill machinery*, No. 22527.—A business man in Portugal desires to purchase complete equipment for a flour mill, with prospect of duplicating the order, if satisfactory. Reference.

*Cotton goods*, No. 22528.—A commercial agent of the Bureau in the Far East reports that a firm desires samples and quotations, c. i. f. destination, on the following lines of cotton goods: Thirty-inch, 2.85 yard gray drills, blue and black-dyed drills, cotton Italians, cheap cotton trouserings 48 inches wide, and white ground printed shirtings, 31 and 32 inches wide. Reference.

*Machinery, etc.*, No. 22529.—An American consular officer in Brazil reports that a merchant in his district desires to establish business connections with an American exporting and importing firm. He desires to export hides, skins, cotton seed, and castor seed, and is at present in the market for cotton-ginning machinery and other machinery for preparing cotton. Machinery for separating castor seeds is also required.

*Millinery materials, etc.*, No. 22530.—A manufacturer in the United Kingdom writes the Bureau that he is in the market for materials of all kinds for the manufacture of children's millinery; also for cardboard boxes.

*Portable houses*, No. 22531.—A firm in Spain advises an American consular officer of its desire to communicate with American manufacturers of portable houses. Correspondence in Spanish.

*Metal leaves, etc.*, No. 22532.—An export and import merchant in Japan desires to enter into commercial relations with American firms manufacturing and dealing in bookbinders' and lithographic supplies; cigarette paper, varnishes, enamels, etc. The Japanese merchant states he is an exporter of metal leaves, blocking foils, bronze powder, and gold and silver threads. References.

*General representation*, No. 22533.—An American consular officer in France reports that a newly organized export and import commission agency in his district desires to enter into commercial relations with American manufacturers and exporters interested in extending their trade in that country. Correspondence may be in English. No particular line is specified.

*Wax*, No. 22534.—A wax manufacturing company in Canada requests the Bureau to place it in touch with exporters of carnauba wax and other raw waxes.

*Structural iron*, No. 22535.—An American consular officer in a foreign insular possession writes that a firm in his district is in the market for bar structural iron. Amount of order approximately \$5,000. References.

*Paints, oil, leather, etc.*, No. 22536.—A recently established commission firm in Central America desires to represent American manufacturers and exporters of paints and oils, petroleum, flour, hides, leather for shoemakers, thread, and other lines for which a market may be found in that country.

## OFFICES OF THE BUREAU OF FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC COMMERCE.

## DISTRICT OFFICES.

NEW YORK: Room 409, Customhouse.  
BOSTON: 1801 Customhouse.  
CHICAGO: 504 Federal Building.  
ST. LOUIS: 402 Third National Bank Building.  
ATLANTA: 521 Post Office Building.  
NEW ORLEANS: 1020 Hibernia Bank Building.  
SAN FRANCISCO: 307 Customhouse.  
SEATTLE: 848 Henry Building.

## COOPERATIVE OFFICES.

CLEVELAND: Chamber of Commerce.  
CINCINNATI: Chamber of Commerce.  
CINCINNATI: C., N. O. & T. P. Ry. Co.  
LOS ANGELES: Chamber of Commerce.  
PHILADELPHIA: Chamber of Commerce.  
CHATTANOOGA: South American Agent, Southern Ry. Co.  
PORTLAND, OREG.: Chamber of Commerce.  
DAYTON: Greater Dayton Association.

# COMMERCE REPORTS



DAILY CONSULAR AND TRADE REPORTS  
ISSUED DAILY BY THE BUREAU OF FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC COMMERCE  
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

For sale by the Superintendent of Documents, Washington, D. C., at \$2.50 per year



No. 228 Washington, D. C., Thursday, September 28 1916

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## BUSINESS ACTIVITY IN RUSSIA.

[L'Économiste Européen, Sept. 8.]

In July of this year 65 new companies were formed in Russia with a total capital of 105,880,000 rubes (\$54,528,000 at the normal exchange rate of \$0.515 to the ruble), as compared with 23 companies having a capital of \$19,090,000 in the corresponding month of 1915 and 22 companies having a capital of \$14,832,000 in July, 1914. Eleven of the new companies, with a capital of \$8,642,000, are engaged in the mining industry; 11 companies, with a capital of \$8,266,000, in metallurgy; 8 companies, with capital amounting to \$6,489,000, in commerce; 4 companies, with capital of \$5,562,000, in the chemical industry; and 5 companies, with capital amounting to \$3,605,000, in business connected with food products.

## TRADE BETWEEN ROUMANIA AND SWITZERLAND.

[Consul Walter H. Schulz, Berne, Switzerland, Aug. 20.]

Roumania's appearance as a belligerent power probably will not seriously affect economic conditions in Switzerland, nor is it likely to afford any considerable extension of American commercial activity with the Swiss people, except perhaps in mineral oils.

Since the outbreak of hostilities in Europe, not only Russian but Roumanian grain and cereal shipments to Switzerland have reached insignificant proportions. This country long ago was compelled to cover the shortage by increased purchases in the American market, as the 1915 import figures amply establish. It will doubtless continue to do so, and the same is true of its purchases of petroleum, benzine, and unrefined machine oils, which have been entering this country from Roumanian sources in unprecedented quantities. If Roumania's entrance into the war is felt at all by the Swiss people, it will be felt in this particular field.

### No Fear of Petroleum Shortage.

For the immediate future, no fear of a shortage in petroleum is felt in Swiss circles. As a matter of fact the country has replenished its exhausted reserves of petroleum in a most satisfactory manner,

according to reports. It was able to do so by withholding all unnecessary stocks from the market during the summer months.

Steps to insure a future supply from the United States are already under way, and a public statement on the subject is expected soon.

Statistics of Swiss imports of various classes from Roumania in recent years, compared with the imports of similar articles from all countries, in normal times, including those from the United States in 1913 and 1915, probably will be of interest to American exporters. These are:

Articles.	From Roumania.			Normal Swiss imports.	From United States.	
	1913	1914	1915	1913	1914	1915
	<i>Quintals.</i>	<i>Quintals.</i>	<i>Quintals.</i>	<i>Quintals.</i>	<i>Quintals.</i>	<i>Quintals.</i>
Wheat.....	502,054	105,284	1,571	6,392,278	1,508,098	4,578,981
Rye.....	7,733	1,414	.....	167,872	.....	.....
Oats.....	15,054	20,534	492	1,771,595	229,964	846,133
Barley.....	10,974	8,214	3,387	259,107	.....	190,285
Corn.....	44,367	87,736	2,198	1,215,454	21,595	116,845
Flour.....	346	.....	.....	381,226	1,108	57,719
String beans.....	3,515	1,504	.....	39,288	.....	763
Peas.....	2,348	353	.....	31,841	.....	625
Eggs.....	1,045	228	1,776	187,757	.....	.....
Benzine.....	7,333	9,748	18,453	160,882	38,275	86,272
Petroleum.....	617	2,839	44,710	629,429	454,843	283,188
Machine oils, unrefined.....	4,923	5,860	490	128,896	27,970	112,787

### RESUMPTION OF WORK IN NOVA SCOTIA COAL MINES.

[Consul E. Verne Richardson, Moncton, New Brunswick, Canada, Sept. 11.]

Another indication of increasing industrial activity in the Maritime Provinces of Canada is afforded by the prospective reopening of the Chignecto coal mines near Amherst, Nova Scotia. At a recent meeting of the directors of the Maritime Coal, Railway & Power Co., at Chignecto, it was decided that these mines, which have been idle for several years, be again operated, and as a result work will be begun at an early date. The above company furnishes power to the industries at Amherst as well as to the town itself and other near-by centers. Its coal supplies for some time have been drawn from the Joggins mines, several miles away. The reopening of the Chignecto mines will, it is anticipated, effect an economy in the company's operations.

### MARKET FOR AMERICAN CANNED TOMATOES.

[Consul Felix S. S. Johnson, Kingston, Ontario, Canada, Sept. 14.]

In talking over the canned-vegetable situation I was this morning informed by a Kingston dealer that he would not be surprised if before the arrival of winter wholesale houses would be obliged to import canned tomatoes from the United States. To be ready for this event I ask that American canners forward me their price lists and, if possible, a can of their goods. All communications and samples should be addressed to the American Consul, Kingston, Ontario, Canada.

I believe there will be an opening not only at Kingston but also in other parts of Ontario for American canned goods. A strict compliance with the food regulations of the United States would prove acceptable to the Canadian customs officials.



# THE CASTOR-OIL PLANT OF INDIA.

[Consul Lucien Memmlinger, Madras.]

The castor-oil plant (*Ricinus communis*) is cultivated throughout India. There are said to be 16 varieties—or, rather, cultivated states that merge from one to the other—and these have been roughly grouped by most writers under two great types, one of which is a tall bush or small tree of perennial growth, usually planted as a hedge or in lines through the fields where it affords desirable shade to other and more valuable crops. This gives a large seed with an abundance of inferior oil. The other type is an annual plant sometimes grown as a pure crop, though more frequently in mixed cultivation. It gives a small seed, the better qualities of which, by careful process of expression, afford the superior qualities of the oil of commerce.

Mention is made by writers on this subject of a third important grade, namely, a castor which, by special selection, has come to yield a seed that contains no poisonous principle and the oil of which is edible.

## Foreign Trade in Oil and Seed.

The European demand for castor seed and oil from India is fairly modern, as statistics show that India did not begin to produce the medicinal oil until about 1815, and, in fact, imported medicinal castor oil prior to that period, though the castor plant is known to have existed in India for a very long time. In the great export traffic that has grown up since then Bengal is the chief exporting Province for oil, while seeds are most largely shipped from Bombay, though in each case exports from Madras are of considerable importance.

The extent to which British India exported castor oil and seed by sea during the past three fiscal years and the destinations of these shipments are shown in the table below. The quantities are stated in imperial gallons, equivalent to 1.2 American gallons, and in hundred-weight of 112 pounds; the official values have been converted to United States gold at the rate of \$0.32443 to the rupee.

Articles and countries.	Quantity.			Value.		
	1913-14	1914-15	1915-16	1913-14	1914-15	1915-16
<b>Oil.</b>	<i>Gals.</i>	<i>Gals.</i>	<i>Gals.</i>			
United Kingdom.....	1,007,001	898,269	1,451,655	\$450,170	\$406,595	\$629,245
Australia and New Zealand.....	87,256	53,960	698,280	43,345	23,830	310,810
Straits Settlements.....	506,911	470,116	344,392	218,015	208,120	139,490
All other countries.....	141,414	108,120	91,740	67,210	52,155	42,705
	271,420	266,073	317,243	121,600	122,490	136,240
<b>Seed.</b>	<i>Cwt.</i>	<i>Cwt.</i>	<i>Cwt.</i>			
United Kingdom.....	2,697,754	1,656,294	1,758,903	6,504,800	3,763,210	3,903,835
Belgium.....	1,113,502	705,680	829,156	2,648,915	1,575,445	1,863,995
France.....	296,448	113,382	.....	746,505	271,645	.....
Germany.....	419,775	231,686	282,565	1,008,315	527,805	628,810
Italy.....	195,228	14,638	.....	479,925	32,875	.....
United States.....	235,767	224,066	155,761	554,890	483,655	503,150
All other countries.....	405,582	321,660	354,412	993,945	774,740	777,225
	31,452	45,184	137,079	72,315	97,045	280,655

## Share of Madras Presidency—Chief Producing Centers.

In the fiscal year ended March 31, 1916, shipments of castor oil from the Madras Presidency to foreign countries were 384,305 gallons, valued at \$162,866. The demands from the United Kingdom

were very heavy, and Ceylon, Mauritius, and the Straits Settlements were next largest purchasers. The shipments of castor seed during the same period were 108,620 hundredweight, valued at \$223,859, of which the United States received the largest share, or 41,998 hundredweight, valued at \$81,757. The United Kingdom and France are the other principal purchasers. The total exports of castor seeds from the Presidency in 1915-16 to all countries were far below the normal, as the average for the five years ending 1913-14 was 291,151 hundredweight, valued at \$674,497.

In 1905-6 out of the total of 1,300,000 hundredweight of castor seeds shipped from India, Bombay supplied fully 1,000,000 hundredweight, the remainder having gone from Madras and Sind. The producing region for this export traffic would appear to be the Nizam's Territory and Bombay Presidency, with the Central Provinces and Berar supplying a small proportion. Hyderabad is the chief center. Karachi exports are doubtless Punjab and Rajputana castor seed, since practically no castor seed is grown in Sind.

#### Oil Mills of Bengal and Madras.

Previous to the war the exports of castor oil from India showed a tendency to diminish, while the traffic in castor seed very materially increased. The reasons for this are said to be, first, that most foreign countries accept the seeds free of duty but impose an import tax on oil and oil cake; second, the transportation of seeds by sea is easier and less expensive than the carriage of oil; and, third, improved and expensive machinery in Europe and America has raised the standard of the oil as well as lowered the cost of production there, the result being that the competition has told on the methods followed in India as a whole, although here and there all over India castor oil is manufactured by European machinery also.

The castor-oil mills of Calcutta use, on an average, close to 700,000 hundredweight of seed, drawn mainly from the United Provinces and Bengal. The quantities obtained from other regions are inconsiderable. The large-seeded form, which they mainly use, comes from the Provinces named, while the small-seeded comes from Madras. There were in Bengal, in 1904, 75 oil mills that gave employment to 2,836 persons. These, according to an authoritative writer, are doubtless mainly Calcutta mills, concerned chiefly, if not entirely, in the production of castor, and furnish the quantities of that oil exported from Calcutta to foreign countries. As compared with these figures Madras had 24 oil mills that employed 1,476 persons during 1904, but not all of them were devoted to the production of castor oil.

#### Varied Uses of Castor Products.

Sir George Watt, in his "Commercial Products of India"—from which work much of the above information has been gleaned—thus describes the varied uses to which castor oil and cake are put:

The oil is largely burned, some few years ago more extensively than at the present time. It is believed to give a cooler and brighter light than other vegetable and mineral oils and to burn more steadily. The value of castor oil as a preservative has long been known, and on that property depends its employment on leather goods of all kinds, also as a lubricant for machinery. It is frequently employed by the Indian dyers as an auxiliary in certain

tinctorial results, and similarly by calico printers. Medicinally the oil holds an important position, and the white seed is specially preferred for that purpose.

The oil cake is regarded as a good fuel, but it is never fed to cattle; is fairly largely used by cobblers for stuffing the soles of the shoes they make or repair. The cake is generally stated to contain the whole of the poisonous property of the seed. It is, however, rich in nitrogen and therefore much in demand as a manure, especially for potatoes and sugar cane. In some parts of India the cake and even cheap castor seed are used in the manufacture of gas, which is treated exactly like coal gas and is in some respects superior to it.

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## PRODUCTION OF GOLD AND SILVER IN ANNAM.

[Consul Lawrence P. Briggs, Saigon, French Indo-China, Aug. 1.]

There is a small gold and silver mine in central Annam, near the village of Bong-Miu, about 65 miles southwest of Tourane. The minerals are found in pyrite and quartz extracted from the side of a hill. Traces are found which show that the Chinese worked this mine many years ago, and since the French occupation several attempts have been made to exploit it. La Compagnie Minière de Bong-Miu was organized in 1898, and during the two succeeding years obtained four mining concessions in this vicinity. This company began operations in 1903 with a comparatively modern equipment, went into liquidation in 1907, was reorganized again in 1908, and has recently installed a more modern equipment, which is being constantly improved.

### Tunnels at Mine Nearly Horizontal.

The gold-and-silver-bearing quartz is obtained by means of nearly horizontal tunnels. About 15 tunnels have been made by the French, and about 100 shallow wells and shafts were made by the Chinese and Annamites in earlier days. At present three tunnels 400 to 700 yards in length are being worked. The native hand laborers work with picks, assisted by compressed-air drills and dynamite. The ore is transported to the mill by aerial automatic gravity cars. A modern quartz crusher pulverizes the rock to a fineness of a cubic millimeter.

Most of the sterile rock is eliminated, and the remaining mixture of pyrites and earth is treated in large steel vats with a solution of potassium cyanide, which dissolves the gold. The liquid is then filtered through the bottom and conducted into wooden boxes containing zinc filings, where the gold is deposited. It is collected every month and taken to the laboratory, where it is melted into ingots, then carried to Tourane to be sent to France by parcel post.

The amount of quartz crushed to obtain this gold averages about 27,000 tons a year. About 500 native laborers are employed at the mine and in the mill.

### Makes Use of Hydroelectric Power.

Until recently the motive power used in the mill has been furnished by a neighboring cascade, but this was found insufficient during the dry season. A few years ago an electric plant of 175 horsepower was established on the Song-Van River, from which the electricity is transmitted to the mill by about 2 miles of aluminum wire. From here the power is transmitted by copper wires throughout the

mill and the mines wherever needed. The entire plant, except the aerial cables, is now run by electric force. This is the only place where hydroelectric power is used in French Indo-China.

Figures have been prepared showing the weight in grams and the value in United States currency of the product of this mine during the years 1903-1915, respectively. The weight statistics for 1910-1915 are furnished by the Bureau of Mines (Service des Mines) of French Indo-China. The values are from the director of customs at the port of Tourane. The figures are:

Years.	Gold.	Silver.	Total.	Value.
	<i>Grams.</i>	<i>Grams.</i>	<i>Grams.</i>	
1903	17,830	9,218		\$11,500
1904	37,830	16,153		24,000
1905	65,210	26,464		43,268
1906	43,750	23,990		28,000
1907	54,000			31,007
1908	111,000	54,087		74,343
1909	65,000	23,000		43,911
1910	70,312	26,807		51,920
1911	85,000	72,000		61,995
1912			85,000	48,133
1913			120,000	67,550
1914			154,900	90,800
1915			98,533	49,000

The mountains of Annam and Laos especially, and those of Tonkin in a lesser degree, are known to contain gold and silver; but lack of capital and transportation facilities have prevented exploitation or even careful exploration.

### DAMAGE TO JAMAICAN CROPS BY RECENT HURRICANE.

[Vice Consul Edward B. Cipriani, Port Antonio, Sept. 6.]

The estimated average loss to the principal crops in the island as a result of the recent hurricane amounts to: Bananas, practically 100 per cent; ground provisions, 50 per cent; coconuts, 40 per cent; cocoa, 25 per cent; other fruit, 15 per cent; and sugar cane, 5 per cent.

A public meeting was recently held in Port Antonio for the purpose of starting an agricultural loan bank, from which small sums of money may be advanced to the smaller proprietors to aid them in replanting their lands. Nothing definite has been done up to this date, but shares in the proposed bank will be offered for sale shortly, and it is hoped by this means to get sufficient funds to start the bank.

#### Cargo Boats Departing Empty.

All fruit boats arriving since the hurricane at this port have departed empty for Cuba or Central America to get cargoes there for the United States, and no ships are now calling here except the three small freighters that ply regularly between Jamaican ports and New York. With the exception of a small lot of coconuts and very little cocoa taken by these ships, no shipment of any kind has been made from this port since the hurricane.

The Atlantic Fruit Co., the second largest shippers of fruit, next to the United Fruit Co., in the colony, after dismissing several of its employees, has removed its offices from Port Antonio to Kingston.

**TRADE METHODS OF SICILIAN LEMON INDUSTRY.**

[Consul Samuel H. Shank, Palermo, Italy, Aug. 23.]

The cultivation of lemons has been one of the important industries of Sicily from time immemorial, but it has made decided advances in the last decades. There are no statistics to show the number of trees now growing. In 1898 it was estimated that there were 6,000,000 in the island of Sicily. From calculations made from the production in 1915 and the acreage under cultivation it is thought that there are between 11,000,000 and 12,000,000 trees. Statistics for June, 1916, show that there were 88,797 acres planted in lemons, oranges, and mandarins, the larger proportion being lemons. The production of these fruits in all Italy in 1915 was 560,500 tons (of 2,204 pounds), while of lemons alone it was 534,300 tons.

**Growers Seldom Export Fruit—Bank Advances.**

Very few of the lemon growers export their own crop. As a rule the grower sells his lemons on the tree to a shipper or buyer for a factory. There is no organization of the proprietors, and each one sells when and where he deems best. The shippers as a rule buy a whole orchard at so much per thousand and then gather the crop as they think opportune. Sometimes the different crops are sold separately. If the crop is sold as a whole the buyer usually does the harvesting, but if each picking is sold the work is done by the proprietor.

In general, when the shipper buys a crop he pays one-third of the price at the time of making the contract, one-third at the time the gathering is begun, and the remainder when the gathering is completed. When the fruit is shipped the banks advance a certain sum on account on the presentation of the shipping documents. This sum varies according to the shipper or according to advices from London. If the lemons are shipped on account of the exporter the bank usually advances 40, 50, or 60 per cent of the value, but if the exporter has credit at the bank the entire value may be advanced. If the shipment is made for account of any importer in New York or in London the local bank will advance only on advice of a bank in New York or London.

**Auction Sales—Exporters' Association.**

Lemons are sold at auction in all countries except Russia, where they are shipped on order. Auctions are maintained in normal times in New York, London, Hamburg, Cologne, Berlin, and Budapest. Efforts have been made at times to form a combination of the shippers here and to establish the business on a firm basis, but these have always resulted in failure. It has been the desire of some of the exporters to sell the fruit on order, as is done in Russia and as oranges are sold in other countries; but there are too many small shippers engaged in the business to form a combination that would prove effectual.

There is an association of fruit exporters (*Lega Agrumaria*) to which a majority of the shippers belong, but this organization has never attempted to change the method of transacting the lemon business. It has protected the shippers in various ways and looked after

their interests. It has had charge of the shipping, and all space for cargo on ships must be obtained through the Lega. That is, if the members of the Lega have sufficient lemons to take up all space on a ship the navigation company can not take the cargo of others. In this way the Lega might be said to have a monopoly, but I understand this is seldom, if ever, exercised, and in general space is assigned to the first applicants.

#### Freight Rates—Packing.

Shipments to Switzerland are by rail, as are also some to Austria, Germany, Roumania, and Russia. The greater part are by sea, and shipments are made as far as Australia. The United States is the most important foreign market.

The freight rates are as follows: To the United States the rate is 1s. 6d. (\$0.365) per box, but this is subject to a rebate of 3d. to 4d. (\$0.061 to \$0.081) at the end of the year on those shipments that were accepted in America. On rejected shipments no rebate is allowed.

The freight to Liverpool before the war was 9d. (\$0.183) per box of 88 pounds and 1s. 2d. (\$0.284) for the English case weighing 132 pounds. Now the rate is 2s. 3d. (\$0.547) for the box and 2s. 6d. (\$0.608) for the case. The half box costs 2s. (\$0.487). The rate to Melbourne is 9s. (\$2.19) plus 10 per cent plus 35 per cent.

The pre-war rate to Hamburg was 1 mark (\$0.238) per box; to Trieste, 45 centesimi (\$0.087).

There is little difference in the packing for different countries, except that the English market takes a large-sized case as well as the regular size. Also the English market prefers the large-sized lemons, whereas the American prefers the small fruit. The Russian market requires a medium-sized fruit, but of first quality. Other markets take first and second and sometimes third grade lemons. The average for the American market is 330 to 360 lemons per box.

### ELECTRIC APPLIANCES GAIN FAVOR IN VENEZUELA.

[Consul G. K. Donald, Maracaibo, Sept. 8.]

On account of the fact that coal is not now obtainable here at a reasonable price, and that wood fuel is uncertain—it is almost impossible to cut it during the rainy season—the owners of saw-mills, grist mills, hat factories, bakeries, printing establishments, and numerous other small industries have shown increasing interest in electric power and heating devices since the electric company has decided to supply power during the day. There is a good opening for all kinds of electrical appliances for domestic and industrial use, such as fans, stoves, irons, large ovens for bakeries, motor-driven pumping outfits for private houses, motors of 1 to 25 horsepower, etc.

The Maracaibo Electric Light Co. will be pleased to receive catalogues and prices of all these lines, and will order through New York commission houses. To get orders in this market, prices must be given in the first correspondence.

Department of Agriculture officials in charge of the enforcement of the food and drugs act have issued instructions to inspectors to pay particular attention to oats shipped in interstate commerce in order to determine if any shipments are adulterated with water.

**BENGAL'S FOREIGN TRADE IN JUTE.**

The following data on Bengal's foreign trade in jute and jute products are taken from the July 21 issue of the Indian (Government) Trade Journal and relate to the official year 1915-16:

Throughout the year Bengal's export of jute and jute manufactures was under restriction to one country or another, but, nevertheless, the twelvemonth was one of prosperity to the industry and the local mills made profits undreamed of in the years of peaceful progress. The increase was 26 per cent with a record output; and although the total value was less than in 1913-14 (when the raw material controlled a very high range of prices), it was greater than in any other year and exceeded 1914-15 by 40 per cent.

With the cessation of the mid-European demand raw jute was exported in smaller quantities than in pre-war years, but compared with 1914-15 the 1915-16 tonnage was larger by 23 per cent and the value by 26 per cent. When the shipments of bags and cloth are scrutinized, the expansion of this trade is emphasized. The former in number are better than in the previous year by 100 per cent, and the latter in yardage by 13 per cent; values are higher by 60 and 35 per cent, respectively; combined, the increased value represents 47 per cent. Even "other manufactures" (twist, yarn, and twine) are larger by 30 per cent. In 1914-15 the jute trade represented 53 per cent of Calcutta's exports; in 1915-16 it rose to 60 per cent.

**Rise in Raw-Jute Prices—Increased Exports.**

The past season followed one of excessively cheap jute, leaving little or no profit to the grower; but with mills in a very strong position, prices steadily improved and the new crop came on the market in August at ordinary rates. For first marks the year opened at 42 rupees (\$13.63) per bale (of 400 pounds), spot; in May, 33 rupees (\$10.71) ruled; but the price was up to 56 rupees (\$18.17) in September, fell to 48 rupees (\$15.57) in November, and with many small fluctuations closed at 58 to 59 rupees (\$18.82 to \$19.14) per bale. The average price declared at the customhouse was 45 rupees 14 annas 7 pies (\$14.89); in 1914-15 it was 44 rupees 15 annas 5 pies (\$14.59).

The consumption of raw jute by the local mills for the year ending June 30, 1915, was 4,806,750 bales; for the season just closed it is estimated at 5,066,140 bales.

There was naturally a great increase in the exports of jute to the United Kingdom—34 per cent in volume and 45 per cent in value, absorbing 55 per cent of the total export. To the United States the number of bales rose by 44 per cent. Italy took a quantity greater by 46 per cent, and Spain increased its purchases by 57 per cent. Shipments to Sweden rose from 6,681 bales to 15,926 bales, and larger quantities went to Norway, Hongkong, Australia, Formosa, and Egypt. The new export to Vladivostok is purely temporary, and has been caused by Russia's isolation on the west.

**Factories Prosperous—Advanced Cloth Prices.**

For jute manufactures the year 1915-16 was one of unexampled prosperity, they having advanced in value from 25.77 crores (\$83,606,500) to 37.90 crores (\$122,960,200), or by 47 per cent. Both gunny bags and gunny cloth expanded phenomenally, the former in-

creasing in volume by 100 per cent and in value by 60 per cent. Cloth advanced by 13 and 35 per cent, respectively.

Throughout the year the mills worked full time and overtime for the purposes of military requirements. There was a constant and ever-increasing demand with which it was not always possible to comply, and prices therefore steadily advanced. Speaking generally, the course of prices throughout the year was on the upgrade for all descriptions, and at no period did "forward" rates touch so high a point as "spot." Hessians advanced to 21 rupees (\$6.81) in August, and speculators at this high limit realized very good returns. In September the position was further strengthened by the military requirements for bags. At the close of December the market exhibited a quieter feeling, largely caused by realizations of speculators.

In the current year (1916) much forward contracting has been carried out by the mills at prices well over 1915 rates and running up to the end of 1916. How abnormal has been the rise in prices is exemplified by the following quotations for certain standard goods: 40-inch, 10½-ounce hessian, which in March, 1915, stood at 14 rupees 8 annas (\$4.70), was 18 rupees 8 annas (\$6) in December, 1915, and 24 rupees (\$7.79) in March, 1916; "B" twills were 30 rupees (\$9.73), 36 rupees (\$11.68), and 42 rupees (\$13.63) at these same dates; and Cuban sugar bags were 40 rupees (\$12.98), 50 rupees (\$16.22), and 57 rupees (\$18.49) per hundred.

#### **British and Russian Purchases.**

Bags were chiefly absorbed by the United Kingdom (38 per cent), Russia, France (11 per cent each), North and South America (6 per cent each), and Australasia (9 per cent). Cloth went principally to North America (61 per cent), South America (16 per cent), and the United Kingdom (15 per cent). To the United Kingdom the increase was very marked, the total value expanding from 2.18 crores (\$7,072,600) to 7.65 crores (\$24,819,100); bags increased by 250,000,000, or 529 per cent, and cloth by 113,000,000 yards, or 168 per cent. To London 255,000,000 bags were shipped and 51,000,000 yards of cloth; to Liverpool, 40,000,000 bags and 58,000,000 yards of cloth; and even to Dundee, although only 880,400 bags were exported, the quantity of cloth shipped exceeded 70,000,000 yards. In Dundee it was a year of unusual prosperity, the only drawback being the scarcity of workers.

The expansion of our trade with Russia was marvelous; it rose in the past year from 23 lakhs (\$746,200) to 2.88 crores (\$9,343,700). In 1913-14 no bags were exported, in 1914-15 8,000,000 went, and last year 86,000,000 were dispatched thither. Similarly, with cloth, Russia's demand has risen in two years from 59,961 yards to 19,000,000 yards. Gunnies have gone not only to Petrograd and Moscow, but they have found destinations as far afield as Khokan, Odessa, and Kief. So great has been the demand that it is understood bags have been distributed in Russia by parcel post.

#### **Shipments to France, United States, and Other Countries.**

Owing to the closing of the factories in that country, France's demand rose in value from 9.38 lakhs (\$304,300) to 2.17 crores (\$7,040,200); bags rose from 2,520,000 to 85,690,000 and cloth from



a negligible figure to 33,000,000 yards. Exports of bags to South America (chiefly Chile and Peru) were larger by 30 per cent. Egypt took 60 per cent, Cuba 70 per cent, and Canada 79 per cent more than in 1914-15.

To Australasia cloth fell off, and though bags rose by 10 per cent exports were smaller than in 1913-14. To British South Africa shipments of jute manufactures rose in value by 39 per cent, but in sales to Portuguese East Africa there was a decline of 34 per cent. The demand from Hongkong and China rose by 35 per cent; to the former exports of bags and cloth rose by 186 per cent to 16.69 lakhs (\$541,475), to the latter by 21 per cent to 71.28 lakhs (\$2,312,560).

The United States' trade was valued at 10.10 crores (\$32,767,800), an increase of 0.02 per cent, but in quantity bags were less by 40 per cent and cloth by 6 per cent and combined are the lowest since 1912-13.

### AMERICAN CONSULAR OFFICERS ON LEAVE OF ABSENCE.

The following American consular officers are on leave of absence in the United States, and will be glad to confer with business men and commercial organizations relative to conditions in their respective jurisdictions. The consul's time is available primarily for personal interviews. He has limited facilities for correspondence, and except in urgent cases letters should be directed to the consulate.

Name.	Post.	Expira- tion of venue.	Address.
Jewell, John F.....	Chefoo, China.....	Oct. 1	Galena, Ill.
Hazeltine, Ross.....	Port Antonio, Jamaica	..do....	Department of State, Washington, D. C.
Laing, James Oliver.....	Karachi, India.....	Sept. 30	C/o University Club, Kansas City, Mo.
Leonard, Walter A.....	Colombo, Ceylon.....	Oct. 14	Essex, Iowa.
Osborne, John Ball.....	Havre, France.....	Oct. 21	Department of State, Washington, D. C.
Pike, William J.....	St. Gall, Switzerland..	Nov. 1	Do.
Armstrong, John S.....	Bristol, England.....	Oct. 1	1200 Eutaw Place, Baltimore, Md.
Henry, Frank Anderson....	Puerto Plata, Do- minican Republic.	Oct. 1	C/o Hollowell & Henry, 27 Pine Street, New York City.
Masterson, William W. s.....	Durban, South Africa.	Sept. 30	
Gracey, Wilbur T. b.....	Seville, Spain.....	Oct. 30	Department of State, Washington, D. C.
Donaldson, Chester.....	Port Limon, Costa Rica.	Nov. 12	31 Bruce Avenue, Yonkers, N. Y.

\* Consul Masterson informs the Bureau that he will be in New York City from Sept. 26 to 30, during which period he will be pleased to meet those interested in South African commercial matters. Communications should be sent to the Bureau's district office, Room 409, Customhouse, New York City.

\* Consul Gracey will be glad to have conferences with American exporters in eastern cities interested in the Spanish trade during his visit in the United States.

### FOREIGN TRADE OF PANAMA.

The statistical bulletin of the Republic of Panama issued in July, 1916, gives the total value of the exports from that country in 1915 as \$3,348,262. Of this amount, \$3,118,754 was shipped to the United States. The final figures for the imports of 1914 show that goods to the value of \$9,910,435 were imported, and two-thirds of them, or \$6,344,872 worth, came from the United States. These figures do not include the imports by parcel post, which amounted to \$239,823, making the total 1914 imports \$10,150,258.

**REORGANIZATION OF BRAZILIAN GOVERNMENT ENTERPRISES.**

[Commercial Attaché William C. Downs, Rio de Janeiro, July 29; all monetary sums expressed in U. S. gold.]

The following is a translation from the *Diario Official* of July 27, 1916, of a project to convert the Brazilian Government enterprises of the Central Railway of Brazil, the Lloyd Brasileiro Steamship Line, and the Rio Port Works into stock companies, which was admitted into the Chamber of Deputies for discussion on July 26:

**ARTICLE 1.** The Government is hereby authorized to change the Central Railway of Brazil, the Brazilian Lloyd, and the Rio Port Works into corporations, more or less along the lines of the present organization of the Bank of Brazil and as hereinafter set forth:

(a) Central Railway of Brazil.—Capital \$97,332,000, divided into shares \$58,399,200 and debentures \$38,932,800.

(b) Brazilian Lloyd.—Capital \$32,444,000, divided into shares \$24,333,000 and debentures \$8,111,000.

(c) Rio Port Works.—Capital \$48,666,000, divided into shares \$32,444,000 and debentures \$16,222,000.

The above figures are not definite. A more accurate study will be necessary. They are correct, however, in a general way.

**How the Change is to be Effected.**

**ART. 2.** Once the scheme is matured, the Government will open subscriptions in all the cities of Brazil and in all the large financial centers of America and Europe for the sale of shares of these corporations up to one-half of their respective capital in shares, the Government retaining in its possession the other half and the total capital in debentures, the proceeds of the sale being incorporated in the general revenue of the Republic.

**SECTION 1.** The payment for these shares may be made in Brazilian currency or foreign gold, coupons of the foreign debt at par, or gold treasury notes in circulation at the prevailing rate of the day.

**SEC. 2.** The Brazilian Government, a large lender to these enterprises, as owner of all the debentures will protect itself with the first or second mortgage on all the properties, works, installations, materials, etc., and will not charge any interest on the capital invested in those loans. All the net profits will be distributed among the shareholders, except when exceeding 10 per cent, in which case the excess will be applied to the debentures.

**SEC. 3.** The personnel of the Central Railway of Brazil and of the Rio Port Works which may have to be dispensed with under the new organization will have its rights and privileges guaranteed except gratuities and the "housing" assistance.

**ART. 3.** All the aids, subsidies, and privileges enjoyed at present by these official enterprises will be maintained.

**Central Railway of Brazil.**

The Federal Inspector of Railways estimated the cost of the Central of Brazil up to 1910 at \$80,136,680. Without any definite data for the last six years, we adopted the round sum of \$97,332,000 as its cost up to the present time.

The gross revenue in the budget now under discussion is estimated at \$15,248,680, and if the road were operated more on a commercial basis a revenue of \$16,222,000 would not be an exaggerated one. Such was the basis we adopted. Taking 70 per cent as operating

cost, a net profit of \$4,866,600 is obtained, which is equal, in round figures, to 8 per cent on a capital of \$58,399,200. We shall therefore have in round figures to facilitate the demonstration :

Probable gross revenue.....	\$16, 222, 000
Operating cost, 70 per cent.....	11, 855, 400
Probable net profit.....	4, 866, 600
Total capital in shares.....	58, 399, 200
Debt of the Government.....	29, 199, 000
Debt of the shareholders.....	29, 199, 000
Profit belonging to the Government.....	2, 433, 300

**The Brazilian Lloyd.**

It was not possible for us to verify what was the actual cost of the Brazilian Lloyd to the Government. The 1915 report of the Minister of the Treasury states only that it was transferred to the Government by decree of August 13, 1913, and the Minister of the Treasury was authorized to issue securities up to \$10,382,000 in order to settle the liabilities of the company.

The gross revenue for 1915 was \$12,860,400 and for 1914 \$7,416,000, thus showing an increase for 1915 of \$5,444,400. The expenditures for 1915 may be grouped as follows: General expenses in connection with steamers, etc., \$6,758,900; shops, \$713,200; improvements, \$135,000; a total of \$7,607,100, which, in relation to the gross revenue, gives a percentage of 59.

To be very conservative, under normal conditions, we shall adopt a gross revenue of \$6,488,800 and an operating cost of 70 per cent, which will produce a net revenue of \$1,946,640. Making the profit rate 8 per cent, that net revenue will correspond to a capital of \$24,333,000. On the other hand, according to the Treasury budget, in the list of interest payments on our foreign obligations there appear two sums for loans to the Brazilian Lloyd in 1906 and 1910 amounting to \$51,200 and \$194,700, respectively, or a total of \$245,900, the principal of which exceeds \$4,866,500.

Taking these circumstances into consideration, we adopted for the Brazilian Lloyd a share capital of \$24,333,000 and debentures \$8,111,000.

**Rio Port Works.**

The expenditures effected in connection with the Rio Port Works are, in round numbers, according to competent authorities, \$64,980,525, as follows: Floating dock, \$944,575; wharves, \$21,782,750; Central Avenue, \$15,174,850; personnel, \$9,502,250; material, \$10,647,400; expropriations, \$6,928,700. As can be seen, there are two items totally foreign to the port works—the floating dock and Central Avenue—which are included in the expenditures, and which amount to \$16,119,425. They should be excluded from the new company. For that reason we adopted the capital of \$48,666,000, \$32,444,000 in shares and \$16,222,000 in debentures.

The probable revenue of the Rio Port Works, if Article XIX of Law No. 1313, of December 30, 1909 (which provides that any merchandise whatsoever entering or leaving the harbor will have to pass through the wharves or works and pay the respective taxes), is put in force, may be estimated in normal times at \$4,217,700. Allowing the average operating cost of other Brazilian ports (40 per cent, or

\$1,687,080), we shall have a net profit of \$2,530,620, the Government's share being \$1,265,300, plus the 2 per cent gold, or a total of \$3,893,300. This sum would be sufficient to pay the interest on the three loans of the Rio Port Works, which are: Interest and commission on the loans of 1903 and 1911, \$3,582,400; interest on internal debt, \$280,600; total, \$3,863,000.

The proposed new organization of these three large Government industrial enterprises has a twofold object: To place within the reach of the Government, during a period of three or four years, funds exceeding \$51,910,400, and to give a higher technical, commercial, and industrial efficiency to the enterprises.

### TRADE REVIEW OF BOLIVIA.

The annual message of the President of Bolivia, delivered at the convening of Congress at La Paz on August 6, shows a considerable increase in the foreign trade of that country during the present year. The total imports and exports for the first four months of 1916 amounted to 48,187,242 bolivianos (boliviano equals 38.93 cents), these figures representing an increase of 18,381,082 bolivianos over the foreign trade for the same period in 1915. The imports for this first third of 1916 were valued at 8,008,664 bolivianos and the exports at 40,178,578 bolivianos, showing an excess of exports over imports of 32,169,914 bolivianos. For the whole of 1915 the excess of exports over imports was 72,635,784 bolivianos.

#### Effect of Trade on Foreign Exchange.

One of the effects of this difference between imports and exports, as shown by the President in his message quoted in the West Coast Leader, was the rise in the foreign exchange of the boliviano from a serious depreciation to a point slightly above par, with a tendency to further advance. In view of this fact, the Government deemed it wise to anticipate the maturity of certain foreign obligations, since by making payment at this time it would increase the demand for drafts and establish an equilibrium between offer and demand. Accordingly, the Banco de la Nacion canceled the balance of the 1915 loan which it had contracted with the National City Bank of New York, and which was not due until 1917. This withdrew drafts amounting to \$708,333 from the Bolivian market, and an advance payment to a London bank withdrew \$340,655 more. The rise in the exchange rate was checked, and the present indications are that the rate will be maintained in the neighborhood of par. All Government obligations, foreign as well as domestic, are paid up to July 1 of this year, and the funds credited in foreign countries to Bolivian banks amount to 5,013,605 bolivianos, a substantial increase over such funds a year ago. In connection with the maintenance of currency on a gold basis, the President renews a recommendation made a year ago for the coinage of Bolivian gold pieces. The supply of English sovereigns being inadequate, and the Banco de la Nacion having a quantity of gold ingots on hand, the proposed coinage would seem to be immediately advisable.

#### Customs Revenues.

The customs revenues in 1915 amounted to 6,437,859 bolivianos, a falling off of 2,781,788 bolivianos, or about 30 per cent from the

receipts of 1914. This decrease is chiefly due to the decrease in imports following the outbreak of the war in Europe. The exports, on the other hand, have greatly increased, but they are composed chiefly of minerals [see **COMMERCE REPORTS** for Mar. 27, 1916] on which there is no duty, or only a low rate. The total duty on imports in 1915 was less than 12 per cent of the value, and the total duty on exports less than 3 per cent. In consideration of these rates, and the country's need of increased revenues, the President favors a revision of the tariff.

#### **Proposed Measures for Development of Resources.**

The President likewise recommends a revision of mining laws and regulations, to facilitate the clearing of titles, and to prevent the increasing controversies over doubtful points. Large concessions of petroleum land have been granted in various parts of Bolivia and, although as yet there has been no considerable working of the deposits, the President proposes the passing of laws to govern the exploitation of petroleum. The Government has heard proposals for the commercial exploiting of salt and chloride of sodium deposits, but the President has refused to accept these proposals, believing that such deposits should continue to be worked on a free basis by the native class now principally exploiting them, and Congress is asked to pass legislation in regard to this question. A tin smelter is soon to be installed in the neighborhood of La Paz, and efforts to smelt tin electrically on a commercially paying basis are receiving the encouragement of the Government.

#### **FOREIGN-TRADE COURSE AT PHILADELPHIA.**

A foreign-trade course for the season of 1916-17 is to be given by the Philadelphia School of Commerce and Accounts at the Central Y. M. C. A., 1421 Arch Street, Philadelphia, Pa., in cooperation with the Foreign Trade Committee of the Philadelphia Chamber of Commerce. The enterprise was inaugurated in the spring at the suggestion of the chamber of commerce, and the initial term began in March, ending in June, 1916, with a registration of 75 men and women. The first term of the new year is to begin October 2, when another beginners' course is planned, and advanced instruction will also be given. The second term will begin January 29, 1917.

Provision is made for regular classroom instruction, with illustrations, quizzes, discussions, and textbook study. Each of the two evenings a week that are devoted to this course is divided between foreign-trade topics and languages.

#### **OFFICES OF THE BUREAU OF FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC COMMERCE.**

##### **DISTRICT OFFICES.**

**NEW YORK:** Room 409, Customhouse.  
**BOSTON:** 1801 Customhouse.  
**CHICAGO:** 504 Federal Building.  
**ST. LOUIS:** 402 Third National Bank Building.  
**ATLANTA:** 521 Post Office Building.  
**NEW ORLEANS:** 1020 Hibernia Bank Building.  
**SAN FRANCISCO:** 307 Customhouse.  
**SEATTLE:** 848 Henry Building.

##### **COOPERATIVE OFFICES.**

**CLEVELAND:** Chamber of Commerce.  
**CINCINNATI:** Chamber of Commerce.  
**CINCINNATI:** C., N. O. & T. P. Ry. Co.  
**LOS ANGELES:** Chamber of Commerce.  
**PHILADELPHIA:** Chamber of Commerce.  
**CHATTANOOGA:** South American Agent, Southern Ry. Co.  
**PORTLAND, OREG.:** Chamber of Commerce.  
**DAYTON:** Greater Dayton Association.

## FOREIGN TRADE OPPORTUNITIES.

Reserved addresses may be obtained from the Bureau and its district offices. Request for each opportunity should be on a separate sheet and state opportunity number. The Bureau does not furnish credit ratings or assume responsibility as to the standing of foreign inquirers; the usual precautions should be taken in all cases.

*Hardware, etc.*, No. 22537.—An American consular officer in Greece writes that a hardware firm in his district desires to enter into commercial relations with manufacturers of iron pipes and fittings; lubricating and machine oils; leather and canvas belting; belting laces; galvanized, coppered, and enameled wire; wire netting; hoes; shovels; hammers and sledges, with and without handles; spiral rubber and canvas hose; and wire and common iron nails. Correspondence in English, but French is preferred.

*Chemicals*, No. 22538.—An American consular officer in Spain reports that a firm of fertilizer manufacturers in his district wishes to import sulphurous anhydride; anhydrous ammonia; ammonium sulphite, 20 to 21 per cent; sodium bisulphite; and potassium bisulphate. It is desired that both of sulphurous anhydride and ammonia be in liquid form and packed in cylinders containing 50 kilograms. These products are intended for use in an ice plant. Correspondence should be in Spanish or French. References.

*Enameled ware, textiles, etc.*, No. 22539.—The commercial attaché of the Department of Commerce in Peru reports that a firm in that country wishes to obtain from American manufacturers catalogues, quotations, discounts, and other information covering the following articles: Enameled ware; woolen underwear; common cotton handkerchiefs; glassware and crockery; perfumery; pencils, paper, etc.; razor strops; shaving brushes; penknives; galvanized buckets; trunks; leather coats; and umbrellas. Correspondence may be in English.

*Hardware and ammunition*, No. 22540.—An American consular officer in Denmark writes that a business man in his district is desirous of representing American manufacturers and exporters of hardware and ammunition.

*Electrical apparatus*, No. 22541.—A manufacturers' agent in Cuba desires to represent American manufacturers of electric motors, transformers, and electrical apparatus, and supplies of all kinds.

*Phonographs*, No. 22542.—An American consular officer in Newfoundland reports a possible market in that country for cheap phonographs, costing in the United States from \$3.50 to \$5.

*Cotton machinery, etc.*, No. 22543.—A business man in Chile desires to interest American capital in the establishment of a plant in Chile for the manufacture of cotton for medicinal purposes. The establishment of this plant will involve the purchase in the United States of the requisite machinery and equipment, raw materials, packing boxes, etc.

*Motor cycles, etc.*, No. 22544.—An American consular officer in the Netherlands reports that a company in his district desires to represent American manufacturers of bicycles, motor cycles, and accessories. Reference.

*Ale hogsheads*, No. 22545.—An American consular officer in the Far East writes that a firm in his district offers for sale in the United States about 1,000 ale hogsheads of 54 gallons each. The hogsheads have been knocked down, packed in bundles of one hogshead each, tops, bottoms, and hoops packed in separate bundles.

*Sugar*, No. 22546.—An American consular officer in Portugal writes that a firm in his district is in the market for refined and unrefined sugar in large quantities. Correspondence may be in English.

*Dried bananas*, No. 22547.—An American consular officer in Central America reports that a manufacturer of evaporated products desires to secure a market in the United States for dried or evaporated bananas. Correspondence in English.

*Cords and twines*, No. 22548.—An American consular officer in the United Kingdom reports that a firm of manufacturers and dealers in bagging and cordage would like to correspond with American exporters of cotton cords and twines.

# COMMERCE REPORTS



DAILY CONSULAR AND TRADE REPORTS  
ISSUED DAILY BY THE BUREAU OF FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC COMMERCE  
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE



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## EXPORTS FROM BRADFORD TO UNITED STATES.

[Consul Augustus E. Ingram, Bradford, England, Sept. 14.]

The declared exports to the United States from the Bradford consular district during August, 1916, amounted to \$937,966, showing a decrease of \$203,468 as compared with the total for the previous month, and a decrease of \$532,082 compared with August, 1915. The absence of raw wool and mohair from the list, which exports amounted in August, 1915, to \$565,855, more than accounts for this decrease. No wool yarn or tops were shipped, and there was also a falling off in the shipments of wool noils and wastes, mohair tops, worsted cloths, wool dress goods and coat linings, and carpets. Spun silk yarn showed an increase owing to the higher prices now prevailing, but on account of the embargo no silk noils were shipped. The largest item during the month was, as during several months past, that of cotton cloths, chiefly linings, which amounted to \$404,352.

## SCARCITY OF CHEMICALS FOR CANADIAN PUBLIC WORKS.

[Consul Edward A. Dow, St. Stephen, New Brunswick.]

There appears to be a scarcity of chemicals used in filtration plants of waterworks systems in this district.

At Fredericton, the capital of the Province, a shipment of aluminum sulphate and of hypochlorite was secured a few months ago at a cost of about \$2,000, or four times the price paid prior to the war. The officers in charge of the plant have been requested to find out if any other chemicals suitable for filtering can be secured at a lower figure.

The same conditions possibly prevail throughout the district. A Government official insists that the opinion is well founded that the use of these chemicals in filtering water can not be counted upon as satisfactory, except for emergency use. He states that the amount of these chemicals required to destroy completely all harmful bacteria is so great that their use renders water more or less offensive to smell and taste. The Canadian Commission of Conservation lately issued a report on the waterworks and sewerage systems of Canada,

to which reference was made in **COMMERCE REPORTS** for July 15, 1916, page 182. The report mentions the following cities and towns in this district as equipped with waterworks: Andover, Edmunston, Fredericton, Gibson, Grand Falls, Hartland, Milltown (supplying also St. Stephen), Perth, St. Andrews, St. Marys, and Woodstock. Steam and electric power are mostly used.

#### **Municipal Ownership of Systems.**

The ownership is municipal in nearly all cases. Municipalities own 18 out of a total of 20 plants in New Brunswick and 396 (or three-fourths) of the 528 waterworks systems throughout Canada.

There are sewerage systems in this district in Fredericton, Milltown, Perth, St. Andrews, St. Stephen, and Woodstock.

The above-mentioned report shows that in the three maritime Provinces of Canada, including New Brunswick, there is no chemical treatment of sewage. This is true of about two-thirds of the remaining sewerage systems in Canada. In 75 cases there is treatment by means of plants, costing in the aggregate over \$3,000,000.

### **DEMAND FOR AMERICAN PRODUCTS IN FRANCE.**

[Vice Consul Frank C. Lee, Bordeaux, Sept. 6.]

August was a busy month at the Bordeaux consulate from a commercial standpoint, principally because of the inquiries from both American and French firms wishing to obtain a share of the enormous business that is now being carried on between the two countries.

During the past month 51 letters were received at the consulate from various manufacturers, importers, and exporters, both French and American. Information was sought concerning the markets for products in this district, the establishing of agencies in Bordeaux, or other features of trade. Most noticeable was the interest of French firms in obtaining American goods. Of the 51 commercial letters received, 16 were from French houses inquiring for interested exporters. The names of such firms as had either written or sent literature concerning their manufactures were given to them. The trade directories issued by the different American associations were also consulted.

#### **Classes of Manufactures Sought by Dealers.**

Among the manufactures that have been asked for by these French firms are: Jewelry, watches, and supplies, electric heating and cooking apparatus, machines to make brushes, moving picture films and supplies, hay mowers, hardware, copper sulphate, goods suitable for colonial trade, tiling clays, etc. Besides the letters, there were approximately 45 personal visits of inquiry from representatives of firms in this district.

Some of this interest has been created by the *Bulletin des Offres Commerciales*, which is issued every week by the consulate, and in which the names and commercial offers of American firms are printed. There are now 49 firms in this district receiving the bulletin in response to their expressed desire to get in touch with American exporters. These firms often turn the bulletins over to friends interested in specific offers. A copy is also sent to the director of the Office de Documentation of Bordeaux, who issues a similar bulletin



in which he reprints many of the offers made by the American firms. In this way a wide circulation is obtained. During the past month four inquiries were received from outside this district through the medium of the bulletin, one of them from England.

**Shipping Favorable to Bordeaux.**

The district around Bordeaux is gradually awakening to the fact that much depends on the immediate beginnings of commercial relations with the United States while such a large amount of shipping is being done through this port. If shipping to Bordeaux proves favorable now, it will be more than doubly so after the war.

American exporters must also realize that, although correspondence is one of the first steps to be taken in the development of a foreign market, the most satisfactory and the shortest method is to send a representative for personal interviews with the buyers, to show samples, quote prices and terms, and give all particulars at once. Many agents who have worked in this district find it comparatively easy to get orders for their goods when such methods are employed.

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**GAME HUNTING IN NEW BRUNSWICK.**

[Consul Edward A. Dow, St. Stephen, New Brunswick, Canada, Sept. 19.]

The season for hunting big game in the Province of New Brunswick began September 15 and will close November 30. Hunters seek moose, caribou, and deer, the shooting of which is prohibited at all other times in the year. There is a further prohibition, even during the season, against shooting cow moose or caribou, or the calves of either species if under the age of 3 years. No person may kill or take during a single season more than one bull moose, one bull caribou, and two deer. Trapping, snaring, hunting with dogs, and shooting between one hour after sunset and one hour after sunrise are not permitted.

Further information as to licenses, guides, etc., may be obtained upon application to the Minister of Lands and Mines at Fredericton. Nonresidents are not allowed to hunt unless accompanied by resident licensed guides.

September 15 also marks the opening of the season for shooting partridge, woodcock, and snipe.

The game season of a year ago was not ideal, as there were prolonged periods of wet and stormy weather. Military enlistments reduced the number of local hunters. Nearly all nonresident game licenses were taken by American residents, who numbered in all 369 from 23 States. There were 72 residents of 8 States who secured bird licenses in the Province in 1915.

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**Gas Plants for Colon and Panama City.**

In connection with a recent notice in **COMMERCE REPORTS** of the erection of a new gas plant for Colon, Panama, a firm in Philadelphia writes the Bureau that individual gas plants are being erected at both Colon and Panama City and that the firm has the financing, construction, and management of these properties in charge.

**DEMAND FOR FOUNTAIN PENS IN HUNGARY.**

[Consul James B. Young, Fiume, Aug. 11.]

There is a fair demand for fountain pens in the Fiume consular district, but the supply is filled largely by local manufacturers, who would be the chief competitors of any firms entering this field. There is a large manufacturer and exporter of fountain pens, and clips for such pens and pencils, at Zagreb (Agram), Croatia. The firm's output is largely of a cheaper quality, as a low-priced article is said to meet the local demand. There are also American fountain pens on sale in this market. Prevailing prices of fountain pens here vary, as there is considerable difference in quality and the materials of which they are made.

**Advantages in Granting Exclusive Agencies.**

If an article is salable and is offered at a reasonable price, meeting the local demands, it might be advisable in establishing trade in this market to consider an exclusive agency here, which would perhaps be preferable to opening a branch. Fiume might not be so well suited to the establishment of a central agency as Budapest, which has more facilities for such an enterprise. Fiume is first of all a port, and a point of transshipment, but is not a center. One of the subagencies might be established here, with exclusive selling rights in a certain defined district.

Cooperation with a reliable agent would enable an American firm to establish the proper c. i. f. prices to be charged. Test shipments might be made in order to assist in finding out what those prices should be.

**Austro-Hungarian Customs Duty.**

Customs and port charges would not enter into the c. i. f. price of the article, but the customs duty on fountain pens when imported into Austria-Hungary may be estimated at about 100 crowns (now about \$13.33, but in normal times about \$20.30) per 100 kilos (220.4 pounds), being classed in the Austro-Hungarian customs tariff according to the material of which they are made. A difference would also be made in the rate of duty according to the metal trimmings or parts, such as decorations and pens, affecting the duty according to the kind of component metal.

Although German is not the language of the people of this region, it is usually employed in business correspondence between local firms and foreign business houses. Much local business is conducted in Croatian and Italian. The last two languages are ordinarily employed by the people of this region in speaking. Italian is the language of the coast. Croatian, used in the interior, is the same as Serbian when spoken, but is written differently on account of the employment of special alphabetical characters in Serbia.

**Zagreb Suitable Place for Subagency.**

The Croatian consumers in the interior far outnumber the Italian and German consumers in this region, and Zagreb (Agram) would be a suitable place for the establishment of a subagency in almost any line of business, as Croatian is the language of the town, and it also has direct railway connections with Vienna, Budapest, Belgrade,

Trieste, and Fiume. Through bills of lading to interior towns are granted in times of peace by steamship companies whose lines ply between New York and Fiume.

It has been found of the utmost importance to ship and pack exactly according to orders, and not to substitute other methods or other goods for those specified in the orders.

[Lists of dealers in office supplies at Fiume and Zagreb may be obtained from the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, its district or cooperative offices. Refer to file No. 80090.]

## CROP CONDITIONS IN ENGLAND AND WALES.

[Consul General Robert P. Skinner, London, England, Sept. 11.]

The following paragraphs are taken from the British Monthly Agricultural Report for August, issued by the Board of Agriculture and Fisheries:

The crop reporters of the board, in reporting on agricultural conditions in England and Wales on September 1, state that the weather of August was generally favorable for nearly all crops. Fine and hot weather during the first fortnight helped to ripen the grain, while the rain during the last fortnight was badly wanted by the roots and pastures. Although the rain, which was heavy in some parts of England, delayed the harvesting operations, few reports of damage to the grain were received, while in some districts it was welcomed as a useful check to the corn which was ripening rather too rapidly.

Harvesting of grain made good progress in the south of England, except at the end of the month; and a commencement had been made in most parts, but comparatively little had been carried. Wheat shows scarcely any change during the month. Barley improved on the whole, but the quality may have been somewhat damaged by the wet. Oats are the poorest of the three cereals, though winter oats are good. All three crops are best in the north and in Wales. In the east, and also the southwest, some damage is reported from the wet, and some corn has sprouted. Beans maintain their promise to be over-average, but peas have fallen off somewhat.

Prospects for potatoes are satisfactory, indications pointing to the yield being just above average. Little disease is reported as yet, except in the southwest.

The weather has been very suitable for the roots. Mangolds, after the spell of sunshine, made good growth; while turnips and sweeds, which had been checked by the hot weather, grew well as soon as the rain set in. Hoeing has been rather neglected, and the yield is not likely to be above average in either case.

Apples and pears are both very small crops; while plums are below average, although they are about normal in the Worcestershire district.

Hops have deteriorated somewhat in Kent during the month mainly owing to the attacks of red mold, which have been severe, and may lead to some yards being picked prematurely, or left unpicked. The yield will probably be from 5 to 10 per cent below the mean. Elsewhere the mold is not so bad, and the prospects of a month ago for an average crop are about maintained.

Pastures have, in most districts, plenty of grass. They were getting bare by the middle of the month, and the wet weather was of great benefit, but in some parts the rain had not yet produced its full effect. Live stock have done well generally except where the grass became very short.

Labor is short, but women and soldiers have been of great assistance in most parts of the country. No very great difficulty seems to be feared in getting in the harvest, and the chief result of the deficiency has been the neglect of root-hoeing. Harvest wages are much higher than a year ago.

Summarizing the returns, and expressing an average crop by 100, the condition of the crops on September 1 indicated probable yields which may be denoted by the following percentages: Wheat, 97; barley, 99; oats, 95; beans, 101; peas, 97; potatoes, 101; turnips and swedes, 99; mangolds, 97; hops, 94.

**NORWAY'S METAL-TRADES IMPORTS IN WAR TIME.**

[Consul Charles Forman, Bergen, Aug. 11.]

Such articles as copper and brass sheets, rods, tubes, wire, zinc in sheets and rods, lead pipes, etc., as well as bronze wire, German-silver wire, and similar articles would find a ready market in Norway at present were it not for conditions arising from the war. Ordinarily the greater proportion of the articles referred to are imported from Germany and Great Britain, while Sweden also is an important source of supply. There would be an excellent opening for American goods were it not for the high rates of ocean freight and restrictions upon the importation of copper, etc., into the Scandinavian countries. American exporters also are said to demand cash before the goods are shipped, and this is not attractive to purchasers, who are not sure that the goods will be delivered within a reasonable time.

**Statistics of Imports of Various Classes.**

Statistics are available only for the whole of Norway. The values of imports for 1913 and 1914, the latest years for which import statistics can be obtained, are:

Articles.	1913	1914
(a) Copper, brass, German silver, etc., raw.....	\$120,252	\$788,088
(b) Aluminum, copper, brass, German silver, etc., in plates, bolts, and rods...	515,257	430,000
(c) Lead, raw.....	40,012	47,694
(d) Lead in rolls, rods, and plates.....	59,684	60,728
(e) Zinc, raw.....	1,384,088	2,042,347
(f) Zinc in plates, bolts, and rods.....	160,260	128,908
(g) Copper nails, spikes, screws, pipes, etc.....	196,724	182,079
(h) Copper wire, etc.....	453,315	534,006
(i) Lead pipes, spikes, etc.....	57,540	39,181

Of (a) Great Britain and Germany together furnished in 1913 more than one-half, but in 1914 nearly all was furnished by the United States. Of (b) and (c) Great Britain and Germany together supplied far the larger part in both years, the former country supplying more than one-half of (d) in both 1913 and 1914. About three-fourths of the raw zinc (e) was imported from Germany, as was more than half of the manufactured zinc (f), in both the years mentioned.

Germany was the source of supply of nearly half of the copper nails, spikes, etc., and of more than half of the copper wire in 1913 and 1914, Great Britain ranking second as to the copper nails, spikes, etc., in 1913. In 1914 Sweden stood second to Germany as an exporter to Norway of copper wire, France ranking third. The imports of lead pipes, etc., from Great Britain and Germany together exceeded the imports from all other countries combined in both 1913 and 1914.

**Change in Conditions Will Favor Americans.**

When a change takes place in the conditions, American exporters will probably do considerable business in Norway in this line. It will be easier to obtain orders if manufacturers consent to accept payment on arrival of goods instead of on shipment. Importers are generally granted a discount of 2 per cent for cash (30 days), and, if desired, a credit of three months is extended.

The goods herein referred to are free of duty under Nos. 469 to 481 of the Norwegian import tariff, except articles which are plated, gilded, or silvered. Prices should be quoted c. i. f. Bergen, if possible, but may be quoted f. o. b. New York. Bergen has direct steamship connection with New York by the steamers of the Norwegian-American Line. Correspondence may be in English, but Norwegian is preferable.

[Lists of agents, dealers, and users of the classes of goods mentioned in the report, at Bergen, may be obtained from the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, its district or cooperative offices. Refer to file No. 79959.]

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### **SOUTH AFRICAN BUCHU AND OTHER MEDICINAL PLANTS.**

[Vice Consul Fayette J. Flexer, Port Elizabeth, Aug. 3.]

While considerable quantities of South African medicinal herbs have been shipped to European and American pharmaceutical chemists, a large number of plants that are known to possess curative properties are still used only by the Boer and native populations. Buchu leaves are a notable instance. The British and American pharmacopœias list merely the variety *Barosma betulina* (*Barosma crenata*), which is obtainable only in small quantities and at comparatively great expense. At least 19 varieties of *Barosma* are commercially available in the Port Elizabeth district, three of which, when submitted to London for testing, were reported to possess the properties of the *betulina*.

A local collector has obtained quantities of buchu leaves and herbs, which have been classified according to their African medicinal reputations, and is willing to forward samples to scientific laboratories or to manufacturing druggists who will undertake to thoroughly test his offerings. He is prepared to supply in commercial quantities, and according to sample, all varieties in his collection. His address may be obtained from the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce or its district and cooperative offices. [Refer to file No. 80349.]

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### **CHART OF PASSAIC AND HACKENSACK RIVERS.**

The United States Department of Commerce has announced the publication by the Coast and Geodetic Survey of New Chart No. 287, Passaic and Hackensack Rivers, N. J.; scale, 1:20,000 (3.2 inches to the statute mile); dimensions, 40½ by 28½ inches. Price, 50 cents.

The depths are expressed in feet, and to afford a contrast between the water and land areas the latter is tinted a buff color.

Heretofore the Passaic River has been charted on a large scale only to a short distance above Newark and only the mouth of the Hackensack River shown. The new chart has been designed to include both rivers from their junction at the head of Newark Bay up as far as the cities of Passaic and Hackensack, each situated, respectively, on the river of the same name. The magnitude of the great industrial interests which these rivers serve is indicated by the value of the water-borne traffic, which in 1914 amounted to \$81,489,426.

**INCREASED TRADE OF NEW ZEALAND.**

[Consul General Alfred A. Winslow, Auckland, Aug. 4.]

The financial, industrial, and business conditions in New Zealand for the first six months of 1916 were excellent, with exports including specie amounting to \$99,231,508 and imports \$58,251,100, leaving a trade balance of \$40,980,408 for the six months, against a total balance of trade for 1915 of \$48,762,709, and \$21,438,641 for 1914.

The financial conditions were never better in New Zealand, and money is plentiful for legitimate undertakings, but at a slight increased interest rate in most cases. Collections are good and business in general is done practically on a cash basis. The financial outlook for the balance of 1916 is splendid and confidence in the future prevails.

**Industrial Conditions—The Building Trade—Cost of Living.**

Practically all of the industries in New Zealand were busy during the first six months of 1916 with large orders for the future. This is especially true with the woolen mills and boot and shoe factories, and even by working overtime they have not been able to meet the demands, so that there is an increased demand for imports in these lines.

Building in this Dominion was slow for the first six months of 1916, but several new structures are under way in Auckland, and the outlook for homebuilding is promising, notwithstanding the high price of building material. This will increase the demand for American builder's hardware, with low stocks at this time.

The cost of living has materially increased in New Zealand of late. The cost of groceries, provisions, etc., has increased on an average of 15 per cent since July 31, 1914; dairy products, 28 per cent; and meats, 19 per cent; while rents have advanced even more in some localities. National and municipal bodies and private employers are generally granting war bonuses at the rate of 10 to 20 per cent.

**Imports by Countries.**

The following table gives the imports by countries for the first six months of 1914, 1915, and 1916:

Countries.	January-June, 1914.	January-June, 1915.	January-June, 1916.	Countries.	January-June, 1914.	January-June, 1915.	January-June, 1916.
Australia.....	\$9,581,627	\$8,453,468	\$10,754,756	Philippine Islands.....	\$47,560	\$53,239	\$58,184
Belgium.....	360,578	5,500	10,079	United Kingdom.....	29,922,410	22,932,855	28,807,432
Canada:				United States:			
East coast.....	950,544	1,354,040	937,064	East coast.....	4,861,809	3,494,093	5,868,911
West coast.....	254,093	597,324	783,915	West coast.....	917,832	2,210,062	3,330,118
France.....	385,435	182,766	269,298	Other countries.....	5,853,379	6,355,085	6,224,244
Germany.....	1,786,244	7,553	10,225				
Japan.....	331,166	431,415	902,750	Total.....	55,595,363	46,275,493	58,251,100
Netherlands.....	342,037	168,103	146,104				

It will be noted that the United States has made by far the greatest gain of any country for the first half of the years 1914, 1915, and 1916, and a particularly big gain over 1915. Canada comes next, but with quite a loss over the first six months of 1915. Japan has made a relatively big gain. American producers have secured much of the business formerly done by Germany and some of that lost by Great Britain.

## Imports by Articles.

The following table gives the value of the principal imports into New Zealand for the first six months of 1914, 1915, and 1916:

Countries.	January- June, 1914.	January- June, 1915.	January- June, 1916.	Countries.	January- June, 1914.	January- June, 1915.	January- June, 1916.
Agricultural machinery.....	\$414,563	\$179,817	\$238,488	Leather manufactures and saddlery.....	\$203,570	\$136,719	\$183,963
Apples, fresh.....	2,638	535	774	Linen.....	96,473	89,938	94,157
Bars, bolts, and rods, iron.....	488,431	321,145	592,248	Linseed oil.....	129,923	93,758	163,986
Beer, ale, and stout.....	153,450	110,246	112,119	Lumber.....	1,058,941	697,477	313,349
Benzine.....	860,577	890,740	785,960	Manures.....	1,328,496	728,355	906,317
Benzoline, gasoline, etc.....	402,430	107,102	329,545	Matches and vestas.....	94,215	61,063	64,727
Bicycles, motorcycles, etc.....	151,548	107,661	354,875	Millinery.....	269,214	194,962	225,241
Books, paper, and music, printed.....	586,253	465,194	488,129	Mineral lubricating oil.....	127,619	105,800	280,593
Boots, shoes, and slippers.....	907,169	798,797	747,086	Mining machinery.....	72,491	110,864	38,757
Candles.....	94,381	88,025	60,053	Nails.....	145,289	120,748	208,306
Canvas.....	279,074	222,662	214,199	Paints, colors, and varnishes.....	463,412	326,469	492,976
Calcium carbide.....	107,253	98,449	83,490	Paper.....	530,765	582,038	611,437
Carpeting, matting, and oilcloth.....	443,328	334,256	495,711	Printing.....	256,426	219,713	310,663
Castor oil.....	64,418	89,237	71,961	Other.....	246,629	161,755	191,716
Cigarettes.....	542,245	453,436	579,308	Pianos.....	37,278	25,067	28,523
Cigars.....	90,887	39,243	54,821	Pickles and sauces.....	62,578	53,960	46,465
Coal.....	1,845,971	1,011,171	443,708	Pig and bar lead.....	126,884	103,168	97,656
Cocoa and chocolate.....	145,484	128,963	228,653	Pig and scrap iron.....	661,275	470,599	631,059
Coffee and chicory.....	27,812	35,832	52,037	Railway and tramway plant.....	293,718	418,787	279,060
Confectionery.....	411,156	282,174	413,064	Raisins.....	142,603	232,215	327,574
Cordage and twine.....	202,218	217,533	237,261	Rice.....	169,417	162,458	182,663
Corrugated galvanized sheet iron.....	710,645	369,533	677,772	Sacks.....	831,787	920,163	820,726
Cotton piece goods.....	1,923,090	1,960,041	3,142,864	Salt.....	180,586	139,479	209,332
Currants.....	59,182	46,529	89,471	Seeds, grass and clover.....	305,013	521,071	419,302
Dairying machinery.....	136,588	78,297	167,534	Sewing machines.....	111,726	81,426	136,914
Drapery.....	641,298	439,576	583,557	Sheet lead.....	94,702	38,436	47,790
Earthen and china-ware.....	299,338	183,190	323,958	Silk piece goods.....	297,353	379,129	577,668
Electrical machinery.....	1,109,178	671,227	1,147,248	Specie.....	2,433,323	2,854,538	3,807,783
Engines, gas, etc.....	392,128	255,589	128,733	Spirits.....	825,032	754,337	1,136,909
Fencing wire.....				Stationery.....	292,462	218,160	280,503
Barbed.....	135,790	79,290	63,396	Sugar.....	748,171	1,556,078	1,263,465
Plain.....	315,568	163,023	338,679	Tin, ingot, bar, etc.....	1,080,275	972,531	958,170
Figs, dates, prunes.....	123,916	135,403	116,066	Tin, ingot, bar, etc.....	121,259	69,187	88,872
Fish, preserved.....	242,984	234,677	183,895	Tinned sheets and plates.....	198,421	141,382	340,421
Glass and glassware.....	463,174	331,326	439,781	Tobacco, manufactured.....	851,895	756,862	856,202
Hardware.....	941,308	549,267	825,057	Tools.....	366,574	229,397	288,476
Hats and caps.....	286,832	221,046	290,788	Turpentine.....	31,428	29,472	52,534
Hosiery.....	504,948	431,420	793,002	Vehicles, motor cars.....	493,327		2,005,155
India rubber goods (other than tires).....	112,153	95,631	118,601	Wearing apparel.....	3,256,560	2,061,750	2,807,993
Kerosene.....	458,590	428,763	380,663	Wine.....	217,800	172,758	188,985
Leather.....	306,483	309,675	418,558	Woolen piece goods.....	1,044,400	1,235,818	1,682,154
				All other articles.....	17,939,577	15,082,706	17,774,347
				Total.....	55,505,363	46,275,493	58,251,100

Although the total value of imports for the first six months of 1916 was \$2,655,737 more than for the same period of 1914, the quantity of imports was materially less, because of the great increase in prices in many cases, such as iron manufacturers, leather, paper, tinplate, etc. This, with the light imports for 1915, has caused a serious shortage in many lines that should be supplied largely from the United States, and it will pay American interests to come after this business in earnest.

It is not possible at this time to give the country of origin of imports, but the increases from the United States have been quite general, and in the case of automobiles, benzine and gasoline, bicycles and tricycles, glass, hosiery, machinery, tobacco and ciga-

rettes, where it is estimated that the increases amounted to from 40 to 200 per cent over 1915.

#### Exports by Countries.

The exports including specie for the six months greatly exceeded any previous period in the history of the country, amounting to \$99,231,508 against \$105,946,532 for the total exports for the year 1912. Fresh meat, butter and cheese, and wood accounted for fully 80 per cent of the exports, and there are still large supplies to go forward. During the past six months Great Britain has taken practically all of the above-mentioned articles, save in the case of wool, of which the United States took fully \$6,000,000 worth. This is the first time for many years that the exports to the United States exceeded the imports from America during any six months.

The following table gives the exports by countries for the first six months of 1914, 1915, and 1916:

Countries.	1914	1915	1916
Australia.....	\$5,962,153	\$5,622,136	\$6,078,390
Belgium.....	161,490		5
Canada:			
East coast.....	54,144	7,052	6,244
West coast.....	1,413,397	2,079,796	2,078,307
France.....	1,069,741	5,202	1,538,681
Germany.....	2,160,064		24
Japan.....	4,336	290,885	275,157
Netherlands.....	3,251	5	
Philippine Islands.....	19	39	5
United Kingdom.....	71,105,288	75,616,310	78,551,160
United States:			
East coast.....	2,837,179	378,263	3,277,559
West coast.....	366,486	380,838	6,098,670
Other countries.....	1,183,690	2,098,250	1,531,916
Total.....	86,341,258	86,478,776	99,231,508

The United States stood second in the value of exports from New Zealand during the six months, and made by far the greatest relative increase.

At the close of the war it seems clear that New Zealand's fine butter, cheese, mutton, and beef can be marketed on the Atlantic coast of the United States through the Panama Canal to the advantage of both peoples; and it is also clear that we shall want their wool, hides, skins, and pelts in large quantities, and the New Zealand authorities intend to make the most of it, according to present indications.

#### Exports by Articles.

The following table gives the quantity and value of the principal articles of export for the first six months of 1914, 1915, and 1916 (ton=2,240 pounds; hundredweight=112 pounds):

Articles.	1914		1915		1916	
	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.
Butter.....cwt..	234,997	\$6,065,353	212,719	\$6,063,291	195,973	\$6,565,692
Casings.....lbs..	2,949,103	467,233	2,814,895	594,127	1,898,209	719,103
Cheese.....cwt..	643,721	9,292,241	511,704	7,897,424	635,529	10,280,823
Coal.....tons..	111,038	544,595	204,529	1,021,547	174,466	840,164
Fruit, fresh apples.....lbs..			2,326,250	98,182	858,591	26,057



Articles.	1914		1915		1916	
	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.
Gold.....ozs.	177,251	\$3,400,301	59,975	\$1,175,664	166,619	\$3,368,037
Gum, kauri.....tons.	5,084	1,428,084	1,858	540,736	2,644	799,522
Hemp.....do.	15,788	1,589,501	12,677	1,278,697	13,595	2,100,663
Hides.....No.	105,961	850,377	124,177	1,111,309	178,128	1,698,428
Leather.....lbs.	272,294	90,580	277,691	111,443	188,826	91,072
Meats, frozen:						
Beef.....cwt.	300,065	2,142,258	379,204	3,985,503	568,758	5,910,827
Lamb.....do.	914,457	9,852,093	624,249	7,675,614	472,754	5,842,048
Mutton.....do.	927,885	6,921,409	704,221	6,897,904	565,809	5,541,392
Seeds, grass and clover.....do.	27,929	228,944	6,813	103,652	6,101	102,333
Skins:						
Calf.....No.	51,589	70,593	65,934	90,785	82,833	117,292
Rabbit.....do.	2,440,721	146,306	2,007,314	71,328	1,832,131	100,887
Sheep, with wool.....do.	478,630	546,318	329,330	445,465	227,342	436,978
Sheep, without wool do.	5,352,741	2,126,476	5,184,782	2,055,561	5,392,652	2,358,505
Tallow.....tons.	17,206	2,401,656	17,257	2,452,497	12,295	2,052,358
Timber.....sup.ft.	42,898,462	1,055,719	34,612,637	834,945	33,495,348	861,915
Wool.....lbs.	167,640,834	33,867,809	152,359,359	36,736,882	141,760,519	45,283,726
All other articles.....		3,253,412		5,216,210		3,604,776
Total.....		86,341,258		86,478,776		99,231,508

By comparing the items in the above table it will be seen that the quantities exported during the first six months of 1916 were materially less than during the same period in 1914, although the values are much greater. This has put this Dominion in a prosperous position.

#### How to Extend American Trade.

New Zealanders consume a greater per capita quantity of imports than the people of any other country, and they are bound to continue heavy importers for the reason that it pays much better to cultivate the soil and develop the natural resources than to establish manufactures.

Personal work counts for much in this country, and it will pay well to send an active man into the field whenever possible, even though it be necessary to join issues with noncompeting interests in order to divide selling expenses. In sending out salesmen to Australasia care should be taken that they have Anglo-Saxon names, for others must labor under a serious handicap at this time.

Indent agents are important factors in the import business of this country, when salesmen can not be sent out, and there are many of them in New Zealand who thoroughly work the country three or four times a year, and are free to visit all classes of dealers. They take orders for the wholesaler as well as from the retailer, so they reach the entire trade. Indent agents are generally reliable, and special ratings can be had on them in the regular way.

[A list of the more important indent agents of the four important commercial centers in New Zealand can be obtained from the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce or its district and cooperative offices. Refer to file No. 79865.]

In correspondence with prospective buyers, manufacturers and exporters should give c. i. f. prices whenever possible, and never less than f. o. b. steamer at port of shipment. These are important matters, since a large proportion of imports are distributed from the docks to save handling and warehouse charges, so the importer must know as nearly as possible the cost price at New Zealand port.

This is especially true in the case of the indent agent who has many orders come forward by a single shipment to be distributed from the docks.

#### **Short-Paid Postage.**

Another item American manufacturers and exporters should carefully observe is the question of paying full postage charges, for it is annoying for New Zealand importers to be called on to pay surcharge postage on so much American mail, and often on mail that finds the wastebasket at once. The postal authorities in reply to an inquiry from this consulate general stated that 1,823 pieces of mail carrying short postage were received in New Zealand within four weeks, and I understand this is an ordinary occurrence. More short-paid postage mail arrived in this country from the United States than from all the balance of the world, and it seems to be getting worse, and is a serious handicap to business. The rate is 5 cents on an ordinary weight letter, or the same as the general full foreign letter. The rate on an ordinary letter from New Zealand to the United States is 1½d. (3 cents), of which ¾d. 1 cent) is a special war tax, but the rate from the United States to New Zealand is 5 cents.

#### **Articles in Demand.**

There is a good demand here at this time for almost all classes of manufactured articles since stocks in general are low. This is especially true of ready-made clothing, hosiery, boots and shoes, drapery, drugs and medicines, paper of all kinds, hardware of all kinds, wire, corrugated iron, electrical supplies, leather, articles manufactured from leather, such as hand bags, grips and suit cases, glass and glassware, paints and oil, and sheet lead.

With the Panama Canal open and direct steamship lines between the Atlantic Coast of the United States and Australasia, this should be a splendid field for American exports, and the steamship service is assured, for there are now agents of a strong American shipping company looking the field over with a view to establishing a regular monthly service both ways to begin with, and doubtless more will follow.

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### **BIRMINGHAM TO OPEN MUNICIPAL SAVINGS BANK.**

[Consul Samuel M. Taylor, Birmingham, England, Aug. 31.]

Under an act of Parliament recently passed Birmingham will establish a municipal savings bank. The object of this bank will be to secure the savings of all classes of workers, and more particularly the wage earners in munition establishments. Under the provisions of the act any bank established must be wound up three months after peace is declared. A further provision of the act is that the bank is "not to receive any deposits except from persons in the employ of some other person made through their employers, either by way of deductions in wages or otherwise." The maximum amount that can be on deposit to the credit of any one person is \$1,000. The funds of the bank on deposit can be invested only "through the National Debt Commissioners in such securities issued for the purposes of the present war as the commissioners think fit."

**SOUTH AFRICA'S PAPER-BAG SUPPLY DIMINISHING.**

[Consul Edwin N. Gansaulus, Johannesburg, July 31.]

The customs tariff for the Union of South Africa provides, under item 53c, class II, for an ad valorem duty of 25 per cent upon printed paper bags, with a rebate of 3 per cent ad valorem to goods manufactured in the United Kingdom or reciprocating British colonies; while under item 175, class VI, an ad valorem duty of 20 per cent is assessed upon bags not printed upon, with the same rebate of 3 per cent upon goods of British manufacture.

**Local Manufacture Undeveloped.**

The local manufacture of paper bags has not attained large proportions, nor is there any present indication of much capital being so invested. One factory at Cape Town, in the Cape Province, however, is manufacturing a few grades and sizes. It is hardly making any attempt to supply the local consumption. A greater percentage of these goods is imported, therefore, mostly from England, with a small quantity from the United States. During 1914 England exported paper bags valued at \$150,433 to South Africa, and in 1915 increased the amount to \$169,904. The imports for these respective years from the United States amounted to \$21,841 and \$33,121. As a rule, the wholesale dealers import direct.

In order to secure a footing in this market it will be necessary for an American manufacturer either to open a branch in South Africa or send a representative to travel throughout this district or grant an exclusive agency to some established firm. The representative should be prepared to advertise his goods and in that way clearly put them before the buying public.

**Shipping Routes and Terms of Payment.**

Imports of American goods into this consular district are made through East London, Port Elizabeth, Durban, and Lourenço Marquez. Most buyers are now paying cash against documents in New York and have in the past met payments largely by means of sight drafts.

Local dealers state that the supply of paper bags is being gradually diminished and that American exporters would probably find no more propitious time to enter this market than the present. Competition on the part of importers of English bags is quite certain, as this field has been largely in their hands. Imports of all kinds of articles made of paper in Canada is receiving a direct stimulus through Canadian representatives, who are doing their utmost to extend their sales.

[Samples of bags most commonly used in Johannesburg, including one of Cape Town manufacture, selling at \$170 f. o. b. per ton, may be inspected at the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, its district or cooperative offices. Lists of paper importers in South Africa may also be obtained from those offices. Refer in each instance to file No. 80276. An article on the market for paper bags in Cape Town was published in *COMMERCE REPORTS* for Sept. 1, 1916.]

The inland revenue returns at Vancouver, British Columbia, for August, 1916, amounted to \$63,586, compared with \$57,213 for July, 1916, and \$44,276 for August, 1915. The revenue from spirits for last month amounted to \$35,121.

**COCONUTS, COPRA, AND OIL IN DOMINICAN REPUBLIC.**

[Vice Consul Edward L. Zowe, Puerto Plata, Sept. 11.]

While coconuts are grown throughout the whole of the Puerto Plata district, Samana is the only port from which they are shipped on a commercial scale. In 1914 the exports aggregated 2,182,000 pounds, valued at \$22,690; in 1915 they totaled 2,013,296 pounds, valued at \$20,155. The nuts are packed in bags containing 100 each, and at present bring about \$33 per thousand f. o. b. Samana. There is an insect which is very harmful to the tree, and which the planter has not succeeded in exterminating. This insect has done much damage among the trees at Samana.

Copra is also exported from the port of Samana. Shipments to the United States during 1915 amounted to 264,669 pounds, valued at \$10,598. The present price of copra is about \$5.50 per 100 pounds f. o. b. Samana.

The supply of oil available is only sufficient for local demands. It is used to a great extent by the soap factories in Samana and Puerto Plata.

[A list of Samana merchants interested in coconuts, copra, and oil may be had upon application to the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce or its district and cooperative offices. Refer to file No. 80516.]

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**GASOLINE-MEASURING PUMPS INSPECTED.**

Inspections of gasoline-measuring pumps commonly used in dealing with motorists have been made by the United States Bureau of Standards, in Illinois, at the request of the State sealer of weights and measures, and in Allegheny County, Pa., at the request of the county inspector of weights and measures. The work was done in Illinois for the purpose of providing data relative to the condition of weight and measure work in that State for the information of the Secretary of State in preparing material for the attention of the State legislature and as a basis of a State weights and measures law. The work in Allegheny County was for the purpose of instructing a newly-appointed weights and measures field force in the routine of measuring-pump inspection. The condition of the pumps here tested was found to be very bad, and in the aggregate a very decided tendency toward short delivery was found.

A full report of both of these fields investigated will be prepared and submitted to the State, county, and city officials interested.

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**OFFICES OF THE BUREAU OF FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC COMMERCE.****DISTRICT OFFICES.**

NEW YORK: Room 409, Customhouse.  
BOSTON: 1801 Customhouse.  
CHICAGO: 504 Federal Building.  
ST. LOUIS: 402 Third National Bank Building.  
ATLANTA: 521 Post Office Building.  
NEW ORLEANS: 1020 Hibernia Bank Building.  
SAN FRANCISCO: 807 Customhouse.  
SEATTLE: 848 Henry Building.

**COOPERATIVE OFFICES.**

CLEVELAND: Chamber of Commerce.  
CINCINNATI: Chamber of Commerce.  
CINCINNATI: C., N. O. & T. P. Ry. Co.  
LOS ANGELES: Chamber of Commerce.  
PHILADELPHIA: Chamber of Commerce.  
CHATTANOOGA: South American Agent, Southern Ry. Co.  
PORTLAND, OREG.: Chamber of Commerce.  
DAYTON: Greater Dayton Association.

# AMERICAN CONSULAR OFFICERS ON LEAVE OF ABSENCE.

The following American consular officers are on leave of absence in the United States, and will be glad to confer with business men and commercial organizations relative to conditions in their respective jurisdictions. The consul's time is available primarily for personal interviews. He has limited facilities for correspondence, and except in urgent cases letters should be directed to the consulate.

Name.	Post.	Expira- tion of venue.	Address.
Jewell, John F.....	Chefoo, China.....	Oct. 1	Galena, Ill.
Hazeltine, Ross.....	Port Antonio, Jamaica.....	do. 2...	Department of State, Washington, D. C.
Lalng, James Oliver.....	Karachi, India.....	Sept. 30	C/o University Club, Kansas City, Mo.
Leonard, Walter A.....	Colombo, Ceylon.....	Oct. 14	Essex, Iowa.
Osborne, John Ball.....	Havre, France.....	Oct. 21	Department of State, Washington, D. C.
Pike, William J.....	St. Gall, Switzerland.....	Nov. 1	Do.
Armstrong, John S.....	Bristol, England.....	Oct. 1	1200 Eutaw Place, Baltimore, Md.
Henry, Frank Anderson.....	Puerto Plata, Do- minican Republic.	Oct. 1	C/o Hallowell & Henry, 27 Pine Street, New York City.
Masterson, William W. a.....	Durban, South Africa.....	Sept. 30	Department of State, Washington, D. C.
Gracey, Wilbur T. b.....	Seville, Spain.....	Oct. 30	31 Bruce Avenue, Yonkers, N. Y.
Donaldson, Chester.....	Port Limon, Costa Rica.	Nov. 12	

\* Consul Masterson informs the Bureau that he will be in New York City from Sept. 26 to 30, during which period he will be pleased to meet those interested in South African commercial matters. Communications should be sent to the Bureau's district office, Room 409, Customhouse, New York City.

\* Consul Gracey will be glad to have conferences with American exporters in eastern cities interested in the Spanish trade during his visit in the United States.

# JAPAN'S INCREASED INTEREST IN AUSTRALASIAN TRADE.

[Consul General Alfred A. Winslow, Auckland, Aug. 15.]

The Japanese Government has sent a trade commission to Australasia to study the possibility of increasing its commerce in this part of the world. The commissioner who visited New Zealand is reported to have met with a very warm reception, and to have been put in touch with the leading commercial interests here. At the same time a representative of the Osaka Mercantile Steamship Co. of Osaka, known in the shipping world as the Osaka Shosen Kaisha, visited New Zealand and announced that it was proposed to put on a steamship line from Japan to Australasia, and that the first sailing from Japan would be in August.

These moves for the business of this part of the world will mean much for the manufacturers and exporters of Japan. Their trade here has been increasing rapidly, and they are encouraged by the Australasian merchants.

# House Flag and Funnel Marks Registered.

The United States Bureau of Navigation announces the registration, pursuant to section 7 of the act of May 28, 1908, of the following-described house flag and funnel marks of the Baltimore & Carolina Steamship Co., Union Trust Building, Baltimore, Md.: House flag, a blue field with a red ball in center; funnel marks, a black W on a red ball, the top and bottom of the funnel being black.

## FOREIGN TRADE OPPORTUNITIES.

Reserved addresses may be obtained from the Bureau and its district offices. Request for each opportunity should be on a separate sheet and state opportunity number. The Bureau does not furnish credit ratings or assume responsibility as to the standing of foreign inquirers; the usual precautions should be taken in all cases.

*Photogravure work*, No. 22549.—A firm in the United States, doing commercial and art photogravure work, asks the bureau to place it in touch with the American representatives of the leading newspapers and printers and engravers in South America.

*Clocks and corn shellers*, No. 22550.—A company in the United States has forwarded to the Bureau the name and address of one of its customers in Brazil who desires to get in touch with manufacturers and exporters of wall clocks and machines for thrashing or shelling corn, operated by hand.

*Cotton-seed meal and molasses*, No. 22551.—An American consular officer in Canada writes that a manufacturer's agent in his district desires to represent American manufacturers and exporters of cottonseed meal and molasses.

*Machinery, etc.*, No. 22552.—A manufacturer of paper in France informs an American consular office of his desire to purchase calendars used in the process of manufacturing paper, particularly toilet paper, and a machine for winding toilet-paper rolls.

*Naval stores, provisions, etc.*, No. 22553.—A firm of general commission agents in Peru desires to represent American manufacturers and exporters of naval stores and supplies, general provisions, groceries, anchors, lanterns, ropes, cables, canvas, etc. References.

*Jewelry, toys, etc.*, No. 22554.—An import and export commission house in Spain desires to enter into commercial relations with American manufacturers of jewelry, haberdashery, articles of metal, glass, and wood, celluloid, caoutchouc, artificial leather, toys of all kinds, etc.

*Strings for musical instruments, etc.*, No. 22555.—A business man from Manchuria, who is now in the United States, is in the market for large quantities of musical strings for guitars, mandolins, violins, and violincellos; also pins and springs for gramophones. Correspondence preferably in Russian.

*Machinery*, No. 22556.—The American Minister in Bolivia transmits the name and address of a business man who desires to get in touch with manufacturers of machinery for making caramel and candy chips, and candy beaters.

*Rubber thread*, No. 22557.—A business man in northern Africa desires to receive samples and quotations from American manufacturers of rubber thread.

*General representation*, No. 22558.—A man with long residence in Central and South America desires to represent American manufacturers and exporters in Latin America. No particular line is specified.

*Machinery and tools etc.*, No. 22559.—An American consular officer in Spain writes that a firm in his district dealing in industrial machinery is in the market for carboys, pulley blocks, oil cups, ventilators, thermometers, and all kinds of machine tools.

*Sugar*, No. 22560.—An American consular officer in Portugal writes that a firm in his district is in the market for sugar. Quotations c. i. f. destination if possible are desired. Correspondence may be in English. References.

*Turtle shells*, No. 22561.—An American consular officer in the West Indies transmits the name and address of a business man in his district who desires to be placed in touch with American importers and others interested in the purchase of West Indian turtle shells.

*Wood*, No. 22562.—A firm in Venezuela informs an American consular officer of its desire to find a market in the United States for wood suitable for making lead pencils and bent-wood furniture.

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DAILY CONSULAR AND TRADE REPORTS  
ISSUED DAILY BY THE BUREAU OF FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC COMMERCE  
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE



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No. 230 Washington, D. C., Saturday, September 30 1916

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## NEW ZEALAND GOVERNMENT FINANCES.

[Consul General Alfred A. Winslow, Auckland, Aug. 15.]

The receipts of the New Zealand Government for the four months ended July 31, 1916, amounted to \$18,914,144, against \$16,544,105 for the four months ended July 31, 1915, with a total expenditure of \$18,880,136, against \$18,768,286 during a like period in 1915. The total surplus for the year ended July 31, 1916, was about \$12,166,250.

The New Zealand Government is placing a domestic loan of \$38,-932,000 at 4½ per cent, and it is thought that this can easily be absorbed by the people of the Dominion without materially disturbing the splendid financial condition that the country now enjoys. It is proposed to make this a popular loan.

## IRISH CROP REPORT.

[Consul Hunter Sharp, Belfast, Sept. 12.]

The general tone of the crop reports received the first of September is favorable. The following is a review of the condition and prospects of the various crops:

*Cereal crops.*—Cutting of winter-sown wheat has begun, and in early districts many fields are already in stock. The yield is stated to be a good average and the quality fair, though some growers are of opinion that the grain is hardly as well developed as last year. Fields of spring wheat are ripening fast, especially April Red, which will probably be from a week to 10 days earlier than Red Marvel and Red Fife. There are complaints from some mid-land districts of the grain sprouting in the stock owing to the rains in the last week of August. Harvesting of the oat crop is now in progress, and the crop as a whole is considered light and disappointing owing to the severity of the spring. Straw will be very short, but the crop is reported well headed. Barley is said to be the best of the cereals, the yield being good and the quality satisfactory. Rye is ripening late and the crop is somewhat thin.

*Potatoes.*—The opinion is general that the yields of the potato crop will only be moderate, and much below last year's return. Blight this year spread rapidly, and as the crop was backward in growth unsprayed fields blackened early. Thoroughly sprayed fields withstood the attack well and many of these

are green and still growing vigorously. Very little digging has been done so far and as supplies are small prices in local markets are as high as 7 and 8 shillings (\$1.70 and \$1.95) per hundredweight of 112 pounds.

#### **Root Crops, Flax, and Hay.**

*Turnips and mangels.*—The root crops look healthy. Swedes are especially vigorous and now require heat and sunshine to promote bulbing. Though many fields of mangels are patchy and backward the crop is growing rapidly of late. Many growers complain of the damage done by the mangel fly this season. There are also complaints from some counties of serious injury to the crop from the yellowing caused by crown-rot.

*Flax.*—The flax crop has pulled well, and the bulk of green straw was satisfactory. There were occasional poor fields, owing to late sowing or to the condition and situation of the soil, but the bulk of the crop at pulling time turned out much heavier than was expected. Most of the largely increased area sown this year has now been pulled, and the crop is at present in the stages of handling. Yields are expected to be fair and quality good, with better results than last season.

*Hay and grass seed.*—The hay crop turned out to be especially heavy this year, and the quality of all classes is considered prime. There are many splendid fields of after grass and clover. Reports from some grass-seed districts state that the seed this year is of good quality. Not much thrashing has been done yet, but the yield of perennial, Italian, and mixed is expected to be satisfactory.

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### **AMERICAN TRADE EXTENSION IN FRANCE.**

[Vice Consul Davis B. Lewis, St. Etienne, Aug. 26.]

Catalogues and technical publications received at the St. Etienne consulate are on file at the local chamber of commerce, and numerous trade journals in the hardware, silk, export, electrical engineering, and other fields, after having served their purpose on the reference tables of the consular reading room, have been sent to representative dealers in the respective lines bearing this notice translated into French: "This journal is presented with the compliments of the American consulate, where translations or explanation of any of the articles or advertisements in which you may be interested will be gladly made on application."

A considerable amount of American merchandise sold in this consular district can be distinctly traced to the willingness of the staff of this office at all times to assist by translating and explaining circulars and letters in English received from American firms which have been brought to their attention. As there is not an extensive knowledge of English in French provincial business circles, this assistance is particularly helpful to the recipients in converting weights, measures, dimensions, and prices into French terms and the metric system, even where cuts or drawings and reading text furnish a reasonably clear idea of the articles offered. As weights and dimensions form the basis of import duty on many lines of goods, it is advisable that they be given to assist in figuring costs.

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### **MINIMUM FIXED FOR EMERGENCY LIFE-BUOY LIGHTS.**

Tests of emergency life-buoy lights made at the United States Bureau of Standards have shown that supposedly similar lights produced by different makers differed greatly in candlepower, some being as low as 13 candles, while others gave 180. The Steamboat-Inspection Service has consequently fixed a minimum requirement of 150 candles, and requires makers to submit samples to this bureau for test before their lights are approved.



## CHANGES IN RICE GROWING AND RICE MILLING.

In a review of the industry of rice cleaning and polishing in this country which has been published by the United States Bureau of the Census various changes in recent years in the rice-growing districts and in the locations of the mills are pointed out. The statistics on which the report is based were published in **COMMERCE REPORTS** for March 8, 1916. The completed publication, which relates to conditions in 1914, contains much material derived from the history of the industry. It states:

The rice plant requires much moisture, and it is necessary to resort to irrigation in supplying it. Formerly the entire production of rice in the United States was grown in the low-lying coastal lands adjacent to rivers, from which they were flooded. The nature of the land and the character of the irrigation works made rice growing in these localities both difficult and expensive. With the development of irrigation in the United States, however, it has been found expedient to use the level and somewhat elevated sections of Louisiana, Texas, and Arkansas for this culture. These sections, being easily drained, are well adapted to rice growing, and the plowing, harrowing, sowing, and reaping can be done in the same manner as for other grain crops. As a result, it is probable that the production of rice has undergone greater changes than that of any other crop grown in the United States.

### **Now Grown in Louisiana, Texas, and Arkansas.**

As late as 1890, or 25 years ago, nearly all the American rice was grown near the Atlantic and Gulf coasts. The culture in these localities, however, has been practically discontinued, and nearly the entire production of the country is now grown in the inland sections of Louisiana and Texas, and in Arkansas, in the order named.

The change in the habitat of rice in the United States has necessarily brought about a change in the location of the rice mills. Whereas most of the cleaning and polishing establishments were formerly in the Carolinas and Georgia, the industry in these States has almost disappeared and now nearly all the mills are located in Louisiana, Texas, and Arkansas, with a few small ones in the Pacific coast cities.

Formerly the rough rice was generally milled on contract for a stipulated price or for a portion of the rice itself. With the erection of the larger and more up-to-date mills in the new rice-growing districts, however, has come the general practice of buying the rough rice outright, milling it, and selling the various products obtained. The industry has accordingly changed almost entirely from a custom-milling to a merchant-milling basis. As a result of the erection of these larger mills there has been a gradual reduction in the number of establishments engaged in cleaning rice. This tendency was especially pronounced from 1909 to 1914.

## **HAY CROP IN THE MONCTON DISTRICT.**

[Consul E. Verne Richardson, Moncton, New Brunswick, Canada, Sept. 20.]

The proprietor of the Central Hay Exchange of this city has written to the Moncton consulate, in response to an inquiry, a letter with reference to this year's hay crop in this immediate vicinity, from which the following extract is taken:

Regarding hay in this section, I estimate there will be 12,000 tons available this season—that is, best stock—and 5,000 tons second-grade hay, especially good for cattle. The hay crop is above the average. We had good growing weather, making the hay coarser and more nutritious than generally in this section. The farmers were favored with excellent weather during the first part of the haying time, enabling them to get the best hay cured in first-class condition.

With good hay crops in Canada and elsewhere and not so large a demand for "war hay," prices will be more moderate than in the past few years. So far as I can see the best hay will not go beyond \$14 per ton in car lots, while there will be much good hay available for a dollar or two a ton cheaper.

**CONSTRUCTION WORK IN NEW BRUNSWICK.**

[Consul E. Verne Richardson, Moncton, New Brunswick, Canada, Sept. 15.]

**Shortage of Cement.**

Work is at present in progress on the paving of Main Street, Moncton, but it has suffered periodical interruption owing to difficulties experienced in getting the requisite supplies of Portland cement. The price at present paid by the city council for Portland cement is \$1.65 per bag or \$6.50 per barrel (four bags), f. o. b. Moncton. The rate of duty on this article when imported from countries other than the United Kingdom is 10 cents per 100 pounds, with a war tax at present of  $7\frac{1}{2}$  per cent additional.

It is reported locally that one Canadian cement company is 100,000 barrels behind on its orders to-day, largely because of the existing scarcity of overland transportation facilities. Although not a desirable port for vessels of large tonnage, owing to the excessive tidal range, small schooners of from 300 to 500 tons can be accommodated at Moncton without risk of damage.

**Street Paving—Trolley Poles.**

At a special meeting of the Moncton Municipal Council held September 14 to consider a report, with recommendations from the board of works, it was decided to proceed as soon as possible with the paving of certain streets and not wait until next spring, as at first intended.

With the object of improving the appearance of the city, the Moncton Municipal Council has determined to remove from the streets the wooden poles now used for the trolley wires of the tramway service and to substitute therefor combination light and trolley poles of steel, provided same can be purchased at a satisfactory figure.

**Extension of Sewerage System.**

At this week's meeting of the Moncton Municipal Council it was decided to proceed at once with certain extensions of the city's sewerage system. A tender of approximately \$37,054, submitted by a local contractor, was accepted and the city engineer was authorized to purchase main and lateral sewer pipe. The council's requirements in this matter, according to the city engineer, are as follows: 4,935 feet 12-inch (inside) terra-cotta pipe and 800 feet 18-inch (inside) terra-cotta pipe for the laterals, and 2,200 feet of egg-shaped segment blocks, 2 feet 8 inches by 4 feet, and 1,100 feet of same 2 feet 6 inches by 3 feet 9 inches, both inside measurements.

There is a probability that all of the trunk sewer will not be built of segment blocks. In that case bricks will be required. These must be hard and not "run of the kiln." The quantity for which quotations should at present be submitted is 300,000 to 600,000.

Although it is intended to begin at once the excavating and other work preliminary to the building of these sewer extensions, it is unlikely that there will be need for the pipes before spring.

**Building Activity.**

Since the beginning of the current calendar year the building permits issued by the engineer of the city of Moncton have represented investments totaling almost \$100,000.

Numerically, dwelling houses have taken the first place in the list of new buildings. Of these there have been 24 ranging in cost from less than \$1,000 to \$5,000 each. Industrial and commercial premises have been authorized as follows: For the Atlantic Underwear (Ltd.), a factory building and steel tower and tank for fire protection, \$10,500; the Sumner Co., two brick and concrete warehouses, \$8,500; L. Higgins, brick and concrete general building, \$8,000. Several garages, additions to buildings already built, and minor reconstruction projects make up the remainder of the total.

The present prospect is for still further progress in the near future. With the completion of the trunk sewer, 1,800 feet of which is expected to be ready before the winter is far advanced, many persons who have been holding building sites in the district to be served will probably prepare to erect dwellings. The decision of the municipal council to proceed without delay with this work of sewer extension is already having its effect on the local real estate market.

### **RETURNS OF BRADFORD MUNICIPAL UNDERTAKINGS.**

[Consul Augustus E. Ingram, Bradford, England, Aug. 31.]

The operation of Bradford's municipal trading enterprises during the financial year ended March 31, 1916, produced a gross profit of \$1,918,550, which represents 5.10 per cent upon the total capital expenditure of the undertakings (\$37,643,365). The total net debt of these undertakings amounts to \$25,175,210, as \$12,468,155 has been repaid or is available in the sinking funds. There was expended during the year for interest on loans, bank interest, etc., \$1,135,840, and \$508,690 was set aside for liquidation of debt in accordance with the various acts of Parliament and departmental sanctions under which the moneys were borrowed, leaving a net surplus of \$274,020.

Five of the seven undertakings or departments record during the past year a net surplus, after paying interest on loans and making provision for the repayment of debt, of the following amounts, respectively: Tramways, \$144,800; electricity works, \$77,810; water-works, \$27,832; conditioning house, \$27,695; markets, \$24,741. The gas works showed a loss of \$13,753.

In the Tramways Department, while the working expenses were higher than ever before, amounting to \$1,240,724, the income was also the largest in the 18 years of its existence, namely, \$1,662,513. The trackless or railless car services have been extended, and show a profit on the year's working, as does also the department for the carriage and delivery of parcels.

### **NEW EQUIPMENT FOR ABATTOIR BY-PRODUCTS PLANT.**

The American consul at Johannesburg, South Africa, reports that the Municipal Council of Johannesburg has called for tenders, to be submitted on or before December 15, 1916, for the supply and delivery of the requisite machinery and equipment for an extension to the by-products plant of the municipal abattoirs. Alternative proposals will also be received for the delivery and erection of the new plant, exclusive of the buildings. Copies of the forms of tender, plan, and specifications may be inspected at the Bureau and the district offices at Chicago and New York. (Refer to file No. 80578.)

**FIRE PROTECTION AND HEALTH MEASURES IN FRANCE.**

[Vice Consul Davis B. Lewis, St. Etienne, Sept. 5.]

The municipal authorities of the ancient and picturesque little manufacturing town of Annonay (Department of the Ardeche), in the St. Etienne consular district, have decided, as a result of several recent fires, to purchase an automobile fire extinguisher and have called for the necessary funds.

While correspondence between American firms and these officials on the subject probably would prove useless, personal representatives or French agents equipped with the proper means of presenting the merits of their products would have an excellent chance to introduce their engines in this section.

As this consulate has recently replied to several letters from American manufacturers of fire apparatus and supplies, mention is made of this movement as illustrating the growing interest in such enterprises among the smaller European municipalities.

Annonay is an inland town of 17,000 inhabitants, employed chiefly in the leather-finishing mills and paper factories. A specialty here is the manufacture of fine drafting papers for export to the United States. The place occupies a niche in history as the scene of the first balloon ascension of record by the Brothers Montgolfier in 1783.

**Tuberculosis Campaign Under Way.**

The general council of the Department of the Loire, following instructions from the General Government, whereby several dispensaries for hygienic measures and protection against tuberculosis must be maintained, has opened the first of these in St. Etienne under the direction of a specialist and a certificated nurse. The purpose of this regulation and establishment is to produce general and methodical action for the improvement of conditions and reduction in the number of tuberculosis cases in housing and working quarters, to aid families of afflicted persons, and afford thorough protection to the community against avoidable infection.

The service is entirely free of all charges for registration, consultation, and treatment, and is intended for the entire population.

**NOTES FROM NORWAY.**

[Consul General E. Haldeman Dennison, Christiania, Aug. 31.]

**Norwegian Shipbuilding.**

According to the Norwegian Shipping Gazette, there were building in Norway on July 1, 51 steel steamers of 53,395 tons, 16 wooden steamers of 1,885 tons, and 4 motor vessels of 4,420 tons, a total of 71 vessels of 59,700 tons, with a horsepower of about 42,900. Orders had also been placed for 84 ships of 111,220 tons, of which the keels had not yet been laid, making a grand total of 155 ships and 170,920 tons, as compared with 104,750 and 141,615 tons for the previous two half-yearly returns.

**Electrification of Railway.**

A beginning is soon to be made for the electrification of the State railways of Norway. The railway committee of the Storting recently approved the proposal for the electrification of the line running from Christiania to Drammen, the estimated cost of which will be \$6,520,000.

**SHIPBUILDING IN THE PACIFIC NORTHWEST.**

[Commercial Agent W. B. Henderson, Seattle, Wash.]

There are now being built in the Pacific Northwest 37 ships with a tonnage capacity of 292,000, of which number 11 are wooden vessels of the class of semi-Diesel auxiliary power propellers, with a tonnage of 77,000. The larger proportion, however, are steel vessels, 26 in number, with a capacity of 215,000 tons, and of this number 4 are contracted for by the United States Government. The value of vessels under construction and contracted for aggregates \$32,000,000.

The cities on the North Pacific coast at which the vessels are being built are: Victoria and Vancouver, British Columbia; Bellingham, Seattle, Tacoma, Aberdeen, and Hoquiam, Wash.; St. Helens, Astoria, Marshfield, and Portland, Oreg. A dozen shipbuilding companies are interested in the construction, among which are: Seattle Construction & Dry Dock Co., Skinner & Eddy Corporation, Puget Sound Bridge & Dredge Co., and Washington Shipbuilding Corporation, of Seattle, Wash.; MacEcheren Bros., and Wilson Bros., Astoria, Oreg.; St. Helens Shipbuilding Co., St. Helens, Oreg.; Krause & Banks, Marshfield, Oreg.; Ward & Schubach, Aberdeen and Hoquiam, Wash.; Petersen Yards, Aberdeen and Hoquiam, Wash.; Mathews Ship Yards, Aberdeen and Hoquiam; and Barbare Bros., Tacoma, Wash. Besides these, there has recently been organized in Portland a corporation which is building several ships.

In Seattle the Skinner & Eddy Corporation recently launched a big steel steamer, the *Niels Nielsen*, with a dead-weight tonnage of 8,800. The vessel is 422 feet 6 inches long, 54 feet beam, 29 feet 9 inches middle depth, and has all the machinery on board. In the near future the Seattle Construction and Dry Dock Co. will launch a ship of almost as great tonnage.

The Manufacturers' Association of Seattle recently gave a banquet in honor of the shipbuilding and shipping interests here. Besides the guests, 400 business men were present.

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**PROPOSED IMPROVEMENT OF CHILEAN RIVER PORT.**

[Commercial Attaché V. L. Havens, Santiago, Aug. 28.]

A bill for the improvement of the river port of Lebu is under discussion in the Chilean Congress. A recent number of the *Diario Ilustrado* states that Manuel Jervasio Alarcon, resident in London, and Carlos Alarcon have presented a project for the improvement of this port with American capital. The plans have been prepared by Julio Delaunay, and the cost is estimated at approximately \$3,000,000. The port of Lebu is near the Chilean coast and is in the region of important coal mines.

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**New Companies in Argentina.**

The Argentine Government has recently authorized, by decrees in the *Boletín Oficial*, the Argentine Portland Cement Co. (Compañía Argentina de Cemento Portland) and the Petroleum Transporting Co. (Compañía Transportadora de Petroleos) to operate in Argentina as stock companies, in accordance with the regulations of the commercial code of that country.

**THE ZINC MINES OF TONKIN.**

[Consul Lawrence P. Briggs, Saigon, French Indo-China.]

Zinc is the leading metal produced in French Indo-China. During the past 5 years the exportation of zinc ore from Haiphong has averaged nearly 27,000 tons per year. The customs value of this ore during this period has averaged about \$640,000 per year, but the market value has been considerably higher.

Although some zinc has been mined in Annam, and this mineral undoubtedly exists in the interior protectorate of Laos, practically all of that now produced in French Indo-China comes from the protectorate of Tonkin and is exported from the port of Haiphong. The zinc mines exploited at present occupy a strip about 50 miles wide and 100 miles long just above the delta district, a little north and a little east of the center of the protectorate. There are four well-defined zinc regions.

**The Zinc Regions.**

(1) The oldest zinc region of Tonkin is the Tuyen-Quang district near the town of the same name at the junction of the Clear and Gam Rivers. The ore from this group is carried in river steamers down the Clear and Red (Rouge) Rivers and through the canals to Haiphong.

(2) Next in age and in recent years the most productive district is the Thai-Nguyen region above the town of this name on the Song Cau about 50 miles east of Tuyen-Quang. This is the most extensive district, and it is located near the center of the Tonkin zinc fields as they are at present exploited. The ore from these mines is floated in sampans down to Dap Cau, nearly 100 miles, then transferred to river steamers.

(3) On the extreme east is the Than-Moi or Langson region on the upper waters of the Song Thuong and along the railway between Phu-lang-thuong and Langson. The ore from this region is transported by rail to Phu-lang-thuong, where it is loaded on river steamers.

(4) The newest and perhaps the richest of these regions is the Chodien or Bac-kan district, east of the Song Gam, about 50 miles above Tuyen-Quang. The ore from the Cho-dien mines is carried by a private railway to the Song Gam, then by sampans to Tuyen-Quang, whence it is transferred to river steamers.

These four regions include about 30 zinc concessions, of which only 11 are at present in process of exploitation.

**Development of the Tonkin Zinc Industry.**

Although the Chinese are known to have obtained zinc from Tonkin before the French occupation, the serious exploitation of this mineral dates from 1906. In this year some coolies working on the estate of Commandant Cadars at Trang-da, opposite Tuyen-Quang, discovered a vein of zinc ore. Further search proved the mountain to be rich in this mineral. Lacking the necessary capital and experience, M. Cadars formed the Société des Mines de Trang-da, with a capital of 300,000 francs (\$58,000) and with its headquarters at Tuyen-Quang (later changed to 35 Rue de Clichy, Paris), for the exploitation of the first zinc mine of Tonkin. The first year this mine produced about 2,500 tons of ore. In 1909 the production had

reached 8,000 tons, and since that date the annual output of this mine has remained at about 10,000 tons.

The discovery of zinc at Trang-da led to the exploitation of the old Chinese mines at Lang-hit near Thai-Nguyen. Several mines—Lucie, Georgette, Renee, Metis, Bac-lao, and Moba—were developed, and in 1909 M. Marcel Pierron, backed by the German firm of Speidel & Co., formed the Société Minière du Tonkin, with a capital of 1,000,000 francs (\$193,000) and with its main office at Haiphong (later transferred to 14 rue Vézelay, Paris). At that time these mines produced only a few thousand tons of calamine and blende, but in 1911 their production reached 14,432 tons, and they have since held first rank among the zinc mines of Tonkin.

In 1909 also the Société Minière de Than-moi was formed at Paris (14 rue Vézelay) by M. Marcel Pierron, who retained 80 per cent of the stock. Its mines are located on the Song-Thuong between Phu-lang-thuong and Langson. The production of these mines has been irregular, varying from 492 tons in 1911 to 5,368 tons in 1914, but the ore is of a high grade.

In the meantime M. Cadars and others discovered three other veins near Trang-da-Kem, Con-rau, and Con-rong, and in 1910 they organized for their exploitation the Société des Mines de Yen-linh, a joint-stock company with a capital of 700,000 francs and with its headquarters at Tuyen-Quang. The output of this group during the first four years averaged only about 1,100 tons per year; but in 1915 its production was about 3,000 tons and estimates for 1916 point to about 4,000 or 5,000 tons.

#### Other Mines.

Several other concessions have been taken up in the Tuyen-Quang region; but the only other mine that has been sufficiently productive to deserve mention is that of Bac-nhung, belonging to Perrin Frères, which in 1914 produced about 450 tons of ore.

The Van-lang mines in the Thai-Nguyen group began production in 1911, although the concession was not granted until the next year. It is operated by the Société d'Exploitation des Mines de Van-lang, Hanoi. The production of this mine for the years 1912 to 1914, inclusive, was, respectively, 1,800, 1,500, and 1,672 tons of blende, calamine, and galena. The ore is of low grade, and the mine ceased operations after the outbreak of the war.

The Cho-dien concessions were granted in 1912, but, because of the inaccessibility of the mines, actual exploitation did not begin until 1914. Here the proprietor, M. G. Bault, Hanoi, was obliged to build a railway of 35 kilometers (about 22 miles) from the mines to the Song-Gam at a cost of nearly a million piasters. This railroad was not completed until July, 1914. During that year about 1,900 tons were produced. During 1915 the production of these mines reached 8,600 tons. At present the Cho-dien mines are surpassing all others, and a yield of 15,000 tons is predicted for 1916. The ore is mined in the open from the side of a hill, and it is said that 80,000 tons of 52 per cent ore presents itself to view. This seems to be the future zinc field of Tonkin.

#### Character of Ore.

The grade, and sometimes the character, of the zinc ores of Tonkin vary with the different mines and even in the same mine. The

most common ores are blende and calamine (zinc sulphide and silica hydrate). These ores range from 40 to 55 per cent metallic zinc. Each of the mines has a reducing plant where the ores are crushed, washed, and calcinated, and thus reduced to 55-80 per cent pure zinc. This finely crushed ore is then put up in gunny sacks for shipment and sent to Haiphong, from whence it is transhipped to Europe, and recently to Japan and America.

The following table shows the character and grade of ore produced by each of these mines in 1914, and the average market price in francs per metric ton of the product delivered at Haiphong:

Mine.	Character of ore.	Metallic zinc.	Market price.
		Per cent.	Francs.
Trang-da.....	Calamine.....	40	60.00
Kem.....	do.....	45	122.58
Bac-nhung.....	do.....	52	132.22
Lang-hit.....	Calamine and blende.....	50	115.00
Van-lang.....	Calamine, blende, and galena.....	45	64.05
Than-moi.....	Calamine and blende.....	58	131.93
Cho-dien.....	Calamine.....	50	115.01

#### Methods of Mining.

Up to the present the zinc ores exploited in Tonkin have been found near the surface. Outcroppings on hillsides have been exploited in the open air or followed by means of horizontal tunnels. The principal tools used in the mines are pickaxes, shovels, and Decauville cars. The reducing plants make use of the best modern machinery and are generally operated by electric power generated by steam. Electric drills and dynamite sometimes assist the laborer in following up a rich vein; but on the whole mining machinery is seldom used. This has been due to the quantities of ore near the surface, the abundance and cheapness of native hand labor, the difficulty of obtaining European skilled workmen, and lack of capital. But modern mining machinery must ultimately come to Tonkin. This is a part of the problem of the future development of these mines. [See the following reports published in *COMMERCE REPORTS: Tonkin Mines Invite American Capital*, issue of May 18, 1916; and *The Use of Electricity in French Indo-China*, issue of July 5, 1916.]

The cost of production in the Tonkin zinc mines is greatly lessened by the cheapness of labor. Tonkinese coolies receive on the average 30 to 40 cents local currency (15 to 20 cents United States currency) per day. Although neither as strong nor as intelligent as the Chinese, they are diligent, faithful, and apt.

#### Market Price of Product—Exports.

The following table shows approximately the market price (United States currency) received for products of the mines during the years 1912 to 1914, respectively. Statistics for 1915 are not yet available, but it is certain that the price averaged two or three times as high as in previous years:

Mine.	1912	1913	1914	Mine	1912	1913	1914
Trang-da.....	\$173,700	\$105,571	\$116,698	Duc-bo.....	\$10,133		
Lang-hit.....	392,176	389,472	230,288	Bac-nhung.....		\$24,511	\$11,484
Than-moi.....	21,230	66,585	136,258	Titania.....		16,633	
Van-lang.....	25,283	23,160	21,230	Cho-dien.....			42,362
Yen-linh.....	16,405	15,440	34,586				
Clothilde-Adele.....	14,668			Total.....	653,595	640,372	592,085



The exportation of zinc from the port of Haiphong during the past three years has been as follows (in metric tons) :

Port of destination.	1913	1914	1915	Port of destination.	1913	1914	1915
	<i>Tons.</i>	<i>Tons.</i>	<i>Tons.</i>		<i>Tons.</i>	<i>Tons.</i>	<i>Tons.</i>
Dunkirk.....	12,936	4,991		Hongkong.....	9		518
Havre.....			500	Japan.....			7,089
Marseille.....			17,403	United States.....			7,825
Antwerp.....	13,766	14,571		Total.....	27,732	19,562	33,335
Hamburg.....	1,021						

**Effect of War on the Tonkin Zinc Industry.**

The chief drawback of the economic system of French Indo-China has been the lack of a loan and discount bank which could advance money to a worthy enterprise. The consequences have been that many of the firms formed to exploit the mines were backed by foreign capitalists, who held stock in these firms, advanced them money, and carried their product to the refineries of Hamburg and Belgium. At the outbreak of the war these firms are said to have had long-term contracts for the products of the Tonkin mines.

The immediate effect of the war was the breaking off of all business relations between French operators and German financiers, the withdrawal of German capital, and the loss of a market for Tonkin zinc. The ore already in the hands of these foreign firms was tied up, and further production was precarious. Tonnage was lacking for the zinc available for exportation. In December, 1914, some of the leading zinc producers of Tonkin were seeking a market for their product on almost any terms.

**Improved Conditions—Zinc for United States.**

But the situation soon began to clear up. German goods in French Indo-China were sequestered in November, 1914. The decree forbidding the exportation of zinc was put into effect in Indo-China early in 1915. The belligerent nations had become convinced that the war was not a matter of a few months, and the consequent demand for metal was unprecedented. As a result the price of zinc began to mount, until on July 1, 1915, zinc ore at Haiphong was worth two or three times as much as on July 1, 1914.

With the rise in the price of zinc and with the demand for this product made by the allies and the neutral nations, the zinc mines began to resume operations. The smaller companies found themselves confronted by two serious handicaps—(1) the lack of sufficient financial backing and (2) the mobilization of European operators and employees. As a consequence, although production in 1915 was greater than in any previous year, the product came entirely from a few of the larger firms. The product for 1916 will probably be 50 per cent greater than that of 1915. Under more favorable conditions it could easily be four or five times as great.

During the early part of 1915 most of the exported zinc went to France; but the export restrictions were moderated, and later in the year a good share of this ore went to Japan and the United States. Between October 1, 1915, and February 1, 1916, the Société Minière du Tonkin exported 9,325 tons of ore to Baltimore and 1,300 tons to Galveston via Marseille—the first Tonkin zinc to be shipped direct to the United States. Most of the product of the Lang-hit mines is

still finding a market at Baltimore, while it is understood that a Japanese firm has made contracts for the output of the mines of Tuyen-Quang.

**The Outlook for 1916.**

Under the stimulus of unheard-of prices the larger zinc mines of Tonkin are now running at their utmost capacity, limited only by the difficulty and expense of installing new machinery and the practical impossibility of maintaining an efficient staff of European operators and overseers. In all the zinc fields a greatly increased production is foreseen, and the total product for 1916 is estimated at 50,000 tons. The value of such a product according to the present customs estimates will figure in the official reports of 1916 at about \$1,185,000, but the market value at the present price will be at least \$3,000,000.

**Future of the Zinc Industry—Openings for American Capital.**

The zinc-mining operations of Tonkin up to the present have been merely scratching the surface of the rich and extensive fields. The preliminary surveys of the country have marked on the maps the places where zinc is known to exist without much knowledge of the extent of the deposits.

The great needs of this industry are machinery, operating capital, and transportation facilities. Under present conditions it is only profitable to exploit the richest ores near the surface of the easily accessible mines. Operating capital and improved methods of internal transportation would greatly enlarge the available fields, while modern machinery would enable the present mines to be worked at lower levels and would make it possible to extract the mineral from the lower grades of ore now thrown away. The question of establishing a central refining plant at Haiphong or some other place in Tonkin is now being agitated and has so many obvious advantages that it is sure to come.

The question of internal transportation belongs to the protectorate of Tonkin and the Union of French Indo-China; but the operating capital of the mines must be supplied from the outside. The mining regulations of Tonkin prescribe that a majority of the board of directors of any mining company must be French citizens or colonials. But there are two ways by which foreign capital can contribute to the development of this industry and participate in its consequent financial returns. Foreign zinc manufacturers can hold shares and form a minority of the board of directors with or without the consequent purchase of the product of the mines; or foreign capitalists can fill a long-felt want in Indo-China by establishing a loan and discount bank which will furnish the necessary capital to deserving enterprises.

[A typewritten report on the mining regulations of Tonkin can be examined at the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce or its district or cooperative offices. Refer to file No. 78325.]

A light list for the Ohio, Tennessee, Kanawha, and Monongahela Rivers (fourteenth lighthouse district), corrected to September 15, 1916, has been issued by the United States Lighthouse Service. Copies may be obtained by masters or pilots from the Division of Publications, Department of Commerce, Washington, D. C., or from the lighthouse inspector at Cincinnati, Ohio.

## INSUFFICIENT POSTAGE A TRADE HANDICAP.

[Consul Arthur C. Frost, detailed as vice consul, Genoa, Italy, Aug. 26.]

Almost every American mail to the consulate general at Genoa brings its quota of letters with insufficient postage. A letter with only a 2-cent stamp requires the payment by the recipient in Italy of at least 30 centesimi (\$0.06 at normal exchange) to cover the deficiency and penalty of equal amount which is imposed. Business firms are now more careful than formerly in this respect, although even now letters sometimes come inadequately stamped from banks, chambers of commerce, and firms which should know the foreign rate. Letters from individuals very commonly have to pay penalty postage, which in the majority of cases may be due to carelessness rather than unfamiliarity with the letter rate to Italy (and most foreign countries), which is 5 cents for the first ounce and 3 cents for each additional ounce.

The poor impression upon Italian firms created by short-paid letters becomes finally, by repetition, very great. Special care in affixing the proper postage would bring ample returns by removing a cause of complaint which has exerted an unfavorable influence in foreign business.

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## HISTORY OF CONCRETE-SHIP CONSTRUCTION.

The following statement from the Washington office of The Panama Canal adds to information regarding the history of concrete ships which was published in *COMMERCE REPORTS* for September 15, 1916:

In 1910 the Isthmian Canal Commission constructed three concrete barges on the Isthmus for use in supporting the dredging pumps for the hydraulic excavating and pumping plant of the Pacific Division. The first of these barges was launched on April 20, 1910, and the last on August 8 of the same year. The barges were 64 feet long by 24 feet wide, having a depth of 5 feet, 8 inches. In an article which appeared in the Canal Record of February 9, 1910, relative to the proposed construction of these barges, it was stated:

"While the construction of barges from concrete is not a new idea, its adaptation is not known to have hitherto been attempted in American engineering. Concrete barges have been successfully used in Italy during the past few years, and recently the use of this material in the construction of floating craft in that country was extended to the building of transfer boats, a type of vessel similar to the New York car ferries. The plans of the Pacific Division barges contain numerous modifications from the Italian type, some to meet local conditions and some because of the continual improvement in concrete construction methods."

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## EXTENSION OF BRITISH ELECTRICAL PLANT.

[Vice Consul Charles E. Taylor, Leeds, England, Sept. 6.]

The finance and parliamentary committee of the Leeds City Council has reported that the sanction of the Local Government Board has been obtained to the borrowing of £35,000 (\$170,325) for extensions to the city's main electrical plant and the installation of new substations. Mr. H. Lupton (whose address is Municipal Offices, Leeds, England) is the chairman of the council's electricity committee.

**MACHINE MAY REVOLUTIONIZE CURRANT PACKING.**

[Vice Consul George P. Waller, jr., Patras, Greece, Aug. 15.]

Since the early days when currants were first exported from Greece one feature of their packing has remained unchanged. Owing to the fragile nature of the fruit, too much pressure in forcing it into barrels or cases is injurious to its quality, and the only hitherto practicable method of packing has been by the feet of men and women. At last, however, a wealthy and prominent young currant packer of Patras has produced a machine which automatically cleans and packs more than 150 cases of currants per hour, without contact of human hand or foot, and bids fair to revolutionize the present methods of the packing houses. The new process will give the American consumer an article infinitely cleaner than could have been obtained under the best operation of former methods.

**Many Difficult Problems to be Solved.**

The machine is not particularly complicated, although many difficult problems had to be solved before its successful operation was secured. Questions of pressure, caking, and others of a purely mechanical nature entered largely into its construction, and much time and money were expended in working out the present device. It consists of a large hopper into which currants are constantly poured, and from which they flow into a cleaning compartment for the elimination of all dust, grit, stems, or other foreign matter. The cleaned currants then flow into cases or barrels placed in constant succession in the barrel holder, where a large pistonlike disk presses the currants down with exactly the requisite force, layer after layer being pressed in order until the receptacle is filled, whereupon it yields place to an empty one and the process is repeated. Under favorable conditions the standard barrel can be filled in about 25 seconds. The present machine is run by a small gasoline engine, although there are other sources of power that would be equally adaptable. The inventor has a smaller machine in course of construction which will be operated by hand power.

**To Be Produced in Commercial Quantities.**

In addition to being vastly cheaper to operate than the old system of foot packing, the new machine actually packs the currants better than by foot. Although the owner has not as yet patented his machine in the United States, he is taking steps to produce it in the near future in commercial quantities for the local market, where it is believed that it will have a large sale as soon as foreign consumers are informed of the difference between "foot-packed" and "machine-packed" currants.

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**Catalogues for New American Bank in Chile.**

The National City Bank of New York, in advance of the official opening of its new branch in Valparaiso, Chile, invites United States manufacturers to send, fully prepaid, copies of catalogues for incidental use by the commercial representatives. The catalogues should be addressed: The National City Bank of New York, box 1508, Valparaiso, Chile.

**AMERICAN CONSULAR OFFICERS ON LEAVE OF ABSENCE.**

The following American consular officers are on leave of absence in the United States, and will be glad to confer with business men and commercial organizations relative to conditions in their respective jurisdictions. The consuls time is available primarily for personal interviews. He has limited facilities for correspondence, and except in urgent cases letters should be directed to the consulate.

Name.	Post.	Expiration of leave.	Address.
Leonard, Walter A.....	Colombo, Ceylon.....	Oct. 14	Essex, Iowa.
Osthorpe, John Ball.....	Havre, France.....	Oct. 21	Department of State, Washington, D. C.
Pike, William J.....	St. Gall, Switzerland.....	Nov. 1	Do.
Armstrong, John S.....	Bristol, England.....	.....	1209 Eutaw Place, Baltimore, Md.
Gracey, Wilbur T.....	Seville, Spain.....	Oct. 30	Department of State, Washington, D. O.
Donaldson, Charles.....	Port Limon, Costa Rica.....	Nov. 12	31 Bruce Avenue, Yonkers, N. Y.
Clum, Harold D.....	Calgary, Alberta, Canada.....	Nov. 18	Sangerties, Ulster County, N. Y.

\* Consul Gracey will be glad to have conferences with American exporters in eastern cities interested in the Spanish trade during his visit in the United States.

**NEW BRUNSWICK GOVERNMENT POULTRY STATIONS.**

[Consul E. Verne Richardson, Moncton, New Brunswick, Canada, Sept. 12.]

The announcement has just been made by the superintendent of the poultry division of the local department of agriculture that six poultry-fattening stations will be established in this Province before the beginning of the winter. Two of these will be within the limits of this consular district—one at Moncton, and one at St. Louis, in Kent County. The four others will be at Sussex and Gagetown, Kings County, and probably at Centreville and Glassville, Carleton County.

The superintendent states that the provincial government was anxious to see the poultry industry encouraged and to that end it was his intention to form poultry clubs in every county and to award prizes for the best dozen chickens fattened, killed, and boxed for export. As this project develops there should be opportunities for American manufacturers of poultry supplies to increase their business with this district.

**DEMAND FOR TESTS OF RAILROAD SCALES.**

Both test cars of the United States Bureau of Standards during recent weeks have been worked to the utmost in an endeavor to keep up with the increasing demand for tests on railroad-track scales. Car No. 1 was working in Chicago in August, and 27 tests were made there. Car No. 2 made 4 tests in Indiana and 48 tests in Ohio in August. The tests in Chicago were made with the cooperation of a committee representing the weights and measures department of Chicago, the board of trade of that city, and railroads entering Chicago. In Ohio the tests were made with the cooperation of the Cincinnati Board of Trade, State officials, and the railroads concerned.

## FOREIGN TRADE OPPORTUNITIES.

Reserved addresses may be obtained from the Bureau and its district offices. Request for each opportunity should be on a separate sheet and state opportunity number. The Bureau does not furnish credit ratings or assume responsibility as to the standing of foreign inquirers; the usual precautions should be taken in all cases.

*Dental supplies*, No. 22563.—A business man from New Zealand, who is now in the United States, desires to be placed in touch with manufacturers of dental supplies. He is especially in need of rubber, rubber dam, teeth, drills, grinding wheels, stones, etc. Samples and catalogues should be submitted.

*Lumber*, No. 22564.—A furniture and lumber dealer in Spain informs an American consular officer of his desire to enter into commercial relations with exporters of construction lumber. He is particularly interested in dimension stuff of hemlock, white and yellow pine, and California redwood. The dimensions most serviceable are lengths of 14, 16, and 18 feet by 9 inches wide and 3 inches thick. Correspondence in Spanish.

*Drugs and medicines, etc.*, No. 22565.—The Bureau is in receipt of a letter from a man in India who desires to be placed in touch with manufacturers of drugs and medicines. Communication with publishers of books used by the medical profession is also desired.

*Hosiery, shoes, etc.*, No. 22566.—An export house in New York City advises the Bureau that a buyer from Norway now in the United States is interested in the purchase of men's, women's, and children's silk, cashmere, and wool hosiery; also men's working shoes, children's shoes, sandals, and knit goods.

*Electrical appliances, etc.*, No. 22567.—A wholesale importing house in Mexico dealing in machinery and electrical appliances desires to represent American manufacturers of electrical appliances, materials, machinery, and supplies of all kinds. The firm is particularly interested in switchboards, insulators, transformers, heating devices, lamps, glassware, and fixtures for house lighting. References.

*Barrels*, No. 22568.—A firm in the Netherlands writes the Bureau that it is in the market for barrels, to be used for the shipment of arrack from the Dutch East Indies. References. Further information may be obtained from the Bureau or its district offices.

*School supplies*, No. 22569.—The director of a college in Brazil informs an American consular officer of his desire to purchase school supplies of all kinds. He is also interested in obtaining a quantity of so-called "saint cards" for presentation to Sunday-school children. Catalogues and price lists should be forwarded at once. Correspondence may be in English.

*Wearing apparel, etc.*, No. 22570.—An American consular officer in the West Indies writes that a business man in his district desires to be placed in touch with American manufacturers and exporters of Palm Beach suits, workmen's ready-made clothing, gingham and calicoes for women's dresses, hosiery for men and women, hat ornaments, and novelties. Correspondence in English. Prices, discounts, etc., in American currency. Reference.

## OFFICES OF THE BUREAU OF FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC COMMERCE.

## DISTRICT OFFICES.

NEW YORK: Room 409, Customhouse.  
BOSTON: 1801 Customhouse.  
CHICAGO: 504 Federal Building.  
ST. LOUIS: 402 Third National Bank Building.  
ATLANTA: 521 Post Office Building.  
NEW ORLEANS: 1020 Hibernia Bank Building.  
SAN FRANCISCO: 807 Customhouse.  
SEATTLE: 848 Henry Building.

## COOPERATIVE OFFICES.

CLEVELAND: Chamber of Commerce.  
CINCINNATI: Chamber of Commerce.  
CINCINNATI: C. N. O. & T. P. Ry. Co.  
LOS ANGELES: Chamber of Commerce.  
PHILADELPHIA: Chamber of Commerce.  
CHATTANOOGA: South American Agent, Southern Ry. Co.  
PORTLAND, OREG.: Chamber of Commerce.  
DAYTON: Greater Dayton Association.











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Sun 11/1984

